



James Leary

APR 2, 1927 - MAR 13, 2013



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James Leary

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James E. Leary passed away March 13, 2013 at his home in Memphis. He was predeceased by his parents, Glenn and Lillian to whom he was born on April 2, 1927 in Mariana, AR. He also was predeceased by his beloved wife of 52 years, Jean on December 24, 2002 and by his second beloved wife of 4 years, Lenelle on December 10, 2007. He entered The Citadel (The Military College of South Carolina) at age 16. He completed his Plebe year and transferred to Duke University where he graduated in 1948. James entered the United States Army and served on active duty for 16 months. After the atomic bombs, he attended the Japanese Language School at Yale University. He was a First Lieutenant in the Counter Intelligence Course in 53 C.I.C. reserve. He graduated from Southern University School of Law and went into active law practice in July 1954 in Memphis. He was admitted to practice in the U.S. Supreme Court in 1976. James served simultaneously as President of the Memphis-Shelby County Bar Association and the Tennessee Defense Lawyers Association in 1970-71. He retired in 1981. He was a perpetual member of the Military Order of the World Wars and served as Commander of the Memphis chapter in 1987-88; and afterwards served as Commander of the Tennessee Department for one year and then as Commander for Region V for one year. He is survived by his two beloved daughters, Joan L. Peck (James A.) and Jennie L. Wallin (Carl G.); grandson, James Peck (Danya); and great-granddaughter, Lainey Nicole. Visitation will begin at 12:30 p.m. followed by funeral services at 1:30 p.m., Sunday, March 17 at Memorial Park Funeral Home. Burial will follow in Memorial Park Cemetery. The Family will receive guests at the residence of James E. Leary following the graveside.



Tribute Wall

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MF

Michael Finger posted:

Dear Leary Family, I went to Overton High School (and Colonial too?) with both Joan and Jennie, and though I doubt if you remember me, we had many mutual friends. Although I never met your father, after reading his obituary in the newspaper I was very impressed with his many accomplishments over the years. He sounds like a fascinating man, a true "scholar and gentleman," and I'm sure you feel his loss deeply. My sincere condolences to your entire family. – Michael Finger, Memphis.

March 17 at 4:58 PM

BM

Barb McCune posted:

Joan and Jennie: We were so sad to hear about your Dad passing away. He was the best friend to the McCune family. He was always there for the family – the best neighbor anyone could ever ask for. He, Jimmy and Grand-daddy McCune can all talk about the old Haynie Circle days together now... Hugs to you. Barb McCune, Jamie McCune and Jenny McCune Turner

March 17 at 12:51 PM

PW

Phoebe Welsh posted:

Dear Leary family, I was so sorry to hear of James' passing. I remember him so fondly from my time growing up in Memphis and I had the good fortune to know him and Jean. Always quick with a story about his military days or his travels or the family he so valued and loved, he was a man of intelligence and heart and wit and charm. My deepest sympathy to his family. Phoebe Welsh

March 15 at 2:49 PM

MT

Melissa Twomey posted:

Dearest Lanelle, Joan and Jenny. I share your grief as I write this. Jim Leary was one of the finest men I have ever known, in my youth and through adulthood. He was a dear friend of moms for so long and continued to be in touch and call often to check on her. She talked always with joy about their trips overseas and elsewhere. We labeled him "Elvis" for the trips he took as the lone male. Mom always chuckled when she told the story of a cruise trip when he referred to the women as "his field of fascination"! He was a selfless man so often overseeing, often paying for the widows his friends left behind. I know you will miss him terribly as we miss mom, but I take great comfort knowing they are in a wonderful place – a tribute to the lives they both lived. My thoughts and prayers are with you all. Melissa

March 15 at 2:10 PM



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MP

Memorial Park posted:

Strength & Solace Spray was purchased for the family of James Leary.

March 15 at 11:23 AM

DJ

Dian Jordan posted:

Dearest Ones— I was so saddened to learn of Mr. Leary's death. He interviewed me in 1962 at Molloy, Leary, Hendrix & Crawford, & I was hired. It was my first "real" job, having only worked in my father's office one summer. We have had some really fun office reunions in the past, & the one where we celebrated his & Frank Crawford's 80th birthdays was one of the best. What a celebration. I had a great love & respect for Mr. Jimmy & will miss him terribly. My heartfelt condolences go out to all his family members. May God bless & comfort each of you in the coming days. May peace be yours—
Dian Jordan

March 14 at 6:23 AM



Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring James by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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