



James "Jim" Lafayette Pope

JUL 6, 1950 - MAY 13, 2020



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MEMORIAL PARK
Funeral Home & Cemetery

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James "Jim" Lafayette Pope

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James Lafayette Pope passed away on May 13th, 2020 in his home in Germantown, TN. He was born on July 6, 1950 in the Panama Canal Zone where his father was serving in the Army. Known as Jim to most, he grew up in Mississippi and was a proud graduate of Clinton High School in 1968. While attending high school he was the drum captain in the All State Superior band and won the state debate championship. He was a member of Boy Scouts of America where he earned the Eagle Scout Award. He carried the values and leadership skills learned there with him throughout his life.

After high school he attended Hinds Junior College where he earned his AA degree. He then continued his education at The University of Southern Mississippi where he joined his beloved fraternity Sigma Alpha Epsilon. He graduated in the Class of 1972 with a double major in Psychology and Social Studies Education. He was awarded a full fellowship to complete his Masters in Counseling Psychology. He graduated with Honors in August of 1973.

He began his professional career at Hinds Junior College as a counselor then moved to Germantown, TN where he started his own State Farm Agency in July of 1981. For 39 years he was a "Good Neighbor Agent" and was awarded the Legion of Honor and the Silver Scroll. He was also recognized by the Germantown News as "People's Choice Insurance Agency" for 29 consecutive years.

He also valued his community and invested his time as an active member in many groups and organizations. Most notably, he was a member of the Germantown Chamber of Commerce, where he later became President, a member of the Rotary Club in Germantown, where he also served as President, and a member of the Southern Mississippi Alumni Association where he served two terms as the President of the Memphis Area chapter. He was most proud of his service as an active alumni member of SAE. He served two terms as Province Theta President. He was elected to serve on the Sigma Alpha Epsilon Fraternity Supreme Council and was named



Obituary

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Eminent Supreme Archon (National President) in 1997. Jim was a trusted advisor and mentor, a brother, and a dear friend to many. He was a True Gentlemen.

Jim dedicated his life first to his family, then to his customers and his Fraternity. Jim was pre-deceased by his father Doyce Lafayette Pope and sister Rebecca Burnham. He is survived by his mother Melba H. Blocker, brother Ken Blocker, five children: Stacy Suzanne Burgess (Brandon, MS), Anna Kathleen Gilfeather (Los Angeles, CA), Samuel Spencer Gilfeather (Boston, MA), Mary Frances Murphy (South Mills, NC), Phoenix Michelle Pope (Germantown, TN) and his six grandchildren: Macy Taylor Burgess, Meredith Presley Burgess, Memphis Vallaree Burgess, Wesley Taylor Murphy, Haleigh Sue Murphy and Carter John Gilfeather. Jim's motto was to always do what is right, what is fair, and what is honest.

A celebration of life will take place on Wednesday July 1st from 4:00-7:00pm at Memorial Park Funeral Home in Memphis, TN to honor his 39th State Farm anniversary and his upcoming 70th birthday. Please bring a mask to wear.

In lieu of flowers he asked that donations be made to the following organizations in his name: The Sigma Alpha Epsilon Foundation, The University of Southern Mississippi Foundation, and Boy Scouts of America.



Events

James "Jim" Lafayette Pope

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Celebration of Life Visitation


 **Wednesday**, July 1, 2020

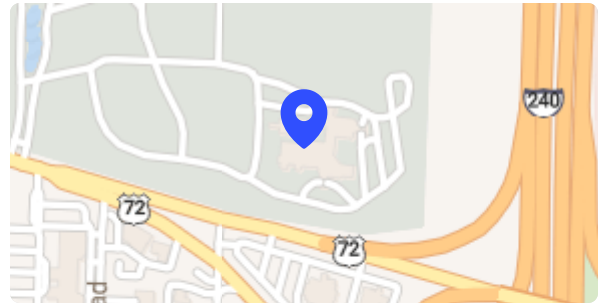
 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM CT

 **Memorial Park Funeral Home**
5668 Poplar Ave, Memphis TN 38119



Cemetery Details

 **Memorial Park Funeral Home and Cemetery**
5668 Poplar Avenue, Memphis TN 38119





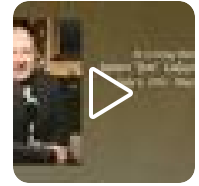
Tribute Wall

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Memorial Park Funeral Home And Cemetery shared a **Video**.



July 1 at 8:52 AM



Daniel Barton, Usm Foundation posted:

Jim was such a great Golden Eagle! He loved USM but loved his family even more. There's never a time I spoke with him that he wasn't talking about his family and showing out about how much he loved them - what they were doing, what was new, how proud he was of each one of them. He knew every detail and loved being part of their lives. I will miss our phone calls and visits. Proud to call him a friend and grateful for the time I had with him. He was the epitome of the Black & Gold. Phoenix, Macy, and all of your family - you are in my thoughts and prayers. Daniel Barton USM Foundation

May 18 at 1:47 PM



Kelly Richert posted:

Jim was such a sweet man and will be missed so much! Kelly Richert

May 18 at 10:08 AM



Scott Harrison posted:

We have cherished Jim's friendship over the last 30 years. What a good friend he was to us. He was always available to help with any situation. We miss you Jim. Phi Alpha Dice and Mona Harrison Batesville, MS

May 17 at 3:05 PM



Maris Mcloskey posted:

I adored your dad as so many did. He was one of those special people who lit up a room with his personality. My condolences. -Maris Mills McLoskey

May 16 at 4:58 PM



Tribute Wall

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PM

Paula Mincey lit a candle in honor of James "Jim".

Eagle one - it's bulldog one. I miss our insightful conversations, your words of wisdom, horse shows, sharing McDonalds breakfast, and many other wonderful memories. You were a kind, generous man with the biggest heart. I'll miss our talks and wish we could have many more. Love always, Paula Casey



May 16 at 9:04 AM

RD

Ronald Doleac posted:

What a blessing to have such a true friend and great SAE Fraternity Brother.....Jim we love you and miss you. To your family -we lift you all up in prayer and pray that the Peace of Christ gives you consolation at this difficult time. Ron and Ellen Doleac Hattiesburg, MS

May 16 at 7:16 AM

NH

Nita Hicks posted:

Kept Jim for a little while for Meb to work. He was four years old. Sweet little boy. Enjoyed seeing him later at family reunions. My thoughts and prayers are with all the family. Aunt Nita

May 16 at 6:08 AM



Chip Cain posted:

Jim was one of a kind. As a young SAE in 1990, I met Jim for the first time. He became a mentor and friend, offered so much wisdom and insight over the years. He made a difference, for me and many others like me. I pray for his family and friends. Jim will be missed!

May 15 at 5:56 PM

HB

Hugh Beckham posted:

Jim, you were a great mentor, friend, and brother in the bonds of SAE. I've never met anyone that could light up a room like you could. Thank you so much for the many years of friendship. You were a True Gentleman in every way. Rest In Peace, my friend. You will be missed by many! In the bonds, Hugh Beckham, Nesbit, MS

May 15 at 4:43 PM



Tribute Wall

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Leigh Anne Downes posted:

Jim, buddy, may you rest in heaven my friend. I think I still owe you \$100 bucks based on a bet written on a matchbook cover!! You were one in a million friend...always, always there for me. I will NEVER forget all the memories of a friend who knew how to be a friend....to Phoenix and all kids and grandkids - Jim was a really really good man who loved you beyond boundaries. RIH my friend.

May 15 at 3:28 AM



Brian June 5 at 9:04 AM

Jim, I will always remember and hold close to my heart our last conversation. I also experienced you as a thoughtful and warm human being - the world misses you today, Brian



Shirley Miller May 18 at 6:29 AM

So grateful to have been Jim's neighbor these past 10 years. Jim was more than Just A Good Neighbor he was a Friend and Jim was the best at knowing how to be a friend. This neighborhood will never be the same again to me. The weekends with his friends and even college friends cars filling the driveway and lined up on both sides of the street ready to eat, laugh, watch sports, and hang out and eat one of the two of his favorites Peach Pie or/and Banana Pudding at Jim's. I can still hear Jim talking so highly of the girls. Jim is so proud of the girls and with that big Jim Pope grin loved to tell us all about them. I miss him but I hope right now he is having the best Peach Pie and Banana Pudding ever.



John South Lewis May 16 at 4:45 PM

Jim was a fine person, good friend and certainly a fine representation of Sigma Alpha Epsilon. All who knew Jim were drawn to him. Jim had a "Servant Spirit" about him.....always willing to assist another in need. He will be sorely missed by all who knew and loved him.. So many of us are proud to call him Brother! John South Lewis Simpsonville, SC



Media

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July 1 at 8:52 AM





Memories only last if you share them

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



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