



Mr. James Franklin (Jim) Bennett

January 21, 1932 - May 9, 2020

James Franklin (Jim) Bennett passed away at his home of natural causes at age 88 on Saturday, May 9, 2020.

He was born in Albany, Georgia and was the son of Jay Frank and Lillian Mixon Bennett. He graduated from Albany High School and from Emory University where he was a member of the Wrestling Team and a member of Sigma Chi Fraternity. He served two years in the Army and then returned to Albany where he opened Bennett's on Slappey in 1956 – a florist, garden, and pet shop that grew into Bennett's Garden Center and Bennett's Home Place. As a small business owner, Mr. Bennett especially enjoyed getting to know his customers and talking with them. He took great pleasure in teaching employees about business, teaching them new skills, and learning about their lives.

Mr. Bennett was a member of First Baptist Church, Albany where he taught Young Adult Sunday School and sang in the choir for many years. He had a beautiful voice and loved music and loved to sing. He was a member of the Albany Men's Garden Club for a number of years and served as president. He loved being involved in his community and giving of his time to others such as serving as a volunteer tutor in the school system and mentoring young men transitioning from prison.

He is preceded in death by his wife of sixty years Rebecca (Becky) Crawford Bennett. He is survived by his son Frank Bennett, Columbus GA; daughter Debbie Bennett Finney (Fred), Albany; grandchildren James Bennett (Amanda) Columbus GA, Laurel Bennett Murphy (Ryan), Atlanta GA, Savannah Finney Helgeson (Henry) Boston MA, Bert Finney (Abbey) Charlotte NC, Colleen Finney Boston MA; Great-grandchildren Ellie Bennett, James Franklin Bennett IV; Dax Helgeson, Finn Helgeson, and Lucy Murphy; Sisters Barbara Pippin (Bubber) Albany, and Wyolene Bennett Walker, Tifton; brother-in-law Tom Crawford, Jacksonville FL; and many nieces and nephews.

The family wishes to express gratitude and thankfulness to his special caregivers, Dora Stephens and Earnestine McNeil, as well as many faithful caregivers from Innovative Senior Solutions and Coastal Home Care.

Due to shelter-in-place practices, the small graveside burial service will be private.
In lieu of flowers donations to be made to First United Methodist Church, 307 Flint Ave.,
Albany, GA 31701 or First Baptist Church Albany, 145 Oakland Pkwy, Leesburg, GA
31763.

Comments



“ Sad that such a nice man has died. He was so helpful about plants and flowers. He left lovely children. I still miss those lovely plants at 3rd & Slappey. My condolences to Debbie and Frank and all the extended family.
Elizabeth Champion

Elizabeth Champion - May 26 at 08:44 PM



“ My deepest sympathies on the loss of Mr. Bennett. Albany has lost another great one.

Denise Louise Gunnels - May 14 at 02:03 PM



“ I worked for Mr. Bennett at Bennett's Garden Center for a little over 3 years. That was my first job at 16 years old and I left at 19 to go to college. I credit him for instilling a great work ethic that I have carried with me for the past 27 years since. I learned so much from him and his family in that small amount of time. My condolences to Debbie and Frank and family.

kelley (Hall) Curl - May 14 at 10:42 AM



“ Mr. Bennett was my customer for eleven years when I worked for The Albany Herald in retail advertising. He was a terrific customer and a joy to work with. I remember his motorcycle and when Bennett's sold tropical fish. I still miss talking with him all these years later. My deepest sympathy to his family in the loss of a fine man.
Bruce Garey
Albany Herald 1971-1982

Bruce Garey - May 13 at 09:40 AM