



## James Perry Champion, III

October 30, 2021

James Perry Champion, III, a resident of Sylvester, GA for the past 45 years, passed away on Saturday, October 30, 2021 following a brief illness. Born in Americus, GA on Veterans Day, November 11, 1943, he was the son of James Perry Champion, Jr., and Jane Luthy Champion. He graduated from Albany High School in 1963 and from Mercer University in 1967. He served in the United States Army which included a tour in Vietnam, and he was awarded the Bronze Star Medal.

Upon his release from the Army, Jimmy returned to Albany where he worked in the family business and served as president of Albany Warehouse. Jimmy was the owner and president of Champion Groves, Inc. which has been in his family for 80 years. During that time, he also worked as a Regional Sales Representative for ChemNut, Inc.

Jimmy was a lifelong member of First United Methodist Church. He was a former president of the Albany Rotary Club where he had perfect attendance for over 30 years. He served on various boards including Worth Academy and the Flint River Water Council. His dedication to agriculture included membership in The Pecan Growers Association and as a board member of Certified Crop Advisors. He was the recipient of the Georgia Crop Production Alliance Lifetime Achievement Award. Jimmy's real passion was his association with Georgia Agribusiness Council, having served as president and executive board member and as president of Georgia Plant Food

Educational Society for the past 22 years.

Jimmy was an avid NASCAR fan and an even bigger fan of the Georgia Bulldogs. His greatest love was his family and watching his grandchildren participate in their many sports and school activities. Jimmy added value to the lives of all who knew him. He was a true southern gentleman and a man of great integrity.

Survivors include his wife, Pat Champion of Lake Blackshear; his children: Chip Champion(Leigh Ann) of Perry, Fran Sheffield(Tony) of Cairo, Heather Yeiser(Jay) of Albany, Ryan Lanier of Sylvester, Lindsay Martin (Mike) of Carmel, IN; grandchildren: Fletcher and Sarah Sheffield, Claire Champion, Mary Adelaide and Lanier Yeiser, Shepherd Martin. Other survivors include his sisters: Wendy Baker(Frank), Kitty Edwards(Hal), Elizabeth Champion. He is also survived by numerous nieces, nephews, and cousins. He was preceded in death by his parents and his first wife, Bunny.

The family requests donations in Jimmy's memory be made to the Georgia Plant Food Educational Foundation, PO Box 1383, Commerce, GA 30529, which provides scholarships to college students planning to major in agriculture.

Visitation will be Wednesday, November 3, 2021 at 10:00 AM at First United Methodist Church. Funeral service will follow visitation at 11:00 AM. A private family graveside will follow the service. The family is at the residence of Jay and Heather Yeiser in Albany.

# Cemetery Details

## Crown Hill Cemetery

1907 Dawson Rd  
Albany, GA 31707  
(229) 883-6600  
<https://www.kimbrellstern.com/>

# Previous Events

## Visitation

NOV 3. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

First United Methodist Church  
307 Flint Ave  
Albany, GA 31701

## Funeral Service

NOV 3. 11:00 AM (ET)

First United Methodist Church  
307 Flint Ave  
Albany, GA 31701

# Tribute Wall



“ *Elena Taylor lit a candle in memory of James Perry Champion, III*



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**Elena Taylor** - November 05, 2021 at 12:33 PM

JB

“ *Pat,  
So sad to hear of Jimmy's death. My thoughts are with you during this sad time. You two were so lucky to find each other and have these years together. Hold the wonderful memories close as you go through the pain of learning to live without him.*  
*Jo Ann Bates*

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**Jo Ann Bates** - November 05, 2021 at 11:10 AM

MW

“ *Chip and Fran.*  
  
*Prayers for your family as you all deal with the loss of your dad.*  
*Mary Ann Popham Welch*

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**Mary Ann Popham Welch** - November 04, 2021 at 03:42 PM

HD

“ *Chip,  
Karla, Nathan, and Michael send our sincere sympathy in the loss of your father. May God be your comfort in these days.* *Howard H. DuVall*

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**Howard H. DuVall** - November 04, 2021 at 03:39 PM

DK

“ Kitty, so sorry to read of Jimmy’s passing. My father thought so much of him. Prayers for you all. Donna Shiver Kerr

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**donna kerr** - November 03, 2021 at 09:19 PM

SJ

“ Prayers to you Pat and family. A great man. Will greatly be missed. God gained a good one.

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**Smitty Johnson** - November 02, 2021 at 10:53 PM

NU

Pat, I learned of this sad news this afternoon. We will all miss Jimmy very much and wish you the very best during these difficult times. I have reflected back on the many years that Jimmy and I have worked on projects with the GPFES and activities of Georgia's agribusiness. So many have benefited by knowing Jimmy. One such group include the students who have and will continue to receive the scholarships. Another is the GPFES membership who have enjoyed our meetings and cooperative activities. We will miss Jimmy and if I can be of any assistance during these times, I am only a phone call away. God bless. Noble Usherwood

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**noble usherwood** - November 03, 2021 at 04:14 PM

KJ

“ I found out about this sad news this morning. Soon after a smile appeared on my face as I paused and reflected back on the many conversations and times shared with Mr Jimmy. From the rides around the farm, hearing about what was going on with Chip and Fran, to keeping Miss Bunny in line (yeah that's a joke), he was always finding the positive in every situation. He was one that enjoyed networking and contributing his time wherever needed in our ag industry, always willing to give whatever it took to get the job done right. A good man that will be missed, glad to have had him as a friend and able to be a part of his circle of influence. Thought and prayers are with the family during this time.

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**Kelvin Jordan** - November 02, 2021 at 05:34 PM



“ Elena Taylor lit a candle in memory of James Perry Champion, III



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**Elena Taylor** - November 02, 2021 at 03:51 PM

CA

“ To Pat and family,

*We are so sorry to hear of Jimmy's passing. He was a caring, loving, and giving person whose candle burned out way before his memory every will. Words cannot comfort your grieving hearts. Please know other share your pain and grift. We pray God will wrap His arms around you and give you the peace and comfort you need at this time and the days ahead.*

*With love,  
Bubba, Cathy and family*

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**Cathy** - November 02, 2021 at 12:04 PM

AS

“ *Deepest Sympathy expressed to the family. A Donation has been made to the GPFES Georgia Plant Food Educational Foundation in honor of Mr. Champion. Sincerely, The Nutrien Ag Solutions Family in Moultrie, Georgia*

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**Adrienne Smith** - November 02, 2021 at 11:16 AM



“ *With Distinction was purchased for the family of James Perry Champion, III.*



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November 02, 2021 at 09:11 AM

RB

“ A lifetime spent in service to all in Agriculture. My friend Jimmy always had an interesting story or funny tale to share. The Jimmy Champion family have been special to three generations of my family. Much love to Pat, Chip, Fran and the family. Many folks will miss this fine man. Roebie Burriss

Roebie Burriss - November 02, 2021 at 09:10 AM

TA

“ The Staffiero Family (Dothan, Alabama) purchased the Enchanted Cottage for the family of James Perry Champion, III.



The Staffiero Family (Dothan, Alabama) - November 02, 2021 at 07:45 AM

TF

“ The Georgia FFA Foundation purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of James Perry Champion, III.



The Georgia FFA Foundation - November 01, 2021 at 08:38 PM

JD

“ Fran and Chip- I am so very sad to hear of your dad's passing. He was the best of "all things southern." He and my husband, Jeff, were great friends. Jimmy was so proud of you both and loved telling us about you. Sending love and prayers to the entire family.

Judi Johnston Davis- Dublin - November 01, 2021 at 06:04 PM

RC

“ It is a pleasure to say Jimmy was a true friend and even better person. I was able to work next to Jimmy for numerous years and saw the true person he was. He treated everyone with respect and truly loved the people and the industry that he represented. Pat, and family we will keep you in our prayers and Debbie and I thank God for getting to know all of you.

*Ricky and Debbie Cook*

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**Ricky Cook** - November 01, 2021 at 04:11 PM

EC

“ Elementary School “My Weekly Reader” told about green Grasshoppers eating everything in central USA. I had a nightmare of them eating my brother in next bedroom. I rushed in covered him with my body yelling “You can’t eat my brother!” he immediately fell back to sleep. Bubba came and held me assuring we had no green grasshoppers.

*[We caught 1000’s of big ugly black hoppers which may have started his insecticide career.]*

*Later he’d get furious when I woke him to go to bathroom- that wall was by his bed. His early AM screeching sliding closet door taught me how to drop back to sleep- a skill used constantly in college dorms.*

*At 13 he’d walk from school to fertilizer plant. That drove our mother crazy. My coming to his rescue then got her mad at me.*

*We owe Mrs. Lackland a debit of gratitude making us speak correctly. He hated Lackland School of Speech plays but he really was a good actor and learn his lines quicker than anyone.*

*Our parents, and Mr. J P. Sr. were proud of his 3rd generation Rotary work*

*I am glad his work ethics paid off for his Ag associations.*

*Rest In Peace.*

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**Elizabeth Champion** - November 01, 2021 at 03:42 PM

SW

“ Jimmy was a great man, and I consider myself blessed from being given the opportunity of knowing him. I know he has a special place in Heaven near our Lord!

Steven Woodruff - November 01, 2021 at 02:36 PM



“ Lovely One Spathiphyllum Plant was purchased for the family of James Perry Champion, III.



November 01, 2021 at 01:54 PM

KE

“ I only had 1 big brother and I believe I got the best one. Jimmy was already a teenager when I was born. He was an awesome water skier, wore giant size boots and worked from sun up to sun down. He taught me how to drive and rescued me when I had flat tires. If I ever had questions about anything he was quick to answer. I'm going to miss him. I have comfort knowing he is breathing easy now.

Kitty Edwards - November 01, 2021 at 01:31 PM

BL

“ Brad Manns & Cummins GIS LT purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of James Perry Champion, III.



Brad Manns & Cummins GIS LT - November 01, 2021 at 01:25 PM



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of James Perry Champion, III.*



November 01, 2021 at 01:06 PM



“ *Serene Reflections Bouquet was purchased for the family of James Perry Champion, III.*



November 01, 2021 at 12:55 PM



“ *Forever Beloved was purchased for the family of James Perry Champion, III.*



November 01, 2021 at 12:39 PM



“ *Jason Pittman & the Bayer Southeast Team purchased the Country Basket Blooms for the family of James Perry Champion, III.*



**Jason Pittman & the Bayer Southeast Team** - November 01, 2021 at 12:33 PM

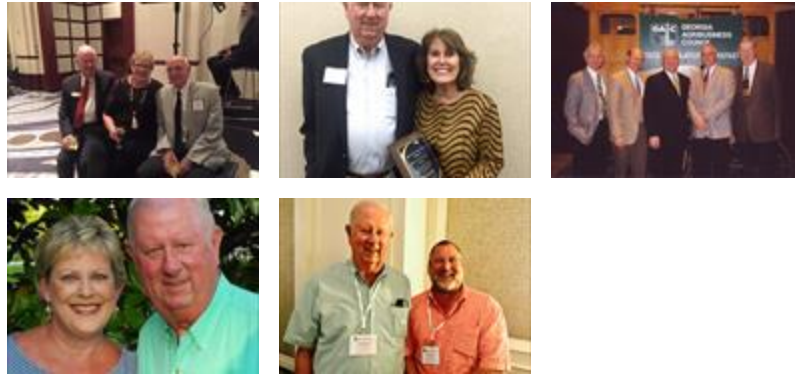
TR

“ I don't remember a time that I did not know Jimmy Champion. We were good friends and never passed a harsh word between us. While we only saw each other occasionally since I moved from Albany more than 50 years ago, I always have considered him a close friend. I will miss him. Tom Robinson

Tom Robinson - November 01, 2021 at 12:17 PM

BT

“ 10 files added to the album Memories Album



Bryan Tolar - November 01, 2021 at 12:15 PM

BT

*Jimmy has meant so much to me and given of himself time after time. Calling him a friend and mentor doesn't even scratch the surface. The blessings of our friendship are many and I know many others feel just as I do. Heartbroken but thankful for having him in my life. My prayers to Pat and the family. Much love to all.*

*Bryan*

Bryan Tolar - November 01, 2021 at 12:22 PM



“ *Lovely One Spathiphyllum Plant was purchased for the family of James Perry Champion, III.*



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November 01, 2021 at 11:55 AM



“ *I was so sad to hear this news. He was such a class act - a true southern gentleman. You all are in my thoughts and prayers. Christy Manning*

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**Christy Manning** - November 01, 2021 at 11:17 AM



“ *Basket of Memories was purchased for the family of James Perry Champion, III.*



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October 31, 2021 at 10:13 PM



“ *Truly enjoyed our friend and neighbor here on Lake Blackshear. He will be missed greatly and will always be in our hearts. May he rest in peace. All our love...Ray and Barbara Cromer*

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**Ray Cromer** - October 30, 2021 at 08:20 PM

LP

*When I was growing up, the Champion house was my other home. They were all my second family. I was so excited when Jimmy came home from her service because I had heard so much about him. He was not a disappointment. I know he thought Kitty and I were crazy little teeny boppers and that we were quite annoying but he was the closest I ever had to a big brother. He will certainly be missed. My prayers and love to all of the Champions.*

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**Lauren Phillips** - October 30, 2021 at 10:34 PM

JG

*Jimmy was a great coworker, leader, and friend. Pat, our whole family is praying for you and your family.*

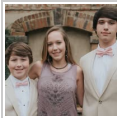
*Johnny Gladden*

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**John Gladden** - October 31, 2021 at 08:40 AM

CC

*We are so sorry to hear about Jimmy. Please know that you and your family are in our thoughts and prayers. We will miss him.  
Connie and Jerry Carney*

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**Connie Carney** - October 31, 2021 at 05:50 PM



*Joe & I are sadden for your loss! You & family in our thoughts & prayers.*

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**Ellen Watkins** - October 31, 2021 at 08:10 PM

ED

*Jimmy was such a great person and always had time to help me. He and Larry Adams mentored me in the early days when I first started in the business. That is a debit I will never be able to repay. He was such a pleasure to work with when he was on the board of the Alabama Crop Management Association. He brought his expertise to our association which helped a lot. Tracy and I have Jimmy's whole family in our prayers. So sorry for your loss. Ed and Tracy Snoddy*

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**Ed** - October 31, 2021 at 09:14 PM

KT

*Jimmy was the definition of a southern gentlemen. He will truly be missed and I will always remember the times we had together. Prayers for your Family. Keith Thomas*

**Keith Thomas** - November 01, 2021 at 07:48 AM

BD

*Danny and I are sadden for your loss. What a great person he was. Our thoughts and prayers are with all of you during this difficult time. He will be missed by all. Danny and Betty DuPree*

**Betty DuPree** - November 01, 2021 at 09:29 AM



*I know I have lost a dear friend. He was one of the finest men I have ever known. There is no describing the hole in our hearts and lives that he has left. To Pat and Fran and Chip.....you are in my thoughts and prayers. Judy Sherling*

**Judith Sherling** - November 01, 2021 at 11:42 AM

PF

*Jimmy was a friend to so many of us. To the GPFES, to agriculture and to me and my family. I first met Jimmy in the mid 80's when he and his family owned Albany Warehouse. Jimmy made me feel welcome every time I called on Albany Warehouse. He was a great leader and friend, A true southern gentleman. My heart and prayers go out to Pat, Fran, Chip, and the grandkids. Perry Fuller*

**Perry A Fuller** - November 01, 2021 at 11:56 AM

LP

*We are saddened to hear this news. Sending thoughts, prayers and hugs to Pat and the family.*

**Linda Parton** - November 01, 2021 at 04:11 PM

MR

*Jimmy Champion was a true friend and mentor to me and so many more in the Ag community. I will miss our many conversations about GPFES, Georgia Agri Business Council, farming, and yes, politics. Our heart goes out to Mrs. Pat, Fran, Chip, and all the guys at Champion Grove. Love, Marion and Fredalyn Reeves*

**Marion Reeves** - November 01, 2021 at 05:57 PM