



James D. Carvell Jr.

May 15, 1939 - August 05, 2025

James D. Carvell, Jr. died peacefully after a brief illness on August 5, 2025. Jim was born on May 15, 1939, in Little Rock, Arkansas to James D. Carvell, Sr. and Harriet Sue Downie Carvell, and spent his early years in Arkansas, graduating from Little Rock Central High School in 1957. Though Jim was an only child, the numerous cousins in close proximity made him feel like he had many brothers and sisters his entire life.

In 1963, Jim met the love of his life, Nell Boone Rogers of Fort Smith, Arkansas. They were married in 1964, enjoying 61 years of marriage as devoted husband and wife and best friends.

Jim attended Vanderbilt University where he was a member of Delta Kappa Epsilon fraternity. After graduating in 1961 with a degree in Civil Engineering, he served for two years as a commissioned officer in the United States Army before being honorably discharged with the rank of Captain. Jim received his Master of Science in Civil Engineering from Texas A&M University in 1966.

Jim was a lifelong Presbyterian. A 57-year member of First Presbyterian Church in Dallas, he was a long-time church-school teacher, church Elder, and Trustee of the First Presbyterian Church Foundation.

He thoroughly enjoyed the weekly fellowship of the G-5 Men's Bible Study which he co-founded in 1985, as well as his regular lunches with his many friends at the Oasis Café.

Jim began his engineering career with the Arkansas Highway Department, was a consulting engineer for 15 years, and was a transportation research engineer with the Texas Transportation Institute for 25 years. He was a professional engineer licensed to practice in Texas and other states. Jim was active in his profession and served as President of the Texas District of the Institute of Transportation Engineers, where he was named Transportation Engineer of the Year in 2001. He also served on the International Board of Direction of the Institute of Transportation Engineers.

Jim loved music and playing guitar and singing for his own enjoyment and the enjoyment of others. In addition to his hundreds of engagements in the children's Sunday School, he was also a founding member of ToneDef, a group of his fellow engineers who picked and sang together for over 20 years.

After retiring in 2006, Jim was a volunteer at Grace Presbyterian Village, Presbyterian Village North, Meals on Wheels, the Bridge, and the University Park Library.

Jim loved his Lord and his church and always held a special devotion for his family. In addition to his wife, Jim is survived by two sons, Jay Carvell (and wife Stephanie) and Wade Carvell, all of Dallas, as well as two granddaughters whom he treasured: Emily Carvell and Paige Carvell, both

of Dallas. Jim is also survived by numerous nieces, nephews, and cousins whom he deeply loved and was adored by in return.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the First Presbyterian Church of Dallas Library or the SPCA of Texas. A memorial service will be held at 11:00 A.M. on Thursday August 14, in the sanctuary of First Presbyterian Church, 1835 Young Street, Dallas, Texas.

Events



MEMORIAL SERVICE

11:00 AM

First Presbyterian
Church of Dallas 1835
Young St, Dallas,
Dallas, TX 75201
Memorial Service in
the Sanctuary

Tribute Wall

C

Carol Walters

Jim was a valued colleague at TTI, and the leader of Tonedef, our ad hoc musical group of transportation engineers, of which I served as back-up harmony. He was a patient, kind man, and I am very saddened to know he is gone. Carol Walters

J

Joel and Julie Westra

Jim was a wonderfully kind-hearted man. He and Nell were beloved parent figures to us during our time in Dallas. Jim loved God deeply and loved others sincerely. He bore witness to his faith in the way that he lived his life. He was a true friend and loving example to many. We miss him deeply.

V

Vickie Morris

My first job out of college was working for Jim. He was an excellent mentor. Even after leaving that job, he was always supportive and encouraging in my career. He was a great man. -Vickie Morris

T

Tracey Klatt



Tribute Store

A memorial tree was planted in memory of James D. Carvell Jr..

R

Rev. Cynthia Williams

I am deeply grieved to learn today of Jim's entry into the church triumphant. I was Director of Youth Ministry at FPC Dallas from '79-'81. I have deep, fond memory of much fellowship in the Carville house during my ministry there. And we had reconnected in the last 3 years via Facebook. Jay and Wade were in my youth group. They were a delight as was Nell. I send all my love to the family that you feel God's comfort in this time. You were all a joy for me. Rev. Cynthia Williams

A

Anonymous

V

Vicki Purtle

I worked with Jim at PAWA for several years. He was very kind and encouraging to me as I started my career, and he taught me a lot. I always enjoyed visiting with Jim and remember his sense of humor. My prayers for comfort go out to you and your family. Vicki Purtle

R

Reed

A lot of great memories with Uncle Jim, Aunt Nell, Cate dog, and Lady dog through the years when we would come visit Dallas from Arkansas. A funny-now, vivid memory I have is being a kid under Jim and Nell's supervision at the park. And when we were ready to go we ran out of gas and couldn't get home near HP High School! Everything was okay and we were only a short distance from the house. Just a funny memory. I always liked Jim's old signed Cowboys memorabilia he had on display (pretty sure it's Bart Starr) - a true fan through the good and bad times. A recent neat memory I have is going through the garage several years ago and finding Jim's old fraternity composites and service gear. Very interesting and neat to see and ask him about.

R

Reed + Liz



Tribute Store

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D

Dena Carvell

Cousin Nell and family, My sincere condolences for your loss. I know Cousin Jim was a large presence in your lives, just as he was for so many others. He was so caring, compassionate, open minded, and witty, and he could always made me laugh. (I also enjoyed the fb owl pictures we shared back and forth)

G

Gilmer Gaston

Jim was my first engineering boss and helped steer my professional career in the right direction. He was a good man and will be missed.

A

A Memorial Tree was planted for James D. Carvell Jr.

We are deeply sorry for your loss ~ Aria – Northwest Highway
