



James Grady Lacy

March 22, 1944 - May 20, 2023

James Grady Lacy, 79, died peacefully on May 20, 2023 at his residence in Tallahassee, FL with his daughter-in-law Jay by his side.

Born March 22, 1944 to J.B. and Hester Lacy, Grady was raised in the red clay hills of north Georgia with his brothers Johnnie, Troy, and Allen, and numerous aunts, uncles, and cousins.

Language and education were Grady's passions. After graduating from the University of Georgia, he began his lifelong career in 1970 at Valdosta State University as a professor of modern and classical languages. A true polyglot, his primary languages were French and Spanish. He counted his fellow language faculty among the greatest friends of his life. His own son Lonnie took one semester of French from Grady and can attest that he was a creative and engaging professor who thrived in the classroom. As a proud educator, Grady could be a bit of a know-it-all, and he corrected people's grammar to his dying day. Seriously.

Grady married his first wife, Anne, in 1979. He was a great dad to stepson Charlie and son Lonnie, serving as Cub Scout den leader, marching band chaperone, church youth event chauffeur, and anything else his sons' interests required. After Anne's death in 2011, Grady married Dot in 2013 and enjoyed his relationship with her two sons Tony and Scott. Following Dot's

death in 2022, Grady moved to Tallahassee to be near his son Lonnie.

Grady was a devout Episcopalian, serving as a lector, Eucharistic minister, and vestry member in every church he attended. Episcopalians are fond of saying that in Christ, “life is changed, not ended.” This is the sure and certain hope on which Grady’s life rested.

He is survived by stepson Charles “Charlie” Lemuel Smith; son the Rev. Thomas Alonzo “Lonnie” (Jessica “Jay”) Lacy II; grandchildren Chloe, Emma, Dean, Kendall, Liam, and Sawyer; and brothers Johnnie (Lois) Lacy, Troy (Sun Ye) Lacy, and Allen (June) Lacy.

He was preceded in death by his parents J.B. and Hester Lacy; first wife Annie Lou “Anne” Barker Lacy; and second wife Dorothy “Dot” Caviness Lacy.

The funeral service will be held at Christ Episcopal Church (1521 N. Patterson St. Valdosta, GA 31602) on Saturday, June 24, 2023 at 2:00 PM with the Rev. Leslie Roraback officiating and the Rev. Lonnie Lacy preaching. A light reception will follow.

In lieu of flowers, gifts may be made in Grady’s memory to the summer camp scholarship fund at Honey Creek, 299 Georgia Episcopal Center Rd., Waverly, GA 31565.

Breanna Green of Bevis Funeral Home (850-385-2193 or www.bevisfh.com) is assisting the family with their arrangements.

Previous Events

Memorial Service

JUN **24.** 2:00 PM (ET)

Christ Episcopal Church
1521 N Patterson St
Valdosta, GA 31602

Tribute Wall

BF

“ In my last few years of teaching political science at Valdosta State College (which I did from 1987 to 1992), my office was on the second floor and Grady’s was on the first floor of West Hall. Therefore, I had frequent opportunities to chat with Grady, which I enjoyed because he was a genuinely gracious gentleman. He also had a fine sense of humor. One day, Grady asked me, “Do you know what a milli-Helen is?” “No,” I replied. Grady delivered the punch line: “It’s the amount of beauty necessary to launch one ship.” People who are familiar with social-science research will understand why I recited that joke to my students for the rest of my career when I explained how we operationally define a qualitative concept like beauty. Thanks for that valuable resource, Grady! Thank you for all the pleasant memories, Grady. I express my sympathy to his relatives and friends.
Barry D. Friedman, Dahlonga, Ga.

Barry D. Friedman - July 17, 2023 at 07:09 PM

AS

“ Dear Lacy family, we are deeply sorry to learn of the passing of Lonnie’s father. May you all feel God’s peace and comfort in this difficult time.
Love and prayers for all of you.
Tommy and Ann Seward

Ann Seward - June 17, 2023 at 08:52 AM

JW

“ Grady was a bit of adventurer, as I came to know him in my own older years. He would climb up steep hills, then tumble down them with spectacular rolls, then stand up like nothing happened. I have been graced to know all the brothers and had fun times hiking and having uplifting experiences with all. Everyone of them honorable and upbeat. Grady had a positive outlook. Enjoyed going on mission trips to Central America and made friends easily. He was an extremely dedicated person to his faith. Once getting his arm set in a green cast to match the church calendar of observances! He gave his Sundays away by bringing communion, even to church members that had moved a hundred or so miles away. He was a “good and faithful servant,” and lived out his faith.

Joann Ward - June 16, 2023 at 10:18 AM

PG

He will be missed by all of his friends and Wonderful brothers. GOD BLESS 🙏

Pat Garrison - June 17, 2023 at 01:15 AM

BC

“ Lonnie, sending you & your family condolences - sending prayers for you all -

Beth Curtis - June 15, 2023 at 08:23 PM

JB

“ I did NOT know, Brother James Grady Lacy, BUT I do Know his son , Lonnie. A son walks in his father's footsteps, many times in life w/o realizing that **TIMELY** fact, at the **APPOINTED** hour! I **KNOW** & **Admire** the Son, Lonnie as Rector @ St. John's Episc. Church in Tallahassee, Florida. James Grady walks with his Son, through the **JOYs, ORDEALs & TRIALs** of life; **ALMOST**, on a daily basis. I **KNOW!** My father died in 1985, & I still feel his Presence & Quite Voice sometimes daily in my life, especially during a **TRYING** time!!

*Only wish, we could Chat, as in **OLDEN TIMES** ! I **NO LONGER HEAR "DADDY"**, BUT I **SENSE HIS PRESENCE**, Often, on a **DAILY** basis, when I need a Friend!! **IT IS GOOD, TO HAVE AN OPEN LINE, 24/7/365!***

*JameBoyette, a **BROTHER** in **TALLAHASSEE** !! boyettej19@gmail.com.*

James Boyette - June 15, 2023 at 03:16 PM

KM

“ The Moreno Family in Tifton express deep condolences to the Lacy family. May God bless and keep you.

Kathleen J Moreno - June 15, 2023 at 11:40 AM

PR

“ With deepest sympathies



Pat Rozier - June 02, 2023 at 09:46 PM

JE

“ Dr. Grady will be remembered as a scholar and and a gentleman.
My heart goes out to his family. Jane Elza

Jane Elza - June 01, 2023 at 07:55 PM

MD

I didn't know this Mr. Lacy but I am acquainted with his brother Johnnie and wife Lois, my condolences to all of his family I have heard a lot if good things from Johnnie about all of his brothers so I know that God welcomed Mr. Lacy home to where he will have everlasting life. My prayers are with all the family.
L

Margaret Dailey - June 15, 2023 at 07:11 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of James Grady Lacy.

June 01, 2023 at 03:40 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of James Grady Lacy.



June 01, 2023 at 03:40 PM

JC

“ JT Cox lit a candle in memory of James Grady Lacy



JT Cox - May 31, 2023 at 04:41 PM

TW

“ *Teresa C Williams lit a candle in memory of James Grady Lacy*



Teresa C Williams - May 31, 2023 at 03:25 PM

YR

“ *Yvonne Le Roy-Landers lit a candle in memory of James Grady Lacy*



Yvonne Le Roy-Landers - May 31, 2023 at 02:13 PM

SJ

“ *Susan Jones lit a candle in memory of James Grady Lacy*



Susan Jones - May 30, 2023 at 08:02 PM

BS

My deepest and heartfelt sympathy to the family of Grady Lacy. It was my pleasure to get to know Grady and talk with him at some of the Friendship Luncheons just a few years back. It was very easy to tell that he was a kind and caring gentleman as well as a bright and well educated man and also a wonderful conversationalist. I always enjoyed our talks about our foreign travels in Europe. I learned so much by just talking with him.

Barbara Pitner Sims - June 15, 2023 at 06:13 PM

JJ

I first met Grady in 1964 on a trip to UGA in Athens to visit my then boyfriend Vic Parr. I saw 3 students skipping down the stairs from their dorm: Tommy Poss, Henry McCurley and Grady. Thus began a friendship of 60 years. In grad school, Grady ended up in the Pink Trailer living with Tommy and Henry and later on he was in our wedding (I married Henry). Grady and I spent a lot of time together because we were in the same Greek classes over and over. Grady was always there. Reliable, fun, good to do homework with. We kept up with each other thru his 30 years at Valdosta State. When his son Lonnie was about to start college at Reinhardt, Grady fretted a bit about Lonnie being so far away. I told him, I'm teaching in Canton at Cherokee High. Tell Lonnie to come by. One day he walked in to my classroom. I told him if he needed anything, got in a jam, you know where I am. The last time I saw Grady was when we gave him and Dot a ride to Athens for Tommy's funeral. At the time he said, Henry is gone, Tommy is gone, I will be next. Sadly, this proved to be true. I am not a Facebook fan, so I am just learning of this 8 months late; Nevertheless, my sympathy goes out to the Lacey family. I grieve with you. Jill Jennings (McCurley) Jan. 23, 2024

Jill Jennings - January 23, 2024 at 01:29 PM