



James Vern Williams

October 16, 1932 - November 6, 2017

James Vern Williams, age 85, entered into rest on November 6, 2017, in Tallahassee. He was born in Cohutta, Georgia, and had been a resident of Tallahassee since 1953.

He attended Berry College from 1949 to 1951; served honorably in the Navy from 1951 to 1953; and completed his education at Florida State University in 1955 with a BS in Accounting. He was employed by E.C. Allen, CPA, in 1955, quickly becoming a managing partner in the firm. He continued serving a broad base of clients as the firm of Williams, Cox, Weidner and Cox expanded, retiring from Carr, Riggs and Ingram in 2016.

He served in one or more capacities in the leadership and/or Boards of Directors of many civic and professional organizations, including but not limited to: AFAI, Capital City Country Club, CPA America, CPA Mutual, Florida State Board of Accountancy, Goodwood Museum and Garden, JayCees, Lemoyne Art Foundation, Mission San Luis, Museum of Art and Science, Myers Park Neighborhood Association, Rotary Club (multiple chapters), Salvation Army Tallahassee, and United Way of the Big Bend. He was a donor to and fundraiser for countless organizations, including being an FSU Booster for 50+ years. An active force in local politics, he served on numerous campaigns in his lifetime. He was a member of First Presbyterian Church for nearly 30 years, where he served in various leadership positions as well.

In addition to being a father and grandfather, veteran, CPA, and businessman, Vern will be remembered as a fighter, a survivor, a jokester, a flirt, a golfer, a Seminole, a teacher, a leader, and a friend. He loved red wine, reading, music, gardening, art, traveling, and the company of good friends. He devoted his life to serving and leading his community, whether as a fierce but principled businessman, a mentor to many, an energetic and engaged civic leader, or a generous benefactor.

He was predeceased by his parents, Horace Monroe and Lida Allen Williams; his siblings, Clara Watson and Max, Wayne, Don, and Jan Williams; and his beloved wife, Debra Sue.

Survivors include his four daughters Kate Garcia, of Roanoke, VA; Valerie Tucker (Don), of Tallahassee, FL; Jenny Williams (Dan Leshem), of New York City, NY; and Rachael Kazimir (Michal), of Denver, CO; one stepson, Michele Bertoldi (Katie) of Tallahassee, FL; eleven grandchildren Cathleen Garcia-Barcenas (Jaime Barcenas) and Maria Chacon, of Roanoke, Virginia; Stephen McNeese (Tiffany) Pensacola, FL; Nikki Sebold (Brian), of Tallahassee, FL; Don Tucker III, Springdale, AR; Mayzie and Yotam Leshem, of New York City, NY; Hudson and Willa Kazimir, of Denver, CO; Giuliana and Luca Bertoldi, of Tallahassee, FL; four great-grandchildren, Adrian and Quinn Barcenas, of Roanoke, VA; Peter and Malachi McNeese of Pensacola, FL; many nieces, nephews, and their children; LaVerne Lambert, mother of Kate and Valerie; Marcia Humphress, mother of Michele, Jenny, and Rachael; “adopted daughter” Nan Rogers, and special friend Mary Jo Roberts, as well as a host of friends, colleagues, and clients with whom he served in this community and beyond for many years.

A memorial service will be held Friday, November 10 at 11 AM at First Presbyterian Church of Tallahassee. In lieu of flowers memorial contributions

may be made to the Rotary Foundation or to the charity of your choice. Susie Mozolic of Bevis Funeral Home is assisting the family with their arrangements. (www.bevisfh.com 850-385-2193)

Previous Events

Memorial Service

NOV **10**. 11:00 AM (ET)

First Presbyterian Church
110 North Adams Street
Tallahassee, FL 32301

Tribute Wall

CD

“ *My family and I want to offer our deepest sympathy on reading of the sad passing of James. May the warmth of family and friends and your loving memories give you strength during the times ahead. It is truly comforting to know our Savior Jesus made a personal promise regarding our loved ones who have died. He promised a time when we will see them again. That guarantee is found at John 11:25. It is our hope these words will bring you a measure of comfort and hope. With sincere prayers
The Dawes family*

C Dawes - November 08, 2017 at 07:31 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of James Vern Williams.*



November 07, 2017 at 01:45 PM



“ *Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of James Vern Williams.*



November 07, 2017 at 10:34 AM



“ Vern was full of both intelligence and wisdom, such a rare combination. He was my teacher and I was his pupil. I listened to every story and soaked up the valuable life-lesson he was trying to teach. I will miss his stories and lessons, but most of all, I will miss my friend...my chosen family. I love you Vern Williams! I love you Williams Girls!

Nan Rogers - November 07, 2017 at 06:11 AM

RB

Vern was a caring foster father to me at a troubled time in my life. I was a sixteen --year-old, running away from an abusive family, when he offered to give me home to stay in. He became a mentor to me until I was ready to move out on my own. I remember him as one of the kindest, most generous people I've ever met, truly. I would go as far as to say, he changed my life. Thanks to Vern, I completed high school and college, traveled, and ended up in SE Asia, making my home there. Vern was inspirational and taught me how to always be learning. I in turn adopted a daughter from Indonesia. God Bless you Vern. I hope you are now in the loving arms of angels who show you the love and kindness you once showed me. God bless all his family for also participating as foster family to me.

-Rachael Barrett, Ubud, Bali, Indonesia

Rachael Barrett - July 12, 2023 at 08:59 AM



Rachael, I'm so glad to hear about you. This is Val Tisha and I think about you so much. You brought us so much happiness. You were just what we all needed. I'm sorry I haven't responded earlier. Dad's Birthday is coming up. He's been on my mind a lot. I think about you so much. It's always interesting to people that I had two sisters named Rachael. I kept up with parts of your life. Dad was very important to me. He taught he so much. He adored you. I would love to talk sometime. I now, Valerie W Tucker. I'm a Nana. Andy makes me think of Dad often! I always wished we had stayed in touch. Thank You for what you wrote about Dad. Not a day goes by, that something doesn't remind me of Daddy. A book, a movie, a rose, a song and on and on it goes. I'm sorry I haven't written sooner. You were sunshine to me. Xo Val (Tisha)

Valerie Tucker - October 14, 2023 at 02:51 PM



*Dad's. Birthday is approaching. I think about him every day. He was so smart. Also, very funny. He cared so much about all of us and we are still being blessed by him every day. I wish he had met his great grandson Andy. Andy is three and sits at the head of our table often, just as Dad did that very same table. .Dad was an excellent cook and prepared beautiful food for us. Andy likes to ring a little bell that was Dad's. He makes a face liken Dad, his eyes twinkle like Dad's did when telling a joke and he raises that bell to ring! I am thankful for many memories of Dad and often remind me of his full personality. I wish Andy had met him, but Andy definitely knows him. He likes to look at his pictures and talk about him with us. We will celebrate Dad's birthday in two days. He was so fond of family celebrations. And again, Andy will ring that bell! It's amazing how people die, but continue to live on through memories, traditions, and love. Happy Birthday Dad. Thank You for being my dad. I love You,
Val Tisha*

Valerie Tucker - October 14, 2023 at 03:41 PM