



Judge James E. Joanos

June 28, 1934 - January 20, 2024

James Emanuel Joanos, a lifetime resident of Tallahassee, died on January 20, 2024. “Jimmy” was born June 28, 1934, to parents, Emanuel and Theologia Joanos, immigrants to Tallahassee from the Greek Holy Island of Patmos.

Jimmy graduated from Leon High School, Florida State University and Yale Law School. From 1956 to 1959, he served on active duty as an officer in the United States Air Force.

At Leon High, he was Student Body Vice President, Captain of the Track Team and a football letterman. At FSU, Jimmy was President of the Freshman Class, Vice President of the Student Body, and President of the Sigma Chi Chapter, the Omicron Delta Kappa Circle, the Interfraternity Council, and the Interfaith Council.

Since 1957, Jimmy has been married to his college sweetheart, Betty Lou Whittle Joanos. In addition to his wife, he is survived by their children, Julia Joanos Crump (Darrell), Janet Joanos Pung (Steve), and James Joanos, Jr., (Lori); seven grandchildren, four great grandchildren and brother, Paul Joanos

(Cheryl). Since 2016, Jimmy and Betty Lou have resided at the Westminster Oaks Retirement Village.

In the legal profession, Jimmy served as a law clerk (1962-63), practiced law in Tallahassee and the surrounding area (1963 – 71 and 2001 -2020), was Judge of the Leon County Felony Court of Record for Leon County (1971-73), served as Circuit Judge of the Second Judicial Circuit of Florida (1973 – 80), and Judge of the Florida First District Court of Appeal (1980 – 2001). While a member of the “First DCA”, he served a term as Chief Judge of that Court and a term as President of the Florida Conference of District Court of Appeal Judges. He served as a charter member and later served a term as President of the Stafford Chapter of the American Inns of Court.

Some of Jimmy’s civic activities have included being President of the Tallahassee Jaycees, the Tallahassee Area Chamber of Commerce, and the Suwannee River Area Council of the Boy Scouts of America. He was a coach of several youth league sports teams and was a founding member of Springtime Tallahassee and Lemoyne Arts Center. He has been awarded the Silver Beaver Award from the Boy Scouts, the Significant Sig Award from Sigma Chi Fraternity and one of five Outstanding Young Men of Florida award from the Florida Jaycees.

An active FSU alumnus, Jimmy served that institution in numerous ways including being Chairman of the FSU National Alumni Association. He was a member of a four-person committee that selected the first Dean and helped found the FSU College of Law. He taught classes at FSU, in the law school and in the College of Criminology. He also chaired and served on numerous committees. He has been honored by FSU in many ways including

membership in ODK, Gold Key, and FSU Circle of Gold. In 1991 he and Betty Lou served as Homecoming Parade Grand Marshals. In 2005, he received the Sliger Award, the highest honor for lifetime service from FSU Alumni Association. In 2015, Jimmy and wife, Betty Lou, were awarded Moore-Stone Award proclaiming them as members of the FSU Athletics Hall of Fame.

Jimmy had multiple hobbies and interests during his lifetime including photography, hiking and running. A number of his photographs are cherished by family and friends. He participated in numerous road races and marathons including the Boston (five times), New York City, London, Berlin, Athens (twice), and Marine Corps (twice) Marathons. In 1986, he was recognized as the Gulf Winds Track Club Male Runner of the Year.

Jimmy was an active Lifetime Christian. As a child he was raised Greek Orthodox. As an adult he and his wife were Episcopalians and raised their children as such. At various times, Jimmy served as a lay reader, cup bearer, Sunday School teacher, Vestry Member, Senior Warden, and bible study discussion leader.

A memorial service will be held at St. John's Episcopal Church at 4:00PM on Friday, January 26, 2024, with a reception immediately following in Alfriend Hall. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to St. John's Episcopal Church, 211 N. Monroe St., Tallahassee, FL 32301 or The Joanos Family Legacy Scholarship c/o the FSU Alumni Association, 1030 W. Tennessee St., Tallahassee, FL 32304.

Rocky Bevis and Kelly Barber of Bevis Funeral Home (850-385-2193 or www.bevisfh.com) are assisting the Joanos family with their arrangements.

Previous Events

Funeral Service

JAN **26.** 4:00 PM (ET)

St. John's Episcopal Church
211 North Monroe St.
Tallahassee, FL 32301

Tribute Wall

JC

“ I am so very sad to hear of Judge Joanos's passing. Thank you for your kindness to me when I was in law school in Tallahassee many, many moons ago. My parents and I send our sincerest condolences to Mrs. Joanos and the family. Jill Pettigrew Crawford

Jill Pettigrew Crawford - February 02, 2024 at 09:25 AM

DB

“ Deborah V. Burgess lit a candle in memory of Judge James E. Joanos



Deborah V. Burgess - January 26, 2024 at 12:49 PM

DB

“ Judge Joanos and his family adopted me as a 4th child into their family in 1976. Judge Joanos's wife; Dr. Betty W. Joanos provided a lot of support for me as a student at Leon High School. Due to the familial support provided I have grown into an adult who has worked as a former TPD Police Officer, State of Florida Investigator, Special Agent in the DOD and now a retired College Instructor who works as a Global Online Communication Coach with clients around the world. Judge Joanos, may you Rest in Peace and have a joyful journey entering God's Eternal Kingdom. I Love You SO Much!! Deborah V. Burgess-Denver, CO

Deborah V. Burgess - January 26, 2024 at 12:36 PM

FF

“ FROM THE KALFAS FAMILY & BHALLA FAMILY purchased the Sentiments of Serenity Spray for the family of Judge James E. Joanos.



FROM THE KALFAS FAMILY & BHALLA FAMILY - January 25, 2024 at 09:57 AM

LP

“ Laverne P. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Judge James E. Joanos.

Laverne P. - January 24, 2024 at 09:12 PM

KW

“ I was one of Judge Joanos' law clerks at the 1st DCA in the late '80s-early '90s. I never worked for a finer jurist or a more kind and compassionate human being. My condolences to his family.
Kathleen Wolff

Kathleen Wolff - January 24, 2024 at 10:26 AM



“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Judge James E. Joanos.



January 24, 2024 at 09:03 AM

KL

“ Karen Love purchased the Sweet Sincerity for the family of Judge James E. Joanos.



Karen Love - January 23, 2024 at 12:04 PM

ML

“ Sending our love Miss Betty Lou. My the perpetual light shine upon him.
Bill and Marina Lickson

Marina Lickson - January 23, 2024 at 11:46 AM

AK

“ Akerman planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Judge James E. Joanos.

Akerman - January 23, 2024 at 10:50 AM



“ Bright and Beautiful Spray was purchased for the family of Judge James E. Joanos.



January 23, 2024 at 10:50 AM

PR

“ Condolences to the Joanos family 🙏 many blessings & Stay strong!
Dr. Dennis & Pam Ridley

Pam Ridley - January 23, 2024 at 08:54 AM



“ *Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Judge James E. Joanos.*



January 23, 2024 at 08:18 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Judge James E. Joanos.*



January 22, 2024 at 07:38 PM



“ *They say everyone is replaceable. That is not always correct. Judge James cannot be duplicated. We have lost a great human being and the ultimate historian for all things FSU. St. Peter is currently up to speed on his Seminole trivia.*

Terry Vaughan - January 22, 2024 at 07:17 PM



“ *Judge Jim was always a friendly face at Westminster Oaks.*

Joe Lama - January 22, 2024 at 07:47 AM