



James Wesley Atkins

September 18, 1933 - July 17, 2016

James Wesley Atkins, 82, of Ashland City, TN, passed away Sunday, July 17, 2016, at Alive Hospice in Nashville, TN. He was born on September 18, 1933, in Montgomery County, TN. He was a resident of Cheatham County for 57 years. He was a member of Main Street Church of Christ in Springfield, TN. He was a loving husband, father, grandfather, great-grandfather, brother, and friend who loved God, home and country. He is preceded in death by his parents, Henry and Christine (Watson) Atkins and his brother, Glenn Henry Atkins. Mr. Atkins was happily married to Mary Olean (Johnson) Atkins for 62 years. Mr. Atkins is survived by his wife, three children: Mark (Terri) Atkins, Donna (Randy) Edgin and Christopher (Shanda) Atkins; three grandchildren: Kelly (Arielle) Street, Nicole (Robert) Brunson and Taylor (Cindy) Atkins and 7 great-grandchildren: Sandler, Stetson, Isabella, Samuel, Miles, Sofia and Solomon James. He is also survived by his siblings: Margaret Ann Atkins of Cumberland City, TN, and her son, Joey; Earleen Smith of Clarksville, TN, and her children, Van, Michael and Rhonda; Elsie (Dudley) Marklin of Clarksville, TN, and their children Clif and Deborah; Dean Atkins of Clarksville, TN, and his children, Lindsay and Steven; and Thelma Johnson (sister-in-law) of Clarksville, TN. Funeral services will take place on Saturday, July 23, 2016, at 11am in the Chapel of Cheatham County Funeral Home. Burial will follow in the Joelton Hills Memory Gardens in Joelton, TN. The family will receive friends for visitation on Friday, July 22, 2016, from 2pm until 8pm and on Saturday from 9am until the service hour of 11am. For further information regarding the arrangements, please contact Cheatham County Funeral Home 615-792-2552 cheathamcountyfh.com

Cemetery

Events

Joelton Hills Memory Gardens JUL

22

Joelton, TN, 37080

Visitation

02:00PM - 08:00PM

Cheatham County Funeral Home, LLC

117 Elizabeth Street, Ashland City, TN, US, 37015

JUL

23

Visitation

09:00AM - 11:00AM

Cheatham County Funeral Home, LLC

117 Elizabeth Street, Ashland City, TN, US, 37015

JUL

23

Service

11:00AM

Cheatham County Funeral Home, LLC

117 Elizabeth Street, Ashland City, TN, US, 37015

Comments



“ Dear Mark & family: I have been gone from the construction industry for over 25 years and just thought about James and Atkins Construction, so I just googled the company and now see this notice of James' passing. I am so very sad to learn of his death and no kinder words could I say other than what an honorable man and family that I had the great privilege of being able to work along, Mr. James Atkins, Mark and employee's at Atkins. I am grateful for the time I got to know such a great person and wish great peace to all the family. I can still hear his great voice with much kindness and authority in building all that he did. Peace be with you all. Deepest sympathy, Susan Wood Davis, Enco Materials, 1982-1995.

Susan Davis - November 17, 2019 at 08:58 PM



“ 1 file added to the album Tribute wall



Rachel Hogan Randall - July 25, 2016 at 05:12 PM



“ Chris, Mark and Mom.... Our thoughts and prayers are with you. We are so sorry for your loss. The world may have lost a great man but the heavens have gained a great soul.

Ted Kisselovich - July 22, 2016 at 12:46 PM



“ Greg ,Susan & Adam Pittman purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of James Wesley Atkins .



Greg ,Susan & Adam Pittman - July 22, 2016 at 10:08 AM



“ To Chris and Mark, We, at Hudson Construction Company, want to express our condolences to the James Atkins family. We always enjoyed working with you and James. When James came to the jobsite, there was always a firm handshake and a funny story. May the Lord provide comfort for the family and friends during this time of loss. God Bless you all. Stanley Hendon, on behalf of Hudson Construction Company.

Stanley Hendon - July 22, 2016 at 09:17 AM



“ We are saddened by the passing of James, but relish all the memories we have of him. The booming voice, but kind words. The rough working hands, but gentle hugs and strong hand shakes. The kind smile, but the you better straighten up stare. We always knew James would provide the funny jokes and stories at the Travis family reunions and we will greatly miss hearing them in the future. Our prayers are with all the family and friends.

Brad, Angela (Travis) and Connor Mccolpin

Angela McColpin - July 21, 2016 at 07:58 PM



“ We are so sorry to learn of James' passing. We send our sympathy and will keep you in our thoughts and prayers.

Kitty Spry and Anne Buchanan

Kitty Spry - July 20, 2016 at 06:24 AM



“ Are thoughts and prayers are with you. We love you. Joe & Sharon

Sharon Travis - July 19, 2016 at 10:03 PM



“ The whole world will miss James Atkins. He was one of the last of an old breed, a generation of better men. Men who still knew how to do useful things, who appreciated the hot sun on their faces and who didn't mind sweating through a clean shirt. He raised cattle and hogs and he laughed at misfortune. He cared for things that grow. He could run a bull-dozer all day in the hottest summer or the coldest winter, never stopping to eat. Always up before the sun, Mr. James was out the door early and the last to leave the job.

His hands were brown and hard as iron, and his eyes were clear blue like February sky - eyes that would soften with joy at the sight of his great-grandchildren. He didn't place emphasis on talking about his feelings, but he showed me his love in so many other ways, all of them more important than talking. Some of my very best memories are of silently working beside him, like during the winter of 2014, when he and I split wood for several hours. That was perhaps the last time I experienced the full measure of him, but it was something to see. A force of will and strength, James Atkins. He could be stubborn, of course, and distant, sometimes driven by a hidden code, and he was capable at moments of almost reckless hard work - working with such focus that anyone leaning on a shovel around him would do well to take cover and get clear. I've never known anyone like James Atkins, in his complexity and love for life. He could be a philosopher, and he was thoughtful. I watched as his hair went from coal black to stone grey, and eventually to silver, and my heart swells with gratitude for every set-back fortune gave him... all the things he endured without complaint to provide for his family. He gave everyone so much, but me more than most: a solid education and a peer-group, a steady church and ethical framework, a dry place to lay my head, laughter, and three squares on the table.

He treated me like I was his own son - and though I didn't deserve it, he eventually treated me like an equal. That's what I value most. James Atkins worked his life like a 14-hour day, and now that day is done. Over three months, he confronted a terminal illness and the certainty of his own death, and he did it with bravery. He could have died on a tractor, and that would have been easier, maybe more poetic. Instead, he died the same way he did everything else: the hard way, without complaining. I hope he knows how proud we all are of him, and I hope he's resting peacefully somewhere, getting ready to get up and go again in the next life, where the sun will shine hot on his face again.

Kelly Street



Kelly Street - July 19, 2016 at 11:10 AM



“ Kelly, and family of Mr. James Atkinson, I am so sorry for your loss and send condolences. May his memory always be a blessing. From, Amy Lerner

amy lerner - July 19, 2016 at 06:22 PM



“ I am so sorry. He was such a sweet fellow to children and adults as well. He will be missed. Tommy and Norma Binkley

Norma Binkley - July 19, 2016 at 10:45 AM



“ We went to church with James and family for several years. Billy worked for him as his mechanic for several years. James taught the teenagers class which I was a teenager at Clarksville Highway Church of Christ. We grew to love them very much
Billy and Faye Winters

Billy & Faye Winters - July 19, 2016 at 08:46 AM