



James "Jim" Dee McDaniels

December 17, 1944 - October 24, 2023

James "Jim" Dee McDaniels was born December 17, 1944, in Maplewood, Missouri, to Paul and Avis Augusta (Hall) McDaniels. He grew up in the St. Louis area until moving to Salem in his early teenage years. He graduated with the class of 1962 from Salem High School.

Jim was blessed with two children: Stephanie and Jimmy, and later blessed with three grandsons: Ty, Brady, and Elijah; and two great-grandsons: Ezra and Simon. Jim was proud of his family and loved and supported them unconditionally. His grandsons and great-grandsons were an unending source of joy. He cherished the memories they made together and enjoyed attending their school and sporting events.

Jim had a big heart for kids and was known as the best bus driver at the Salem R-80 School District for over forty years. He invested countless hours into the lives of many students and truly loved driving them to ballgames and fields trips. During his career he also served as the transportation director and was a former state president of the Missouri Association of Pupil Transportation.

Jim was very active in the Dent County Community. He owned and operated McDaniels Ice Company, worked for the Salem Police Department, and was a Dent County Sheriff Deputy. He truly loved the community and for a time

served on the School Board and as City Alderman. In early adulthood, he was an active member of the Salem Jaycees. In March 1968 he received the Key Man Award of Missouri.

Jim loved life and lived it to its fullest, enjoying every moment along the way. He loved being at Montauk on the opening day of trout season and in the woods hunting during deer season. He was a collector of many things and liked browsing antique stores. Jim loved to cook, always trying new recipes. He also enjoyed watching the St. Louis Cardinals and listening to gospel music.

Jim was a man of great faith. He was saved in the summer of 1964 and baptized at Salem First Baptist Church. Jim was an active member of New Harmony Church and faithfully attended until his health no longer allowed. He loved to help cook in the kitchen and volunteered with the annual sportsman's banquet.

Jim entered eternal rest on October 24, 2023, in Salem, Missouri, at the age of seventy-eight years. Those left behind to treasure his memory include, his loving children: Stephanie Floyd and husband Tony of Salem, MO and Jimmy McDaniels and wife Brandie of Springfield, MO; sister: Sally Arft of Salem, MO; grandchildren: Ty Floyd and wife Houlie of Chicago, IL, Brady Floyd and wife Ashley of East Peoria, IL, and Elijah Floyd and fiancé Paige Hartje of Joplin, MO; great-grandchildren: Ezra and Simon; as well as a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, Salem School District Alumni, and many City of Salem friends.

Preceding him in death, his parents: Paul and Avis McDaniels; the mother of his children: Leona McDaniels 2009; two sisters: Lois 1937 and Suzie 1996, and two brothers: Gene 1937 and an infant brother 1948.

Jim's legacy will endure through the cherished memories he leaves behind. He will be remembered for his larger-than-life personality, his unwavering love for his family, and the joy he found in helping others. Jim will be forever missed.

Funeral Services for James "Jim" Dee McDaniels were held Saturday, October 28, 2023, at New Harmony Church, Salem, Missouri, with Pastor Matt Milligan and Pastor Jimmy Decker officiating. Special Music was provided by the New Harmony Praise Team. Serving as Pallbearers were Ty Floyd, Steve Bryson, Brady Floyd, Steve Morton, Elijah Floyd, John Snider, Rick Hoyt, and Faron Teague. Honorary Pallbearers were Steve Raulston, Jamie Haage, Curtis Bottorff, Keith Steelman, Don Smith, Dennis Schafer, Tim Sanders, Stan Johnson, Truman Smith, and Bob Parsons. Burial was in the Cedar Grove Cemetery. Arrangements were under the direction of Wilson Mortuary of Salem, Missouri.

Memorial Contributions may be made in memory of Jim McDaniels and will be donated to several charities that were close to his heart.

Online Condolences may be entered at www.wilsonmortuary.com

Cemetery Details

Cedar Grove Cemetery

Salem, MO

Previous Events

Visitation

OCT 28. 11:00 AM - 2:00 PM (CT)

New Harmony Church
Salem, MO 65560

Funeral Service

OCT 28. 2:00 PM (CT)

New Harmony Church
Salem, MO 65560

Tribute Wall



“ 1 file added to the album *Memories Album*



Wilson Mortuary - November 06, 2023 at 09:42 AM



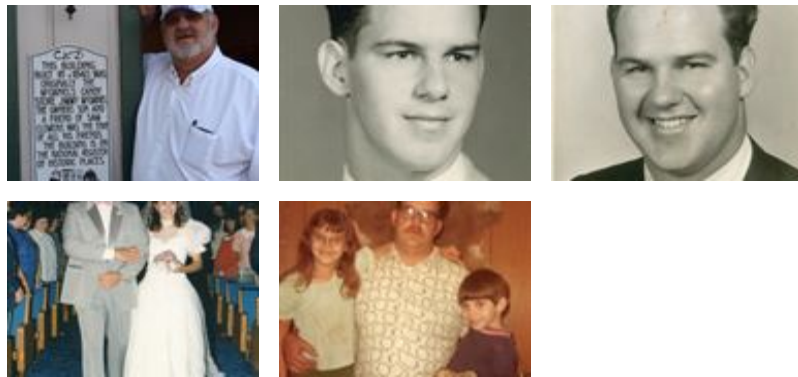
“ 1 file added to the album *Memories Album*



Wilson Mortuary - October 30, 2023 at 12:58 PM



“ 104 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



Wilson Mortuary - October 27, 2023 at 06:17 PM



“ Jim was my bus driver from 1982 to 1991 and my boys had him as a bus driver. Such a sweet man

Loretta Pyeatt - October 27, 2023 at 11:14 AM



“ I worked with Jim for over 20 years at Salem R-80. He set the bar high as someone who cared about the school, the transportation program, and the students . There was no better example.

Keith Wheeler

Keith Wheeler - October 26, 2023 at 09:24 PM



“ Sincere sympathy & prayers for all of Jim's family. Salem has lost an outstanding citizen when it lost Jim! A man who loved God, his family, & all of the children who were on Jim's school bus route! He will be missed by all who recognized what a special fellow he was!!!! Love, Charlie & Betty Carmack



Charlie Carmack - October 25, 2023 at 09:28 PM



“ Kristina Rosewell lit a candle in memory of James "Jim" Dee McDaniels



Kristina Rosewell - October 25, 2023 at 01:53 PM

KR

“ Children are our most precious blessings. Jim had a legacy of taking care of thousands of Salem's children over many years. Transporting them safely many miles, and being a good example for them too. Rest in peace. Thank you Jim. Prayers for the family. God bless

Kristina Rosewell - October 25, 2023 at 01:53 PM

RM

I met Jim about 25 years ago at Columbia. We had taken the FBLA club there. Many times Esther from Jackson School district met up with him to go to flea markets, yard sales and just hang out. Jim and I became very good friends. I became Transportation Director for the Dunklin R-5 School district and Jim we helped each other on matters concerning transportation. We talked on the phone regularly. Jim was a wonderful compassionate friend. I will truly miss him. He loved his family and his kids that he transported. I personally will miss Jim greatly! I love him as a dear friend he was to me. May God be with his host of family and friends to comfort them during their time of grief. ❤️

Ruth McGrath - October 25, 2023 at 03:54 PM

IL

Stephanie, Jimmy and family. I'm so sorry for your loss. Prayers and Hugs!

Ida Long-Terrill - October 25, 2023 at 07:24 PM

MB

My fondest memory of Mr. McDaniels was when I first met him. I was about 10 years old. Our bus was stuck in the snow in between the camel back hills on bus route 3. My sister and I were not on the bus though; we were late for school like usual so my mom was driving us. We pulled out of our driveway and as soon as we dropped off the hill there was our bus half way up the other hill taking up the entire road and both of the ditches too. Mom just barely got stopped in time. We sat there in the snow for what seemed like forever. Mom was out talking to our bus driver Bill and then two other men showed up in a pickup truck. It took a long time to get the bus out but they got it. I didn't know what was going to happen with us as one of the men got into the drivers side of my moms car and she got into the passenger side. I remember being scared until the man turned around to see in order to back up our car and he says, hang on hunny we'll be out of here in a second...then I was really scared. He backed up and went forward I don't know how many times before he flipped a donut at the bottom of the two hills shoved it in drive and started up the other hill. I have never slid up a hill before but Mr. McDaniels slid us up the hill and was slinging snow everywhere. He slide our car into our driveway, stopped, turned around with a big'ol grin on his face and he says to me... "Oh, it wasn't that scary. Breathe girl, you're alright. At least you don't have to go to school today!"

*I will never forget Mr McDaniels. He left a good legacy in Salem and it's an honor to have the memories of him that I do. Prayers for the family and friends that had that same honor of knowing Mr. Jim McDaniels
With Love,
Megan*

Megan Barton - October 26, 2023 at 06:34 PM