



James W. "Jitter" Allen

October 23, 1942 - July 4, 2023

James William "Jitter" Allen, 80, of Frankfort, Kentucky, passed away on July 4, 2023, following a brief illness. Services will be held at Harrod Brothers Funeral Home on Friday, July 14, 2023, at 11:00 a.m. with Bro. Ronnie McKinney officiating. Burial will follow at Frankfort Cemetery. Visitation will be held at Harrod Brothers Funeral Home from 4:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. on Thursday, July 13, 2023, and from 9:30 a.m. until 10:30 a.m. on Friday.

Jitter was born on October 23, 1942, to William "Bill" and Ora Mae Allen in Martin, Kentucky. After graduating from Martin High School in 1960, Jitter attended Pikeville College then left eastern Kentucky to attend Kentucky College of Mortuary Science in Louisville. Upon graduation, Jitter returned home and began his career at Hall Brothers Funeral Home in Martin as a licensed funeral director and embalmer. During this time, Jitter married Emily Martin, his long-time sweetheart, whom he dated during the entirety of his time in mortuary school. They soon had a son, James Gregory, "Greg".

After a few years in his licensed profession, his career interests expanded. A true renaissance man, Jitter worked as a deputy sheriff, deputy coroner, paramedic, railway dispatcher, marine salesman, and coal leasing agent. But it wasn't until 1973 that he pursued the career path that would make him the "Kentucky Legend" he was – politics. After an unsuccessful initial foray into elected politics, Jitter ran again in 1975 and won his race for state

representative. Jitter served the 95th Legislative District for two terms beginning in January 1976. During his service, Jitter held the positions of Vice Chairman of Natural Resources Committee, and Chairman of the Federal Surface Mining Subcommittee. He was also a member of the Agriculture Committee, Appropriations and Revenue Committee, and Kentucky Democratic Executive Committee. Because of his active role in the legislature, Jitter was chosen to be a delegate for the 1976 Democratic National Convention. After his tenure in the General Assembly, Jitter again wore many hats including sales, public relations, and eventually returned to Frankfort working for the Cabinet of Human Resources. In 1985, his true calling would begin. Thanks to Governor Martha Layne Collins, Jitter served as the Governor's legislative liaison until leaving to begin his own lobbying firm, Allen & Associates. For over thirty-five years, Jitter represented a multitude of local, national, and multi-national clients with integrity and honesty, including his first client – Philip Morris.

Jitter will be remembered for his larger-than-life persona. To those who knew him, the word "legend" sums up who Jitter Allen was. When he wasn't "walking the marble floors" of the Capitol, Jitter was enjoying the outdoors. An avid outdoorsman, if Jitter's stories weren't political, they usually included tales of his many adventures hunting and fishing throughout the United States.

Jitter is survived by his son, J. Gregory (Mary-Grace) Allen of Frankfort, formerly of Banner, Kentucky. He is also survived by several nieces, nephews, and close cousins; and his constant canine companion, JJ.

In addition to his parents, Jitter was preceded in death by his wife of 48 years, Emily Martin Allen; and his brother, Richard "Dickie" Allen.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that expressions of sympathy be made to the American Cancer Society, as this horrible disease has taken both of Greg's

parents and Mary-Grace's mother.

Arrangements are under the direction of Harrod Brothers Funeral Home & Crematory.

Cemetery Details

Frankfort Cemetery

215 East Main Street
Frankfort, KY 40601
(502) 227-2403

Previous Events

Visitation

JUL 13. 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Harrod Brothers Funeral Home
312 Washington Street
Frankfort, KY 40601
(502) 227-4526
hbfh@harrodbrothers.com
<https://www.harrodbrothers.com>

Visitation

JUL 14. 9:30 AM - 10:30 AM (ET)

Harrod Brothers Funeral Home
312 Washington Street
Frankfort, KY 40601
(502) 227-4526
hbfh@harrodbrothers.com
<https://www.harrodbrothers.com>

Service

JUL 14. 11:00 AM (ET)

Harrod Brothers Funeral Home
312 Washington Street
Frankfort, KY 40601
(502) 227-4526
hbfh@harrodbrothers.com
<https://www.harrodbrothers.com>

Tribute Wall



“ James W. "Jitter" Allen

October 06, 2023 at 03:15 PM



“ Greg, I had no idea your dad was so colorful, but I knew you were close to him. I lost my dad to cancer in 1988, and I still miss him. "Jitter" will obviously never be forgotten, and hopefully someday cancer will be eradicated. Hang in there.....

Jim Carpenter, Lexington, Ky.

James Carpenter - July 13, 2023 at 11:24 AM



“ Mr. Allen lived around the corner from me, and then bought the house next to me. We had many chats at the fence. He was a wonderful and thoughtful man. I was saddened when he first told me he had cancer. But, being the person he was, he told me not to worry, he wasn't going anywhere any time soon. I am even more saddened to learn of his passing. I will say he lived more during his lifetime than most can only dream of. I am honored to have known him. God be with his family during this time. RIP Mr. Allen.

Deborah A Redmon - July 12, 2023 at 07:00 PM



“ Jitter was a close friend to my boss of 23 years, Donald Bowles. Donald passed in April, and I know they are sitting in heaven discussing politics now! Jitter always brightened my days when he called or visited. He will be greatly missed, but I know I will see him again one day! Prayers for the Allen family!

Jill Pendergraft - July 07, 2023 at 04:32 PM

KC

Greg,

I am so sorry to hear that your dad passed. As you have known for many decades, we lovingly called him Jitter. The Carroll family were friends of Jitter for many years. He was always a joy to be with whether he was telling many of his great stories, in the field hunting, or imparting his wisdom on the up or downside of a certain policy being considered. He will be missed by all who were blessed to have known and loved him. God bless you and your family. Ken Carroll

Ken Carroll - July 14, 2023 at 02:52 PM



“ 62 files added to the album Life Tributes



Harrod Brothers Funeral Home - July 07, 2023 at 12:23 PM

LB

“ Lieutenant Colonel William (Bud) Braddock, U.S. Army, Retired
I am very sorry for your loss. Jitter and I have been good friends since we entered Martin High School. He will be sorely missed by all who knew him. Prayers to all family and friends.

Lieutenant Colonel William Braddock - July 07, 2023 at 09:57 AM

JT

“ So sorry to hear this. I went to High School with “Jitter”. We Graduated from Martin High School in 1960. Prayers for family and friends.

Jeanette (Akers) Terry

Jeanette (Akers) Terry - July 06, 2023 at 05:39 PM