



James "Jim" Clark Ashcraft

July 25, 1942 - April 8, 2024

James Clark Ashcraft, age 81, passed away peacefully Monday, April 8, 2024, at his residence in Sebring, Florida. Services will be held at Harrod Brothers Funeral Home on Thursday, April 18, 2024, at 1:00 p.m. with Rev. Todd Lester officiating. Burial will follow at Frankfort Cemetery. Visitation will be at Harrod Brothers Funeral Home from 10:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. on Thursday.

He was the son of the late James Clark "Son" Ashcraft and Mary Perkins Ashcraft. Jim was born in Richmond, KY where he graduated from Madison Central High School. Immediately following graduation, he joined the United States Air Force where he proudly served his country from 1960 – 1964 and received an honorable discharge. Jim's work ethic, drive, and determination began at the young age of thirteen while working at the White Kitchen in Richmond, KY. He was involved in businesses throughout several states to include dry cleaning operations, Dixie Cream Donuts, and Kentucky Fried Chicken where he worked closely with Colonel Harlan Sanders who served as a mentor during the start of his entrepreneur endeavors. Jim moved to Frankfort, KY in 1969 to manage the Cape Codder restaurant. He later purchased the Cape Codder and changed its name to Jim's Seafood. In 1974, he purchased land on the Kentucky river, which would become the future and current site of Jim's Seafood restaurant. He also owned and operated Baskin Robbins and brought Tumbleweed restaurant to Frankfort, KY.

During his life, he owned Shady Oaks farm where his passion and love for livestock and farming began. This passion led him to the Tennessee Walking

Horse and Thoroughbred racing industry where he successfully placed numerous times.

Jim was a former member of the following: City of Frankfort Board of Ethics, Frankfort/Franklin County Tourism Committee, Franklin County Tax Appeal Board, Optimist Club, Finance Committee and Trustee at Buck Run Baptist Church, Board of Directors for the Kentucky Horse Racing Association, and the Tennessee Walking Horse Association. He also supported and coached YMCA basketball leagues.

Even though Jim was a successful businessman, his commitment to family and his faith was what he considered his ultimate success.

He is survived by his beloved wife of fifty-one years, Betty Cloyd Ashcraft; his daughters, Marcheale (Gerry) Jenkins, Kathy (Keith) White, and Mary Elizabeth (Todd) Bailey; his sister, Marlene Ashcraft Harvey; his brothers, Paul Wayne Ashcraft and Billy Ashcraft; his grandchildren, Hunter (Monique) Otten, Caleb (Bethany) Otten, Brandon Terrell, Blake (Noelle) Terrell, William Chase Harrod, Autum Bailey, Sheridan Bailey, Amanda (Wayne) Morrison, Adele (Hussain) Gilani, Mikhail (Krisa) Jenkins and Jordan (Omar) Lazalde; fourteen great grandchildren; and several nieces and nephews. He was also blessed with many wonderful friends.

In addition to his parents, Jim was preceded in death by his grandson, Brock Spencer Terrell, and his brothers, Harry Daniel Ashcraft and Darrell Ashcraft. Serving as pallbearers are Ron Cloyd, Roger Slemph and his grandsons.

Serving as honorary pallbearers are Mike Beaudoin, Don McCormick, Bruce McCutchen, Johnny Jordan, and Randy Ferrand.

Jim had a green thumb, and it was shown through his love for gardening and landscaping. The family requests that flowers are sent to honor his memory. In addition to flowers, additional expressions of sympathy may be made to the Capital City Activity Center/Meals on Wheels Greater Frankfort, 202 Medical Heights Drive, Frankfort, KY 40601.

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

APR 18. 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM (ET)

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

Service

APR 18. 1:00 PM (ET)

Harrod Brothers Funeral Home
312 Washington Street
Frankfort, KY 40601
(502) 227-4526
hbfh@harrodbrothers.com
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Tribute Wall

ML

“ I worked for Jim at Cape Codder on Versailles Road in Frankfort while I was in high school. It was... an experience... working with Tommy Goddard, John Rall, and Ben Anderson. Jim was an awesome person. I remember one time Colonel Sanders came by for dinner. He ordered a fish sandwich and he and Jim sat in the dining room and talked. Jim came to my dad's funeral in 2009. I was sitting in the front row alone in front of dad's casket When I looked up Jim was standing there, reached ot his hand and pulled me up ouf of my seat. He and I talked for a long time about my dad, and golf, and the guys from back at Cape Codder. He remembered all of us from back when we were just kids. I would say anyone who knew Jim knew a truly fantastic person. They don't make them like him anymore.

Michael Lohr - April 26, 2025 at 10:43 PM



“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Shaunta Summerour - April 18, 2024 at 01:28 PM

JS

Dearest Kathy & Keith & family, We send our deepest sympathy to you on the passing of your beloved Father Kathy. We send our love to all of your family,
Judy & family

judy smith - April 18, 2024 at 03:36 PM

JS

Blake, my heart is broken for you. But always know that your Granddad is & always will be with you. He helped raise a fine young man & I know he is SO very proud of you. I love you, & I'm always here for you, Judy

judy smith - April 18, 2024 at 03:40 PM



“ 68 files added to the album Life Tributes



Harrod Brothers Funeral Home - April 17, 2024 at 12:06 PM

JP

“ Prayers for Betty and your family, my heart goes out to you for your loss.

Judy Penn

Judy Penn - April 13, 2024 at 03:29 PM

RD

“ So sorry to learn of Jim's passing. Have known and respected him since his Jim's Seafood days. He will be missed. Richard & Lois Douglass.

Richard Douglass - April 13, 2024 at 01:38 PM

BH

“ Bobby and Susan Hutcherson have so many fond memories with our friend Jim. He was always willing to help as saw the need especially at Franklin County Farmers Market during our busy summer seasons. We lift prayers up for Jim’s family.

Bobby and Susan Hutcherson - April 12, 2024 at 01:59 PM

DS

“ Rest in peace, friend. You had a wonderful influence on many, including me.

Doc Stouder - April 12, 2024 at 03:46 AM

CS

Heartfelt prayers for Betty and family,,

chalna Smaltz - April 16, 2024 at 05:38 PM

TM

I worked for Jim during my high school days and was working at the restaurant the day he took over. Often times during the 2pm to 4pm slot Jim would take a quick nap on top of a chest freezer in the back hall of the restaurant.

Tom Murphy - April 17, 2024 at 05:14 PM