



James Robert DeSpain

August 4, 1929 - April 16, 2015

Frankfort - Services for James Robert Jim DeSpain, 85, will be conducted from Harrod Brothers Funeral Home at 1pm Wednesday, April 22, 2015, with Reverend Esther Sapp officiating. Burial with military honors will follow in Sunset Memorial Gardens. Family and friends will be received at the funeral home Tuesday from 4-7pm.

Mr. DeSpain passed away Thursday at Golden Living Center, Frankfort.

Jim was born August 4, 1929, in Paducah, KY, one of four children to Thomas Harry and Pauline Watson DeSpain. He enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corp and served his country for three years before his Honorable Discharge as Sergeant in 1949. He received his B.S. degree from Davis and Elkins College, WV in 1954, majoring in Physical Education and Mathematics, and earned his Masters and Rank I in Education from Murray State University. During his tenure as teacher and coach at Paducah Tilghman High School, his baseball team won the 1960 State Baseball Championship. During his teaching career, Jim was Assistant Principal at Paducah Tilghman High School for three years, Principal at Henry County High School, TN for two years before accepting position of Assistant Superintendent at Grayson County Public Schools. Starting a career with KY State Government in 1974, Jim retired from the Bureau of Education for Exceptional Children in November 1984. Mr. DeSpain was a member of Central Kentucky Retired Teachers Association. He and his

wife, Donna Carroll May DeSpain, are the owners of DeSpain Studio and Gallery, LLC, Frankfort.

In addition to his wife of 33 years, Jim is survived by a daughter, Janet (Ron) Brotherson, Paducah; brother, Jerry (Carolyn) DeSpain, Owensboro; sister, Dorothy Parrott, Grand Rivers; grandchildren, Jennifer Reed and Jonathan Durr; three great grandchildren, Sebastian, Lorabelle, and Sophia Grace; and cherished friends, Louis and Phyllis McClain, and their children, Stephanie, Billie Jo, and Brandon. He was preceded in death by his parents; son, Tommy DeSpain; and sister, Vitrude DeSpain.

Brandon McClain, Louis McClain, Ron Brotherson, Ronald Hockensmith, Jonathan Durr, Sebastian Hammer, and John K. Dearing will honor Jim by serving as Pallbearers.

Flowers are welcome, or expressions of sympathy in Mr. DeSpain's memory are suggested to Hospice of the Bluegrass, 663 Teton Trail, Frankfort, KY 40601, or Life House for Animals, P O Box 1365, Frankfort, KY 40602.

Arrangements are under the kind and compassionate care of Harrod Brothers Funeral Home; condolences may be shared via the online guest book at www.harrodbrothers.com.

Tribute Wall



“ *James Robert DeSpain*

October 06, 2023 at 03:15 PM



“ *I was sorry to learn of Mr. DeSpain's passing. In the two years I knew him as principal of Henry County High School, he always treated me kindly and was a good soul. My thoughts and prayers go out to his family.*

Dennis Rayburn - June 19, 2015 at 11:22 PM



“ *Mr. DeSpain was my high school baseball coach at Paducah Tilghman. He was one of the kindest men I ever knew. When I joined the PTHS Staff as a teacher in 1968, Jim recruited me to become the Baseball Coach in 1970. We made it to the State Championship game against Elizabethtown my first year. Coach DeSpain was there with me throughout the year helping, advising, and serving as a great mentor. I coached for 24 years and was inducted into the KHS Baseball Coaches Hall of Fame in 1998. None of this would ever have happened if not for Coach DeSpain. I am so thankful that he was a part of my life. I was deeply saddened when I learned of his passing. I miss him, I honor him, and I love him.*

I also had the honor of coaching his son Tommy, who was tragically taken away from his family way to soon. Happy Trails Jim and Tommy, may God bless and keep them.

Coach Bob Troutman

Coach Bob Troutman - April 20, 2015 at 05:11 PM

BS

“ So sorry to hear of Mr. DeSpain's passing. He was my favorite teacher at Paducah Tilghman and I loved him so much! He never succeeded in "teaching" me to love Math but he sure did try. He passed me with a D so I wouldn't have to repeat the class and for that I was grateful. I never forgot him! I still don't like Math! (and how appropriate...a Math problem for the captcha)

*My deepest sympathy
Barbara Scott*

Barbara (McClure) Scott - April 19, 2015 at 07:33 PM

DE

“ Dear Family & Friends of Coach Jim DeSpain, I am sorry to learn of your bereavement. Knowing your hearts are grieving in your loss, may every consolation and blessing be granted to each of you in your deep sorrow. Kindly accept my heartfelt sympathy. Sincerely,
David 'Herb' Estes

David 'Herb' Estes - April 19, 2015 at 08:36 AM