



Jim Lucas

November 4, 1931 - December 6, 2015

James Nelson Lucas, age 84, of Versailles, passed away Sunday, December 6, 2015, peacefully in his home. He was born November 4, 1931, in Darlington, Missouri to Chambliss Abner and Helen (White) Lucas.

Jim graduated high school and college in Moberly, Missouri. He then joined the United States Army and served in the military police. He loved telling his grandchildren the story about his troop getting ready to board the train for the Korean War. President Truman was there to see them off and when he heard they were being sent to Korea, he said, "I am not sending my Missouri boys to Korea!!" He changed the orders and had them sent to Germany instead.

After his tour in the Army, he attended the police academy in California. After graduating with honors and in the top of his class, he worked as a detective for the Los Angeles Sheriff Department. During this time, he learned to fly fixed-wing aircraft and helicopters. He then went on to be a civilian helicopter instructor for the Army in Texas for our troops during the Vietnam War.

Later, he became a commercial helicopter pilot for a tuna boat fleet in the South Pacific. During turn around trips, he flew for the 1984 Olympics.

In 1983, he met and married the love of his life, Dorothy Gayhart. They moved to Montana, where they enjoyed their beautiful animal-filled ranch. Many

hours were spent enjoying riding their horses, four-wheelers, skiing and ice-skating with their daughters and granddaughter.

During his turn around trips with the tuna boats while in Montana, he flew helicopter search and rescue, Medivac for the hospital and many fire-fighting jobs.

In 1997, they moved back to Missouri to enjoy retirement. Their daughters followed shortly. They opened The Village Shoppe and enjoyed interacting with their beloved community. He will be remembered for his presence in the front window of the Shoppe reading his book, riding his bike with his grandsons around town, making his famous frappes and walking the square with Jasper, his little Shih Tzu.

He is a loving husband, father, grandfather and great-grandfather. His most cherished times were those spent with family.

He is survived by his beloved wife and soul mate, Dorothy of the home; his sister, LouAnn Burgess and husband Marion of Lindale, Texas; his son, Ron and wife Tina Lucas of Hammond, Louisiana; Ron's children, Katrina Friedman and Hollie Lucas and their children, Scott, Kamaron, Piper, Alaiyah, Collin and Madison all of Louisiana; Jim's deceased son's daughters, Nikki and Stephanie and their children, Taylor, Justin, Shawn, Seth and Sidd; his daughter, Wende Crowe of Versailles and her children, Nicole Harris and husband Chip and their children, Craedon, Korben and Natalie all of Belle Fourche, South Dakota and Andrew Crowe of Kalispell, Montana and Austin Crowe of Versailles; his daughter, Pam Dykzeul and husband Jim and their children, Brett and his daughter, Brooklyn of Kingsville, Missouri and Courtney Lake and husband Brice, Noah and Skylar, all of Versailles.

Jim is also survived by his dear special friend, Howard Green of California,

with whom many memories were shared and live on.

Graveside services and inurnment with full military honors will be held at 2:00 p.m., Sunday, December 20, 2015, at the Versailles Cemetery. Memorial contributions are suggested to Murphy's Spay and Neuter Clinic in Sunrise Beach, Missouri.

Arrangements are under the direction and care of the Kidwell-Garber Funeral Home in Versailles.

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Previous Events

Graveside Service

DEC **20**. 2:00 PM (CT)

Versailles Cemetery
550 Clay Road
Versailles, MO 65084

Tribute Wall

LY

“ 1962-1974 James N Lucas had a very different legacy I am a survivor of that legacy 🦋

Lynn - August 03, 2020 at 07:46 PM

JK

So I'm his Grandson never met him would like to know more about him

james knight - November 24, 2024 at 01:27 PM

HG

“ We have been thinking of you, Dorothy and family with love and prayers. We never knew Jim well but always appreciated his faithfulness in church attendance at our church, Bethel Mennonite. We trust his faith grew during that time. It was hard to see his hearing go and other discomforts that many of us experience with age. I'm sure his faith was a comfort and witness to all of you. We know he will be greatly missed. We trust the Lord to give you comfort and peace. Our prayers will follow you during these days of bereavement. May God bless you in every way. Love, Homer & Twila Garber

Homer & Twila Garber - December 20, 2015 at 07:37 PM

DF

“ Prayers go out to Jims family. He was such a friendly guy who we enjoyed visiting with or seeing around town with his friendly hello or wave. I will always remember Jim sitting near the door at the village shoppe as we entered. We could always count on a friendly greeting and short visit although some visits may have been longer. Always had one of his pets near him. They loved him too which showed his big heart. Made you feel happy just walking in the door. We were able to see his what we called his "man cave" upstairs once. He enjoyed showing how all nooks and crannies were used. Such a talented man. Jim will really be missed.

Duane and Linda Miller and family - December 15, 2015 at 07:39 PM