



James Robert Durall

February 23, 1936 - September 23, 2023

James Robert Durall, Sr., “JimBob” to many and “Jabaw” to his family will be sorely missed by those who knew and loved him. He leaves behind a sister, five children, eleven grandchildren, seven great-grandchildren and a legion of others influenced by him during his lifetime from February 23rd, 1936, until September 23rd, 2023.

He is survived by his sister, Eleanor Durall Moore and his five children, Leslie Durall Harvison, James Robert Durall, Jr., William Austin Durall, Sarah Holly Durall, and Eleanore (Hope) Durall Rommel. JimBob lost his wife of 65 years, Ann Davis Williams Durall, in 2022, after her lengthy fight with Alzheimer’s Disease.

His family was a point of pride, and his professional life was remarkable. From his more humble beginnings in Muhlenberg County, KY to his eventual retirement from a C-suite position with TVA (Tennessee Valley Authority), his career path spoke volumes about his ability to learn, grow, and to make things happen.

His abilities showed outside work as well.

To say that James Robert Durall was a “car enthusiast” would not accurately describe his aptitude for things complex, mobile, and or mechanical. He built

and restored a number of antique classic vehicles during his lifetime that were not only beautiful but were equally road worthy. (During June of 2018, at age 82, Jim traveled in one of his antique beauties more than 3,000 miles to Dearborn, Michigan from Jupiter, Florida. He and long-time friend, James (Jimmy) Webber, also founded and operated D & W Enterprises, a resource for fellow classic car hobbyists in search of hard-to-find automotive parts. He faithfully attended the annual car meet in Hershey, Pennsylvania where lines of participants would form near his lawn chair to ask advice about his specialty: Columbia Rear Axles.

A 1954 graduate of Bremen High School, he went on to the University of Kentucky to earn his Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering. First working for the Kentucky Highway Department following graduation, JimBob accepted a position with TVA in 1963 and moved to Knoxville, Tennessee. In 1967, the family temporarily lived in Palo Alto, California for the completion of Jim's Master's Degree in Civil Engineering at Stanford.

TVA recruited him to the Chattanooga position of Assistant Manager, Nuclear Power in 1974 and he later returned to Knoxville to accept the position of Chief Financial Officer. He retired from TVA in 1988 and remained in Knoxville until he and Ann relocated to Jupiter, Florida during 2017.

For all of his accomplishments, "Jabaw" will be best remembered by his loved ones for being a diehard Kentucky Wildcats fan, for always knowing what was wrong with everyone's cars, for his dedication to Atlanta Braves baseball, for kiddie rides in the "rumble seat", for creating his famous beans and cornbread dinners, for his brewing "Jim Bob's Black Lightning" beer, for his remarkable singing voice, and for his intense enjoyment of a house full of noisy family members (viewed at a safe distance from his favorite easy chair)!

A Memorial Service is planned for October 21st in his hometown of Central City, Kentucky at Tucker Funeral Home. Visitation will be from 12:00pm-

2:00pm with a Celebration of His Life at 2:00pm.

In lieu of flowers, please consider sharing a “JimBob” story with the family!

Previous Events

Visitation

OCT **21**. 12:00 PM - 2:00 PM.

Tucker Funeral Home
Central City, KY

Celebration of Life

OCT **21**. 2:00 PM.

Tucker Funeral Home
Central City, KY

Tribute Wall



“ *James Robert Durall*

October 22, 2023 at 10:17 AM



“ *I was one of Jimbob's caregivers. I am so honored to have had the privilege to take care of Jimbob. He was kind, very intelligent and funny. I will definitely miss our conversations about classic cars and telling me stories about his childhood. I will also miss watching baseball games with him and cooking him, his favorite meals and desserts. My condolence to all the family members.*



Erika Forsythe - October 09, 2023 at 10:59 AM



Hope Rommel - October 11, 2023 at 03:47 PM



“ *1 file added to the tribute wall*



LESLIE HARVISON - October 06, 2023 at 11:00 AM

LH

“ 2 files added to the album car



LESLIE HARVISON - October 04, 2023 at 03:41 PM

JS

“ *JimBob was a dear friend to me. He will never know how much he meant to me. Through my career of restoring antique cars, he was my mentor and my go to man whenever I needed him. He was always happy to help. Jim was so helpful with his vast knowledge. He was truly my hero and also he was my Google whenever I had a problem with an old car. I will forever feel a void in my heart now without him. JACK SMITH
Knoxville, TN*

Jack Smith - October 03, 2023 at 05:15 PM