



James "Jim" Millner Overbey

October 19, 2019

OVERBEY, JAMES MILLNER (JIM) - Surrounded by family, James Millner Overbey passed away peacefully on the afternoon of October 19th, 2019 in Knoxville, TN at the age of 86. He was born in Danville, Virginia on March 27th, 1933. Jim was eternally grateful to his parents, Daniel Alonzo and Rebecca Millner Overbey, for their support, guidance and love throughout their lives.

He graduated from Hampton-Sydney College with a B.S. in 1955. He truly enjoyed playing football and running track at Hampton-Sidney. Jim was President of Chi Phi fraternity, elected to OΔK, XB□, and many student body offices. He was honored to be in Who's Who among Students in American Colleges and Universities. Furthering his education, Jim graduated from The University of Virginia's Darden School with an MBA in 1959. In between, Jim was serving with the State Department in an Army intelligence group during the Cold War, making him a military veteran. On July 5th, 1958, Jim had what he described as the "best day of my life" when he married Eleanora Asfordby Driver, or as he called her "Lovey". After graduate school, he was employed by Exxon for 13 years and was the District Manager for Tennessee when resigned so that he and his family could remain in Knoxville.

Jim truly appreciated the people and many benefits of living in the Knoxville area. Lovey taught at The University of Tennessee for 27 years, and Jim was President and later Chairman of the Board at Kimball's Jewelers. Because of his love of family and the people of Knoxville, Jim served with relentless dedication as Chairman of the YMCA, The WestTown Merchants Association, President of the Rotary Club of Knoxville, and the Downtown Association which originated the idea of the 1982 World's Fair coming to Knoxville. In fact, he was an honorary member of the Board of Directors of the 1982 World's Fair. Jim was also on the Board at the Webb School of Knoxville, the Knoxville Racquet Club, the Knoxville Convention and Visitors Bureau, the Chamber of Commerce, Junior Achievement, the Teen Board of Knoxville, and the Greater Knoxville Interclub Swimming Association. From 1969 until their deaths, Jim and Lovey attended the Church of the Ascension.

Jim and Lovey started their marriage with a long trip through Europe. During their lives together, Jim and Lovey took many trips and cruises where they met a lot of good friends

along the way. While Jim's family and friends were always first, he certainly loved the sport of football at all levels.

Jim was preceded in death by his loving wife Eleanora, his brother Dan, Dan's wife Barbara, his Sister in Law Nancy Driver, and his parents Daniel Alonzo and Rebecca Millner Overbey.

Jim is survived by his son Dr. Warren McLeod Overbey and wife Caryn Hoskins Overbey of Charlotte, NC as well as their children Elizabeth Carlisle Overbey with husband Evan Dryden Babcock and Caroline McLeod Overbey Abelson with husband Daniel Scott Abelson. Jim is survived by his son Daniel Driver Overbey (Danny) and wife Kim Bittle Overbey of Knoxville, TN as well as their son Daniel Bittle Overbey. Jim is survived by his son James Millner Overbey Jr. (Jamie) and wife Katherine Hutchinson Graves Overbey of Cincinnati, OH and their three children, Juliana Hutchinson Overbey, Prescott Beatty Overbey and Katherine Millner Overbey. Jim is also survived by his Brother in Law Wilmer H. Driver Jr. (Bill) and nieces and nephews, J. William Overbey, Susan O. Davidson, Rebecca W. Overbey, Nancy D. Reynolds, Penny D. Lackey, Sarah D. Jenkins. In addition, Jim is both preceded in death and survived by many other very dear relatives of his extended family.

For those interested in assisting the fine organizations in Knoxville, and in lieu of flowers, please consider The Overbey Family Learning Center at the Webb School of Knoxville, The Rotary Foundation, the Church of the Ascension or the charity of your choice.

A celebration of Jim's life will be held at 10 AM on Wednesday October 23rd, 2019 at The Episcopal Church of the Ascension, 800 S. Northshore Drive, Knoxville, TN 37919. The family will receive friends following the service in the Church Fellowship Hall. Family is invited to the interment ceremony to follow at Highland Memorial Cemetery.

May God bless you, as he blessed Jim.

Comments



“ Danny and family...I remember your dads smile...always with the best personality....remembering the first thing I bought from him...my watch..first good watch...he gave so much to this community....so sorry for your lose...Lesa Phillips Whitson

Lesa PHILLIPS Whitson - November 07, 2019 at 12:51 PM



“ 32 files added to the album Floral Offerings



Rose Mortuary - October 24, 2019 at 11:46 AM



“ We are so sorry for your loss. May you find peace in the coming days. The Bittle family

H E Bittle - October 23, 2019 at 11:15 AM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of James "Jim" Millner Overbey.



October 23, 2019 at 08:09 AM



“ Danny, so sorry to hear this news. I knew your dad from almost the moment we moved to Knoxville in 1995. I have never met a kinder man. He made everyone he came into contact with special. He will truly be missed my many. Peace of the Lord to you and your family Danny.



David Noël - October 23, 2019 at 05:28 AM



“ Danny,

So sorry for the loss of your father. May God be with you and your family during this time.

Becky Jarman

Rebecca - October 22, 2019 at 08:34 PM



“ Tudor purchased the Magnificent Life Spray for the family of James "Jim" Millner Overbey.



Tudor - October 22, 2019 at 04:49 PM



“ Sending our thoughts and prayers to Danny and his family. We are happy to know you through Kimballs where Jim's legacy will live on.

JudeFrances Team - October 22, 2019 at 12:28 PM



“ Divine Light was purchased for the family of James "Jim" Millner Overbey.



October 22, 2019 at 11:51 AM



“ Serene Reflections Bouquet was purchased for the family of James "Jim" Millner Overbey.



October 22, 2019 at 11:46 AM



“ Your family at Rolex purchased the Serenity Wreath for the family of James "Jim" Millner Overbey.



Your family at Rolex - October 22, 2019 at 10:44 AM



“ Treasured Lilies Spray was purchased for the family of James "Jim" Millner Overbey.



October 21, 2019 at 09:54 PM



“ Danny I am so sorry, my thoughts and prayers are with you and your family. I can not think of a time that I saw your dad when he wasn't smiling, so very sorry friend.

pam lashlee ogle - October 21, 2019 at 04:23 PM



“ I served with Jim on our Usher team at Church of the Ascension. A kinder man I have never met. I am saddened by the news of his death and am sending all his family prayers for peace.

Katie McHargue - October 21, 2019 at 02:19 PM



“ My deepest sympathy to you and your family! God bless you.

Brenda McNew - October 21, 2019 at 12:33 PM



“ I am so sorry to hear of the loss of a beautiful soul today. I First knew Jim from his volunteer work at the YMCA. I was the Executive Assistant to the CEO Jack Bender at the time and witnessed Jim's love of service to the Knoxville community through his dedication to the mission of the YMCA. On a personal note he was very instrumental in helping my son purchase an engagement ring for his then fiancé at Kimball's.

His warm smile was the first introduction to people of what was to reveal the complex inner workings of a person dedicated to helping people in any capacity he could be it personally or through one his many contacts.

I give my sincere condolences to Jim's children and family. His memory will live on in all the many lives he touched, mine included.

Phyllis Lockwood - October 21, 2019 at 12:29 PM



“ Danny, Kim and Daniel, so sorry for your loss. You guys will be in my thoughts and prayers.

Donathan Cassidy - October 21, 2019 at 12:02 PM



“ Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of James "Jim" Millner Overbey.



October 21, 2019 at 11:45 AM



“ Jim was one of those persons who made others lives better for having known him.

He will be missed.

Al Bedinger - October 21, 2019 at 11:36 AM



“ Danny and Kim,

Bob and I were so sorry to learn of your dad's death. He was a wonderful gentleman; we always enjoyed conversing with him when we were in the store. Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family.

Dorothy Woodruff

dorothy woodruff - October 21, 2019 at 11:20 AM