



James Wesley Bradfield Jr.

March 11, 1932 - May 17, 2020

James Wesley Bradfield, Jr. passed away from this life into the arms of his Savior, May 17, 2020 at the age of 88.

James was born to James Wesley Bradfield Sr. and Cora Lavada [Marchant] Bradfield On March 11, 1932 in a two room house in Fort Gibson, Oklahoma. Then around the age of seven James and his family moved to Claremore, where he attended Verdigris School. A few years later his family moved to Foyil. Now at the age of twelve, James and one of his friends got their first job working in the wheat field. They got paid \$2.00 a day and worked from sunup to sundown. James also had to milk six or seven cows and feed the pigs every morning before he went to work in the fields. He worked in the wheat fields until he was sixteen years old.

Then around the age of seventeen, James met Pauline Scott. In the years to come the couple began dating and married on March 29, 1952 in a Bentonville, Arkansas ceremony. The newlyweds returned home to the Foyil area, and began their future together. They were married 66 years before Pauline passed away in June, 2018.

James had many different jobs throughout his life, but the two that he loved the most were when he was working for Peabody Coal Company as a heavy equipment operator and explosives expert from 1970 to the end of 1990. He also loved his job at Sequoyah Schools where he was a custodian and bus driver from 1990 to 2014. He was a hard worker at every job he had and loved being around people. He especially loved kids and giving hugs.

James learned to fish when he was just a little boy with a cane, some string, and a hook with a worm or grasshopper. His passion for fishing grew and grew over the years. He had many fishing partners throughout his life. I'm sure they exceeded their limit a few times. He so enjoyed teaching his kids and grandkids to fish. His grandchildren were very special to him and he loved watching them play sports as well.

James was a long time member of Washington Baptist Church. The last couple of years that he was able to attend church he would tell the pastor to come and look at a scripture and then say to him, "that says it all, doesn't it?". My dad's love for the Lord was evident in his everyday life. He loved to share the gospel and talk about the difference the Lord had made in his life.

Those left to mourn his passing are his children, Vicki J. Girkin and husband Brian, Stephen Bradfield and wife Deanna, Linda K. Sappington and husband Allan; grandchildren, Dewayne Littlefield and wife Selvia, Jason Littlefield and wife Hope, Mark Littlefield and wife Kellie, Brandon Bradfield and wife Kristen, Brett Bradfield and wife Kelsey, Tony Sappington and wife Jennie, Ryan Sappington and wife Krista, and Colton Sappington and wife Jessica. Also eighteen great-grandchildren and twelve great-great grandchildren.

James is preceded in death by his parents, two brothers and 6 sisters.

The family would like to thank the Memory Care Center at Emerald for taking such good care of our dad. We appreciate all of the nurses that were so kind to him.

Friends may visit from 3:00 - 6:00 PM, Thursday, May 21, 2020 at the MMS-Payne Funeral Home in Claremore, Oklahoma.

Private Family Services

Events

MAY **Public Visitation and Viewing** 03:00PM - 06:00PM

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MMS-Payne Funeral Home

102 West 5th Street, Claremore, OK, US, 74017

Comments



“ A tribute video has been added.



MMS-Payne Funeral Service and Crematory - May 20 at 01:57 PM



“ Beautiful tribute to such a joyful man

Bruce Andrews - May 20 at 04:28 PM



“ Great tribute for a tremendous man!

Randy Burton - May 20 at 07:05 PM



“ Very fitting for a very loved man . He will surely be missed, but he's with Pauline and Mom and Dad, probably telling fish stories!

Tita Walton - May 24 at 07:12 PM



“ Praying for the family and keeping you all close to my heart.



Rhonda Douglas - May 22 at 02:37 PM



“ He was a neighbor of mine when I was a child. I grew up knowing him from a child and up to today. He was a good man. He loved fishing. He will be missed. Michael E. ROSS.

Michael Ross - May 20 at 08:25 PM



“ James was such a wonderful man! He and I had many discussions through the years while he was cleaning my classroom. You never doubted he loved Jesus, his family and the kids at Sequoyah Public Schools. He told me dozens of times he kept working at the school just for the hugs. His hugs were the best! May it bring you peace to know he is with Jesus now and having an amazing time.

Lorrie McGlothlin - May 20 at 06:53 PM



“ James drove my disabled son Cody to Project CEEP several years ago. He was always so kind and patient, smiling and was genuinely interested in Cody. I always knew my son was in good hands with him. Our family thought so highly of him we invited him out to cut firewood on our place. True gentleman that he was, he stacked the leftover brush and thanked us repeatedly for providing the trees. What a sweet and Christlike example he set for everyone he knew. Rest in peace, Mr. Bradfield.



Denise Ryburn - May 20 at 06:50 PM



“ I'm a better man because I knew James Bradfield.

Jody Iams - May 20 at 06:27 PM



“ Uncle James was the best. My favorite memories were of being out on the lake with he and Linda and learning to water ski. Those were the best summers. He was always happy, always had a hug and ready to laugh. He was loved so much, he will be missed.

Lora Felix - May 20 at 02:53 PM



“ Do you remember the time we were skiing and only so many people could ride in the boat so I was standing in shallow water and got a thorn in my foot? He had to take me to Dr Gordon in town and you went with us. You waited in the waiting room and when the dr stuck that needle in my foot I screamed! Dad hated seeing any of us in pain. You said the people in the waiting room got really big eyes and kinda laughed I think.

Linda Sappington - May 20 at 03:13 PM



“ 110 files added to the album LifeTributes



MMS-Payne Funeral Service and Crematory - May 20 at 01:28 PM



“ Betty Hazelwood lit a candle in memory of James Wesley Bradfield Jr.



Betty Hazelwood - May 20 at 12:09 PM



“ Darrell Simmons lit a candle in memory of James Wesley Bradfield Jr.



Darrell Simmons - May 20 at 07:33 AM



“ Rhonda Warden Gulisao lit a candle in memory of James Wesley Bradfield Jr.



Rhonda Warden Gulisao - May 20 at 12:06 AM



“ He was one of the things I looked forward to every single day when I was in school. Such an amazing man, I am better for having known him.

Taylor W - May 19 at 11:34 PM



“ I always looked forward to Mr Bradfield filling in for my regular bus driver, for starters he didn't enforce my assigned seat, but the best part was that he always let me flip the switches for the lights that put out the stop signs!

Johnny Bradbury - May 19 at 09:46 PM



“ James was my families bus driver and one of my dearest friends! He always knew how to cheer me up and always told me I had a beautiful smile! We also went to church together and I always looked forward to seeing him every Sunday with a smile on his face! He was so funny and great to talk to! I wish we never lost touch when I got out of high school, GOD has gained an amazing angel!!! James you will be dearly missed!!



Amanda Love - May 19 at 09:34 PM



“ I was just thinking of James this afternoon and wondering how he was doing. And I just saw his obituary posted. He was such a perfect example of what our God wants us to be like. I don't think I ever heard a mean thing come out of his mouth the 24 years I was at Sequoyah and he was always the first to drop what he was doing to give anyone a hand to help them. I would look forward to his coming into my room at the end of each day when we would talk about our day and share our views on handling life's problems. He was like a father or grandfather to all those attending our school.

God definitely received a winning angel and I hate that our world on earth is now missing that competitive fisherman and loving individual we shared many years as an integral figure at Sequoyah. I hope and pray that he is at peace and feeling the warm embrace of our Lord for ever and ever. Amen. Vera Stone

Vera Stone - May 19 at 09:29 PM



“ James has been part of my life and our families lives as long as I can remember. He will be forever loved and missed. James was a genuinely good man with a heart of gold and had I smile that would make even your worst day better. Sending love and prayers to his family. Rest in peace our dear friend

Sandi Rizley Cheshier - May 19 at 09:24 PM



“ My first met James when I started working at Sequoyah School in 2003. He was always so nice and friendly to me and everybody else he came in contact with. He had such great stories and an amazing life. I always loved his fishing stories and was honored one day when he presented me with fishing flies that he personally made. I will greatly miss him and will always remember him.

Renee Tinney - May 19 at 09:16 PM



“ I am so sorry to hear this. James was a wonderful man ... grandpa like figure to all of the us at Sequoyah. James brought many smiles to everyone. I know he always made my days a little brighter. He will be missed. Many prayers for your family.

Leah Shankle - May 19 at 08:50 PM



“ I recall your dad's smile and laugh. Many wonderful memories at Washington Baptist Church. Hugs to all of you. I am sorry for the loss of your dad.

Sherri Prather Riddle - May 19 at 08:47 PM



“ He was such a kind soul. Always smiling. He had a warmth to him that was rare. He will be missed by many.

Casey Adcock - May 19 at 08:46 PM



“ He was such an incredible man to so many of us that went to Sequoyah. His loss will be felt deeply by many. My condolences to his family during this difficult time.



Amy Hendrix - May 19 at 08:30 PM



“ We worked together at Sequoyah school. He fished with both my grandpa's Ross Rader and Lawrence Cole and when they went to meet Our Saviour he told he would fill in for them. Loved him and we will meet again thru God's promise. Sheila Bible

Sheila Bible - May 19 at 08:09 PM



“ He was such a sweet man! Anyone who knew him was blessed. Heaven gained a wonderful soul.

Rachel Riggs Pack - May 19 at 07:51 PM



“ The Sequoyah Eagle Family lost a legacy member this week. James Bradfield was the epitome of what the Sequoyah Public School culture strives to be each and every day. James was a dedicated employee who brought meaning and purpose to every aspect of his role. He built trusting relationships with our young people and every adult on our school campus for many, many years! He was a "life-toucher" who had an enormous amount of positive influence in all of our lives. James was a mentor for us all in life and in work.

Sequoyah Public School will honor the legacy of James Bradfield by establishing the James Bradfield Character Award to be awarded annually to a student attending Sequoyah Mid High/High School.

Dr. Terry M. Saul
Superintendent
Sequoyah Public School

Dr. Terry Saul - May 19 at 01:04 PM



“ I haven't seen James in many years but have fond memories of him. I'm sure my mother and father would have many good memories about James and Pauline. Tim Ramsey

Tim Ramsey - May 19 at 08:40 PM



“ What a wonderful human being James was. Always ready to give you a smile and brighten your day! He was a fixture of Sequoyah schools and every student loved him.

Alex Haynes - May 19 at 10:52 PM



“ I'm sure Mr. Bradford was met with the words, "Well done my good & faithful servant." I loved his smile & positive attitude. He will be missed by so many. My thoughts & prayers go out to his family.

Robyn Hall - May 19 at 11:11 PM



“ He was part of the fabric of Sequoyah, and I remember him well...he worked with my mom and I stayed after school a lot. You could always count on a great smile and sense of humor from James. What a great man!

Mandy Shearer Corbell - May 20 at 03:53 PM