



James Ellis Woodruff

July 6, 1940 - March 9, 2021

James “Jim” Ellis Woodruff, Sr., of King and Queen C.H., passed away suddenly on March 9th, 2021 at the age of 80. He was a native of Jarratt, Virginia and graduated from the local high school in 1959. Then, he served four years in the U.S. Navy and worked as an orthopedic technician while being stationed in Charleston, South Carolina.

After completing his military service and being accepted to MCV/VCU, Jim obtained a Bachelor of Science degree in Education and started working at Brunswick Academy in Lawrenceville, Virginia in 1970. That’s where he would begin his passion for coaching basketball spanning close to thirty years. In 1977, Jim received his Master of Education degree from VCU and resumed his career at Broadwater Academy on the Eastern Shore of Virginia. His next stop among the small, private school system was at York Academy in 1987, where he would remain until it closed in 1994. Finally, he found himself at Amelia Academy outside of Richmond to conclude his teaching and coaching career in the late 90s. Jim was responsible for building strong, successful basketball programs at each of these institutions, as well as being the Athletic Director at the latter three schools above. While teaching and coaching for so many years, he also developed and cherished all of the bonds that were created between himself, students/players and colleagues. He would then go on to work for the Postal Service in West Point, Virginia for many years before retiring in his mid 70s.

Jim adored his family and loved spending as much time with them as

possible, which included hosting family gatherings for the holidays, as well as parties by the pool. He also enjoyed interacting with many beloved pets throughout the years and taking frequent car rides while looking for good places to eat. In addition, he liked to fish, play golf and spend time outdoors. Jim was preceded in death by his parents, William and Ada Woodruff, as well as his brother, William "Buzzy" Woodruff.

He is survived by his wife of 32 years, Martha Woodruff; sister, Barbara Carter; daughter, Anna Gallo (Steve); son, James "Ellis" Woodruff, Jr. (Tara) and their children Meredith and Marissa; stepdaughters, Laura Babik (Abe) and their children John Thomas and Emerson, Julia Carter (Jeff) and their children Caroline and Courtney.

A private graveside service will be held at Olivet Baptist Church in Mattaponi, Virginia on Monday, March 15th. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Olivet Baptist Church.

Cemetery Details

Olivet Baptist Church Cemetery

25338 The Trail
Mattaponi, VA 23110

Tribute Wall



“ I goggled Jim Woodruff because he was the coach of the Brunswick Academy boys varsity basketball team in 1974. Blessed Sacrament Huguenot (BSH) will be honoring the 1974 Huguenot Academy (HA) boys varsity VAAC championship basketball team in Jan. or Feb. 2024 honoring that team on its 50th anniversary. We are seeking to inform and invite as many of the players at the schools we played against to attend our upcoming ceremony & reception as honored guests. The 1972 HA VAAC western region division championship basketball team is being honored as well in a joint ceremony. I have started binders for each team with a section for each VAAC school. Of course, if Coach Woodruff was still alive he would be invited. We are sorry for your loss. - Paul Mitchell, HA '74. oneharddriver@verizon.net, 804/399-3494

Paul Mitchell - April 07, 2023 at 05:14 PM



“ We are so sorry for your loss. I worked with Jim at York Academy both as a teacher and parent. He was tireless when it came to sponsoring the various sports fundraisers and sports banquets. He coached our children who have fond memories of him. He will be missed by many in the YA family. Jeannette and Bobby McCormick, Rob McCormick and Kimberly M. Legg.

Jeannette McCormick - March 15, 2021 at 01:15 PM

SP

“ To the Woodruff family, I'm truly sorry for our loss. Jim and I worked together at West Point Postoffice. He was my friend from day 1... He would play jokes on me and we would laugh... We would meet and eat lunch and then go on our routes. Jim would always tell me we were friends til the end !!! Marty if it's anything I can do please let me know.

Sandi

Sandi Paige - March 14, 2021 at 07:34 PM

VB

“ Martha, Laura, Julie and Zeke, - We are so sorry to learn of Jim's passing. We have a lot of fond memories of Christmas dinners at Sonny and Jennies' house when all our kids were growing up. Vic has fond memories of Zeke and Jim when they were all at York Academy together. He will be very much missed.
Vic and Sharon Britton

Vic and Sharon Britton - March 14, 2021 at 06:54 PM

DS

“ When I think about my middle school to teenage years playing sports the first thought I have is of this man. He approached me in the sixth grade to start playing basketball which became one of my greatest loves and then one day at the end of my sixth grade year he was outside my class and pulled me out in the breezeway and said “I’ve already talked to your parents and we need one more player for our softball game today and want you to go with us. You can use your tennis shoes and I have a glove for you.” He helped shaped me into the woman I am today. I will never forget his voice yelling “Johnson.....” across the court, but I will also never forget how he made me feel. He was a great man. Plain and simple. I will miss him dearly even though I haven’t seen him in a long time. I am so sorry for your loss. He had such a huge heart and so much passion. Rest easy coach.....we love you.

Diane Johnson Saffell - March 12, 2021 at 07:35 PM

JP

“ So sorry to hear about Jim. Glenn and I send our love and sympathy

Judy Palmer - March 12, 2021 at 03:08 PM

 Faith
Silva

“ Martha and Ellis, I'm so very sorry for y'all's loss. Jim was an awesome guy and I was blessed to have known him.

Faith (Guthrie) Silva

Faith Silva - March 12, 2021 at 11:44 AM

LB

“ Jim was an active part of my life since I was 16 yo. He was a dear stepfather to me, companion to my mother, and the only grandfather my kids ever knew.

Among many fond memories were beach trips to Chincoteague, watching basketball games together and Johnny Carson, and one my family finds comical, having him teach me to drive 'stick shift' with them in the back seat.

Jim had a fiery passion for his sports, as you would expect with a coach, but he was also a sentimental, loving family man. He and my mom enjoyed many years together, and he was always there for us when it counted.

We will miss him terribly but are thankful he can Rest In Peace

💜 *Laura*

Laura Babik - March 12, 2021 at 11:41 AM