



# James S. Ward

JUL 23, 1931 - FEB 2, 2023



Scan to Visit



Bixby-South  
Tulsa Funeral Service  
& Crematory

# Table of Contents

<b>Obituary</b> .....	Page 3
<b>Tribute Wall</b> .....	Page 5
<b>Media</b> .....	Page 7



## **James S. Ward**

JUL 23, 1931 - FEB 2, 2023

### **J**ames Ward Obituary

James S. Ward passed from this life Thursday, February 2, 2023, at his home in Tulsa, Oklahoma. He was 91 years old.

James was born on July 23, 1931, in Coweta to Edgar and Hazel Ward. James grew up in the Coweta area and graduated from Coweta High School in 1949. He then joined the Air Force in 1951 and served his country as a cryptographer stationed primarily in far northern Japan on the island of the Hokkaido. In 1954, after returning to Tulsa from Japan, he met Lois Durant, the love of his life (and, as James might've joked, "my first wife"), who he married in 1955. They were married for an amazing 67 years. Lois survives him in death.

After the Air Force James attended the University of Tulsa and also worked at First National Bank & Trust Co. before starting his own home building business in 1970. This was to be his career for the rest of his life, and it introduced him to many of his closest friends and acquaintances. It also means that, as his legacy, James leaves many homes and other buildings around Tulsa, as well as many precious memories for his grandchildren, who he often brought with him to jobsites and building supplies stores.

Aside from his work as a builder, James enjoyed fishing, golf, and several other pastimes, the joy of which he imparted, shared, and passed on to the members of his large and loving family. He enjoyed traveling all over the United States with his family, and you could always find him on the road-never on a plane-either in a van or a station wagon. As part of these trips, he had a special joy and love for interacting with people, and you could be sure that he'd be prepared with a new joke (there are too many to name) or a new prank (like the time he impersonated a panhandler in San Francisco or the many trips to Fair Meadows with his grandkids, where he convinced them that the prize for picking the winning horse was the horse itself), and that he'd haggle for a discount to the listed price, sometimes to the chagrin of his wife and kids but always to the amusement of his grandkids.



## Obituary

**James S. Ward**

JUL 23, 1931 - FEB 2, 2023

---

James was preceded in death by his parents and two of his siblings, Bea and Marven.

He is survived by his wife, Lois, two siblings, Joan and Mary Sue, his three children, Rhonda, Susan, and Jim, as well as five grandchildren, Chase, Vincent, Dallas, Spencer, and Lacy, and four great grandchildren, Maddox, Jett, Stellan, and Emersyn.

We anticipate the day we will see him again!

The service will begin at 11:00 am Thursday, February 9, 2023, at Rivercrest Chapel, 13329 S Memorial Dr., Bixby, OK 74008.

In lieu of flowers, the family is requesting donations be made to the Salvation Army or charity of choice.

To send flowers  
to the family or plant a tree  
in memory of James S. Ward, please visit our floral store.

[Read More](#)



# Tribute Wall

**James S. Ward**

JUL 23, 1931 - FEB 2, 2023



**Bixby Funeral Service** shared a **Video**.



April 22 at 7:31 AM



**Anonymous** posted:

A little bit of sunshine was purchased for the family of James S. Ward. Send Flowers Love from the Dobson family

April 22 at 7:31 AM



**Sharon Jeffers** posted:

I have so many memories...I remember him always "working the crowd" at our many garage sales, ball games, everywhere 🙏 He could unload plants off an 18 wheeler and keep up with the guys hired...he was in his late 70's and 80's!!! He loved dancing...Im so glad Rhonda has the video of her and her Daddy dancing at Los Cabos 🙏 He was always joking and I'm pretty sure Ive heard all his jokes, but would give anything to hear them 1 more time 🙏 My favorite memory is when he just broke down and cried hugging me at my son's Visitation ❤️ Him and Lois stayed the whole time....just for support that I would see them 🙏 They have always been there for me and my family 🙏 Im going to miss him...no doubt Tyler is laughing at his jokes and stories 🙏 1 Day...Romans 8:18...yes Spencer, we will be joining your PaPa in Paradise 🙏🌂 God is Good...even when it hurts 🙏

February 15 at 5:50 AM



**Christopher Durant** posted:

I shared a joke with Uncle James once it went like this:A native man from Oklahoma went to a bar in Chicago, he ordered a whiskey and noticed a feller furiously smoking a cigar at the other end...he asks the bartender "what's with that guy?" Bartender replied "who knows" cigar smoker puffs smoke ...the Native yells at the cigar smoker "you keep talking like that buddy I'm coming over" [punchline] you've got to know your smoke signals! Later on Uncle James would joke when I was smoking cigarettes "you talking to me?!" 😊 it was also apparent as a signals joke.

February 11 at 3:26 AM



**Heather Hunsperger** posted:

Sending all my love to your family!

February 8 at 1:59 PM



## Tribute Wall

**James S. Ward**

JUL 23, 1931 - FEB 2, 2023



**Heather Hunsperger** posted:

Sending all my love and prayers to your family! Heather Hunsperger

February 8 at 1:58 PM



**Karen Mcelhaney** posted:

James was a great guy. He always had a smile on his face and a joke or story to tell, so friendly. He will be missed by all his friends and family

February 8 at 7:51 AM



# Media

**James S. Ward**  
JUL 23, 1931 - FEB 2, 2023



**Bixby Funeral Service** shared a **Video**.

April 22 at 7:31 AM





# Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring James by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



Scan to Visit



Bixby-South  
Tulsa Funeral Service  
& Crematory