



# James O. "Jim" Howard

MAR 11, 1943 - MAR 23, 2020



Scan to Visit



Bixby-South  
Tulsa Funeral Service  
& Crematory

# Table of Contents

<b>Obituary</b> .....	Page 3
<b>Tribute Wall</b> .....	Page 6



## James O. "Jim" Howard

MAR 11, 1943 - MAR 23, 2020

### James Howard Obituary

A memorial service to remember and celebrate the life of James Otis "Jim" Howard will be announced in the coming days. On Tuesday, March 31, 2020, from 5:00-7:00 p.m., those who wish to pay their respects to Jim through a viewing are welcome. Jim passed from this life on March 23, 2020, in Tulsa. He was 77. Those who wish to honor his memory with a memorial donation may direct those donations to the church that he loved: Southwest Church of the Nazarene, 1307 W. 22nd St., Tulsa, OK 74107. Born the middle sibling of five, Jim was welcomed into this world by parents: William Edward "Buck" Howard and Annie Maxine (Jones) Howard in Baxterville, Mississippi, on March 11, 1943. Jim would grow up in Baxterville and nearby Oak Grove, where he attended elementary and junior high school and began learning those true 'southern gentleman' traits that Jim personified. He would later graduate high school in Lumberton, Mississippi. Jim's father, an oilfield pumper with Gulf Oil, was transferred from Mississippi to Shawnee, Oklahoma, during Jim's senior year of high school. Jim would stay with his cousin as he finished that last year, and then he began trying to get to Shawnee. This, as he packed a bag and hitched rides, with strangers, along the nearly 700-mile journey. Jim would make it halfway to his Aunt's home in Richardson, TX, where his parents came and picked him up to take him the rest of the way to Shawnee. There, Jim attended and graduated college from Oklahoma Baptist University. Following OBU, Jim went to work for BP Amoco. He began his employment, with the company, in the mailroom while furthering his education and focusing on accounting through Oklahoma State University. Ultimately, that was the task he performed for Amoco for 29 years. During retirement, Jim began driving a school bus for Tulsa Union. This part-time gig turned into a full-time driver for the Special Ed Students, for 15 years. This brought so much joy to Jim as he was able to be around some pretty amazing students and



## Obituary

**James O. "Jim" Howard**

MAR 11, 1943 - MAR 23, 2020

teachers. When he was not at work, Jim could be found running, bicycling, working in his yard, or volunteering for various events and organizations. You may have seen Jim, with an event staff t-shirt on, at the Gatesway Balloon Festival, Rt. 66 Marathon, Post Oak Run, Mayfest, Living Arts Tulsa, or Oktoberfest, where he served on the Event Management Team. Jim would meet Karen Kilgore-Harrison, in 1987, while mixing with the Phoenix Singles Group at Christ United Methodist Church in Tulsa. Although they didn't stay together permanently, at that time, they eventually would. After a long friendship, the two would meet up again, and on June 7, 2004, tied the knot in a Eureka Springs, Arkansas wedding ceremony. To their surprise, a family friend, Pastor Robert May, drove in from Tennessee with his family to officiate the small garden wedding at the Piedmont House Bed & Breakfast. This couple, of great faith, enjoyed volunteering, and serving together. Together, and individually, both have been active in the ministries at the Southwest Church of the Nazarene. There, Jim had served on the board and provided regular lawncare and handyman tasks, while they joined together for weekly cleaning of the facilities. When Jim and Karen had the opportunity, they loved long weekend getaways, and they also were able to enjoy several cruises over the years, making wonderful and lasting memories. Described as: a super nice guy, soft-spoken, easy-going, and fun to be around, it seems that Jim will be remembered for almost always having a smile on his face. He also, almost always, had a toothpick in his mouth or nearby and could easily be recognized by his straw hat that he wore in the yard or one of his many ballcaps that he wore out in public. Jim met regularly with a group of other retirees to drink coffee and solve the world's problems at McDonald's. Jim's contribution to that group will be missed. Jim will be deeply missed by all of those who knew and loved him. He was preceded in death by his parents. He is survived by his loving wife, V Karen Howard; son, Marc Howard; siblings: Evelyn Osborn and husband, Bill; Billy Howard and wife, Jan; Gwen Barton; and Faye Wilson and husband, Lon. He is also survived by numerous nieces, nephews, cousins, other relatives, and dear friends.

To send flowers  
to the family or plant a tree  
in memory of James O. "Jim" Howard, please visit our floral store.



## Obituary

**James O. "Jim" Howard**

MAR 11, 1943 - MAR 23, 2020

---

[Read More](#)



## Tribute Wall

**James O. "Jim" Howard**

MAR 11, 1943 - MAR 23, 2020

BB

**Barb And Gerry Boyer** posted:

I will never forget your soft spoken ways. We will truly miss you in the Oktoberfest community. RIP

March 31 at 4:48 AM

MB

**Mary Bode** posted:

I didn't know Jim, but remember seeing him a lot in Phoenix Sunday School all those many years ago as he participated in many activities. He was known to be a good man, considered to be a "good catch". Glad to see he had a good life.

March 30 at 7:15 AM

BW

**Bill And Joy Williams** posted:

We remember Jim as a caring, giving neighbor. We lived across the street from one another in the 90's and Jim was known to watch after elderly neighbors. On a cold fall afternoon I was on my roof blowing leaves out of the rain gutters. I inadvertently snagged the ladder at the back of the house with the power cord, unplugging it knocking the ladder over. My wife was out of town, it was beginning to get dark and it just happened Jim came from across the street to check on something at the house next door. He had not seen me on the roof and I called to him, "Jim." He looked around, didn't see anyone, started to walk off and I called to him again, this time "Jim, it's the Lord." He looked up and I told him what I had done, "would you set the ladder back up?" He didn't say anything, he just walked casually to the back of the house, set the ladder back up and held it while I got to the ground. "Thanks Jim, I sure owe you one." "You sure do" he said quietly then walked casually back home. Later over the years I had the opportunity a couple of times but never really got even. Jim, not just a good man, more than that, a godly man!

March 29 at 2:10 PM



## Tribute Wall

**James O. "Jim" Howard**

MAR 11, 1943 - MAR 23, 2020

SH

**Scott Hedges** posted:

I met him through my friendship with Karen while we were volunteering at Oktoberfest many years ago and yes he was sporting the famous strall hat with a smile that matched well with Karen's then I went to attend the church where my dad played his steelguitare I was really happy to notice them sitting a few pews in front Jim wasn't allowed to sport his hat but the big greeting smile was there. Jim was one of the people who I always looked forward to seeing while we were doing Oktoberfest along with Karen of course. He always asked me to make sure his wife had a golf cart while working all those hours at Oktoberfest looking out for his loved 1 so she didn't get ran down. Wish we all could've shared another glass of wine together. I'm truly gonna miss running into you and the famous strall hat and my heart goes out to you Karen your surly in my prayers along with all the people that was closest to him and so so many upon many of people that had the pleasure and that was lucky enough to have shaken Jim's hand. His smile was truly genuine. REST in PEACE and enjoy your meeting with are Lord and Savior I'm sure your smile will be pleasing LOL

March 28 at 4:49 PM

DW

**Dana Williams** posted:

I was very sad to hear of Jim's passing. He was a sweet and kind man. Enjoyed seeing him smile and hearing him laugh. I loved when he would make his hello dolly bars and bring them to church. I will miss him. I will never forget him. Our sincere condolences to Karen and the rest of the family.

March 28 at 2:15 PM

DB

**Donna Burns** posted:

I knew Jim when I was a Paraprofessional Aide with Union Schools. I would meet him every morning to help get the Special-Needs kids off the bus and again in the afternoon to go home. He loved the children he drove for so much and he was always so calm! I used to tease him that when the straw hat came out, it must be spring. After we both retired from Union, my husband and I would run into him and Karen (and the dog) at the concerts at Utica Square or the farmers market on Saturday mornings. It was always hugs and hand shakes. What a wonderful treat it was to have known him. Thank you Jesus!

March 28 at 7:07 AM



## Tribute Wall

**James O. "Jim" Howard**

MAR 11, 1943 - MAR 23, 2020



**Jerry Brock** posted:

I was so sad to hear of Jim's passing. We spent quite a bit of time together working around the church over the last several years. Jim will always be remembered by me for his sense of humor and his always being there when something was needed at the church. I will miss his little laugh and that humor that only a few good men like us "cotton" to. Jim and I could laugh about a lot of things that may not be that funny to others but we were of the same ilk when it came to comedy. He was a master at keeping our church grounds looking great, in spite of the moles and gophers, a little oasis in the neighborhood. I remember driving up to the church and Jim had his truck parked where he could give the gophers a little exhaust therapy. we both decided that he didn't kill any moles or gophers just gave them some brain damage. i really loved that man. My prayers go out to Karen, Mark and Jim's entire family, church and friends. We lost a great man and I lost a true friend. I will see him again some day. If we follow Jesus we will all see him again.

March 26 at 3:39 PM



# 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