



Jim Vaden

August 24, 2024

James R. (Jim) Vaden, age 83, passed away in Nashville, TN, on Saturday, August 24, 2024. He is preceded in death by his parents James C. and Lourene Vaden; sister Joyce Ann Ray and his dachshund, Bosco. He is survived by his loving wife, Nancy Vaden; his sister Kathy (Ron) Cundall; three children, Jackie (Clay) Keltner, Lisa (Terry) Hudgins, Danny (Rebecca) Vaden; his grandson Chad Hudgins; many nieces, nephews, cousins; and his faithful dachshund, Cooper.

Jim was a celebrated athlete in high school and early college years, playing football, basketball, and baseball. A proud 1963 graduate of The University of Tennessee, Jim was a lifelong Volunteer Fan. He was a career State of Tennessee employee serving as Vice Chancellor of Business and Finance for the Tennessee Board of Regents and later Assistant to the Director with the Tennessee Higher Education Commission.

He was generous and protective, always putting his family and friends before himself and always sharing his knowledge, resources and opinions with friends, family and strangers alike. Jim always pushed himself and others to not only live up to their potential, but to surpass it as he always reminded us that there is nothing to be in life but the best.

Often you would find Jim enjoying the outdoors and the vast wildlife that

surrounded his family home. He loved his koi pond and traveling with Nancy. He was especially fascinated by the culture and history of Japan and was always eager to share stories of their trips with family and friends back home in Tennessee.

Throughout his life, Jim admired antique cars and trucks. He appreciated the design and classic beauty of their lines, but he really loved those engines! If it had wheels, he was going to see how fast it could go.

Jim will be missed by his family and friends around the world and will be fondly remembered by us all for years to come, until we are reunited with him again.

In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to charities close to the Vaden family's heart. They are, Tennessee Camp for Diabetic Children, 1854 Joseph Terrace, Hixson, Tn 37343 or Cheatham County Christmas Anonymous , PO Box 146, Ashland City, Tn. 37015.

May your cars always be fast and GO VOLS!

AUSTIN & BELL FUNERAL HOME in Pleasant View is in charge of these arrangements.

6316 Highway 41A, Pleasant View, Tennessee 37146 (615) 746-4433 www.austinbell.com

Previous Events

Memorial Visitation

SEP 7. 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM (CT)

Austin & Bell Funeral Home, Pleasant View

6316 Hwy 41A

Pleasant View, TN 37146

(615) 746-4433

<https://austinandbell.com>

Tribute Wall

SH

“ I am truly sorry to hear about Jim’s passing. He was a driving force in public higher education for many decades. His leadership was impactful statewide, guiding business policies foundational for the Board of Regents. I met Jim early in my career while working on an audit at then Memphis State. Jim was there meeting with university Vice President Gene Smith. Both were charismatic and their friendship apparent. With that fateful introduction, I went on to work for Jim at the Board of Regents, gaining invaluable experience and professional comraderie. We remained colleagues and friends at every stage of my career, continuing through THEC as a finale working together with longtime friend Rich Rhoda. I will always value Jim’s mentorship and wisdom, and cherish the countless memorable moments. My deepest condolences to the family and all touched by his life and legacy. Sharon Hayes, Brownsville, TN

Sharon Hayes - September 07, 2024 at 11:34 AM

DJ

“ Jim was a good neighbor and contributor to the community.

David Jones - September 06, 2024 at 05:31 PM

MT

“ Although I didn’t know Mr. Vaden that well, when I would run into him, he always made me feel as though we were best friends. He was very knowledgeable and a well-to-do person. He was someone who associated with all levels of people and treated everyone with respect. He was a super nice person! I’m thankful our paths crossed. Sad to hear of his passing. My condolences to his wife and family.

Marilyn Turrentine - September 04, 2024 at 09:11 PM

GS

“ I met Mr. Vaden when I was 19 years old, and after he said “I’m not going to interview a college dropout” he hired me and I worked for him until I was 41 years old! He was not only my boss but a friend and mentor. Those years were some of the most enjoyable, cherished years of my career life and have provided me with many fond memories and laughable moments. He was a hard worker, fair, honest, kind, and respected by his peers. He loved his family and shared funny and loving stories of his beloved Nancy in their young married life. Mr. Vaden was a wonderful man, I am blessed to have known him, and he will be greatly missed. My thoughts and prayers are with Nancy, Jackie, Lisa, Danny, and his entire family.

Ginger Stamps

Ginger Stamps - September 04, 2024 at 12:55 PM

TH

“ Mr Vaden and I met about 3yrs ago . He would bring his trash by and was always smiling. We had some of the best talks, about breakfast was it sausage or bacon this morning. He always lifted me up and made me feel good just to see him come by. Rest in peace brother till we meet again. Tee Hale

Tee Hale - September 04, 2024 at 11:30 AM

MV

“ Sam and I will miss seeing him at the restaurant (always looking for the Eggplant Parmesan). We are praying for all the family and friends who loved him.

Melanie Vuocolo - September 02, 2024 at 06:54 PM

SL

“ Steven L. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Jim Vaden.

Steven L. - August 27, 2024 at 12:04 PM

KO

“ Jim and Nancy and their children were family to us years ago. We worked together, played and visited together. There was never a moment that was not rich and joyful when we were together.. All of this, led by Jim, filled our lives with happy times. And we will hold Jim and his loved ones in our hearts forever —Ken and Donna Oliver

Ken Oliver - August 26, 2024 at 06:22 PM

KO

“ Ken and Donna Oliver purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Jim Vaden.



Ken and Donna Oliver - August 26, 2024 at 06:06 PM

KO

“ Ken and Donna Oliver planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Jim Vaden.

Ken and Donna Oliver - August 26, 2024 at 06:06 PM

RH

“ *Jim was such a nice man. Always pleasant & helpful.* ”



Ronnie & Sue Howington - August 26, 2024 at 03:46 PM