



Mr. James Wilson Hardee

October 9, 1941 - August 15, 2016

James Wilson Hardee was born October 9, 1941 in Tampa, Florida to Woodrow Wilson Hardee and Nellie Ruth Green Hardee. The family moved to Plant City when Jim was six years old. When Jim was 14 years old and his sister, Jackie, was 12, their father passed away. A few years later, J. Martin Brown came into their life as their beloved stepfather.

Jim graduated from Plant City High School in 1959 and then from Florida Southern College in 1963, where he played baseball. After college, he joined the family business, Hardee Manufacturing, a heavy equipment company owned by his uncle, Clifford Hardee. In 1977, Jim bought his own company and Hardee Equipment Co., Inc. operated until he sold the business in 2006.

Through the years, Jim's employees loved him and his loyalty to them. He never once laid off an employee during lean times even if he had some people sweeping and cleaning. He always respected that his employees were supporting families and he put his own family and their families above anything else.

Jim was a man of honesty, integrity, character, loyalty, great faith and great humility. He raised his family with these traits and was pleased to witness these same traits in his children and grandchildren.

Jim loved the woods and grew up hunting with his father. And from him, his son and grandchildren learned to hunt and love the woods as well. He loved to ride his tractor at his farm in Madison County. His daughter always said that being on the tractor was his "happy place".

Jim rose to great success in the truck equipment industry. He served on the board of directors for the National Truck Equipment Association, serving as president in 1997-1998. Jim was also a deacon at First Baptist Church of Plant City where he had served the Lord from the age of six.

Jim was preceded in death by his father, Woodrow Wilson Hardee; his mother, Nellie Ruth Green Hardee Brown; his stepfather, J. Martin Brown; his brother, Lewis Bernard Hardee; and his sister, Norma Gail Hardee. He is survived by his loving wife, Ola Jean Cason Hardee; his daughter and son-in-law, Heather and Kevin Taylor; his son and daughter-in-law, Casey and Lisa Hardee; and seven precious grandchildren who were the joy of his heart - Haley Hayes, Karaline Hayes, Jackson Hardee, Lily Taylor, Jace Hardee, Gracie Taylor, and Jett Hardee. He is also survived by his sister, Jackie Hardee McCullers.

The family will receive friends on Thursday, August 18 from 6-8:00 P.M. at the First Baptist Church of Plant City, 503 N. Palmer Street, Plant City; where a Celebration of Life will be held on Friday, August 19 at 10:00 A.M. The officiates are Dr. Ron Churchill and Pastor Claude Walker, musical performers are Cindy Churchill and the First Baptist Church of Plant City Quartet, and pallbearers are David Sparkman, Dean Wartenbee, Dub Mcginnes, Nick Oquendo, Mark McCullers, Adam Walton, Dusty Willis, Ken Carithers, Cecil Everidge, Jimmie Dan Robinson, Winfred Harrell, Rolly Rollyson, David Cribbs, John Taggart, Ron Daniel, Riviere Thomas, and Skip Meisaac.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that you make donations to either the First Baptist Church of Plant City Building Fund or LifePath Hospice. Expressions

of condolence at www.HopewellFuneral.com.

Previous Events

Visitation

AUG 18. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

First Baptist Church Plant City
3309 James L Redman Pkwy
Plant City, FL 33566
<http://fbcpc.com>

Celebration of Life

AUG 19. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

First Baptist Church Plant City
3309 James L Redman Pkwy
Plant City, FL 33566
<http://fbcpc.com>

Tribute Wall

BM

“ *The family of Jim Hardee*

My sincere condolences to you all. My time working with Jim, Casey and Olajean was a true test of great people. Jim Treated me with great respect and I repaid him in Kind I know he will be missed. I will keep you all in my prayers. a friend and former employee Bill Minichiello.

Bill Minichiello - August 19, 2016 at 04:43 PM

SG

“ *Jackie, Ola Jean, family,*

May Jimmy's love and devotion to you live in your hearts forever and give you perfect peace. Such a good man. He will not be forgotten.

God keep you in the palm of His hands.

Sharon McClure Garrison

Sharon Garrison - August 19, 2016 at 10:18 AM



“ *Casey, Heather, & Mrs Ola Jean,*

I'm so sorry to hear of Jimmy's passing. He was one of a kind and always was a bright spot at every chance I had to speak with him. Thoughts and prayers are with you all.

The McGrath Family

Mac McGrath - August 19, 2016 at 08:36 AM

JD

“ John & Krysta Diehl purchased the Blue Caribbe an Bouquet for the family of Mr. James Wilson Hardee.



John & Krysta Diehl - August 17, 2016 at 04:33 PM

BH

“ I have known Jim since our days at Florida Southern--he was a Fraternity Brother while at Southern. We were both in the Transportation Industry, so our friendship extended throughout many years. I also had the highest admiration and respect for Jim---he was a wonderful man!

My sympathy to his family.

Barney M. Herndon

Barney M. Herndon - August 17, 2016 at 04:10 PM



“ 106 files added to the album LifeTributes



Hopewell Funeral Home - August 17, 2016 at 11:20 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Mr. James Wilson Hardee.*



August 17, 2016 at 09:22 AM



“ *Steven W Gonser purchased the Crystal Cross Bouquet for the family of Mr. James Wilson Hardee.*



Steven W Gonser - August 17, 2016 at 09:15 AM



“ *May the Lord Bless and Comfort you, Sustain you and carry you through! Love and Prayers, Karen McClure Walters*

Karen McClure Walters - August 16, 2016 at 09:30 PM



Our thoughts and prayers are with your family. Tom and Diane Peterson

Tom Peterson - August 17, 2016 at 08:34 AM



*My friend - Classmate 1959 - The good guy always. Peace and God Bless!
George and Angie Turner*

George Turner - August 18, 2016 at 06:10 AM



*Peace, thoughts and prayers to Ola Jean and the entire Hardee Family.
God Bless,
Amy Nizamoff*

Amy Nizamoff - August 18, 2016 at 07:38 AM

CB

“ *Carol And Tommy Brock lit a candle in
memory of Mr. James Wilson Hardee*



carol and tommy brock - August 16, 2016 at 06:58 PM

AS

*Jimmy was a man of integrity who loved his family dearly. I will always
remember our Madison weekend when he was surrounded by a house
full of talking women. He loved it. I pray that the Lord will pour an extra
measure of Grace over his loved ones.*

Annie Faye Varnum Shiflet - August 16, 2016 at 09:22 PM

RG

“ *God Bless his dear family and friends. Ron has shared so many
funny hunting stories with Jimmy. Lots of great times. A well lived
life!!! Hugs to all.*

Ron/Vonda Gainey - August 16, 2016 at 06:11 PM

BM

*So sorry to hear about Jimmy my deepest sympathy and prayers are
with the family may God be with you in your time of sorrow*

Betty Mitchell - August 16, 2016 at 07:20 PM

RF

Ola Jean, May God's peace and comfort that surpasses all understanding be with you and your family in the days to come. Much love, Ruth Ann Foster

Ruth Ann Foster - August 16, 2016 at 09:16 PM

JM

So very sorry for your loss! Jimmy was a wonderful person and I loved working for Jim Hardee Equipment. My days working for him are a very found memory of mine! My thoughts are with the entire family! Jennifer Miranda

Jennifer Miranda - August 17, 2016 at 08:44 AM