



## Mr. James Woodsen Hays

April 23, 1937 - January 12, 2021

HAYS, JAMES WOODSEN, 83 of Plant City, FL, passed away on Tuesday, January 12, 2021. James (Jim) was born in St. Petersburg, FL on April 23, 1937, the son of William Lawrence Hays and Victoria Elkins Hays. Jim was a man of perseverance, wit and personality. Jim will always be remembered as being handsome with an incredible sense of humor. His natural intelligence and curiosity led him to overcome poverty and become an entrepreneurial man pursuing many businesses over a life time. Also, Jim had a voracious love of reading, writing, politics and sports. And, his love never wavered from God, Family and Country. Jim graduated from St. Petersburg High School in 1955, received a football scholarship to Hinds Junior College in Raymond, Mississippi, transferred to Millsaps College the second semester of his freshmen year and wound up graduating from the University of Florida with an Industrial Engineering Degree in 1961. Jim was the first person in his family to receive a college degree in which he went on to get his Masters in Business Administration and Accounting from the University of South Florida. Jim was an alumnus of Kappa Sigma Fraternity and served as President while he attended UF. After Jim graduated from the University of Florida, his first job was with IBM for seven years. Next, he went on to form his own computer service company which was called Professional Computer Management (PCM). Most of PCM's clients were CPA's. Upon selling PCM, Jim became a consultant for a chain of convenience stores based in Orlando. They asked him to join them as the CFO, and he wound up owning some gasoline stations

in Polk County. Once Jim dissolved his last site, he decided to be a full time CPA/CFP and started his own business in August 2012: Hays and Associates LLC in Plant City. Jim was revered by his staff and clients. He often talked of how fond he was of them all and considered them some of his best friends. Jim was a renaissance man. He often stated that he could never imagine NOT working.

Jim was active in his community; he was a member of Kiwanis, Elks Club and served as President of the Greater Davenport Chamber of Commerce. He was an avid sports fan of the Florida Gators, Buccaneers, Lightning and Rays. Jim is survived by his wife of 45 years, Cheryl Hays, mother of his children Coralee Hays, children Tracey Hays Sullivan (Bob), Terry Hays Blackard (Alan), Steven Hays (Katherine), Julie Hays, Darren Smith, Deanna Smith Padgett (Nick), and beloved grand children Scott, Jessica, Nicholaus, Morgan, Aden, Theo, Ainsley.

A Celebration of Life Service will be held at Hopewell Funeral Home 6005 S County Road 39, Plant City, FL 33567 starting at 2pm on Saturday, January 30, 2021. For those unable to attend, the service will be livestreamed at [facebook.com/HopewellFuneral](https://www.facebook.com/HopewellFuneral). Jim's Celebration of Life will continue after the end of the Service at the Florida Rustic Barn 1201 Swilley Road, Plant City.

In lieu of flowers, please donate to the American Heart Association in honor of James W. Hays.

Jim/Dad/Gramps will be deeply missed by ALL.

# Previous Events

## Celebration of Life

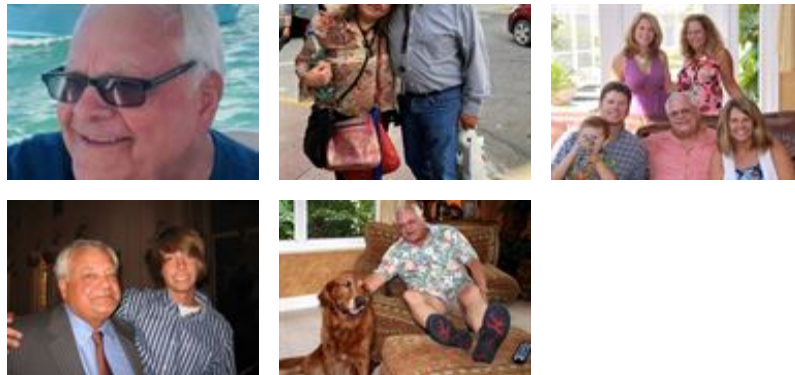
JAN 30. 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM (ET)

Hopewell Funeral Home  
6005 County Road 39 South  
Plant City, FL 33567  
(813) 737-3128  
[office@hopewellfuneral.com](mailto:office@hopewellfuneral.com)  
<http://www.hopewellfuneral.com>

# Tribute Wall



“ 46 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



**Hopewell Funeral Home** - January 29, 2021 at 01:47 PM



“ *Lovely One Spathiphyllum Plant was purchased for the family of Mr. James Woodsen Hays.*



January 29, 2021 at 10:17 AM



“ *Jim and I were very close friends for 64 years, having been fraternity brothers and roommates at UF. He was "one of a kind", and the smartest guy I knew. I will miss him, and will always remember his warm smile, his great sense of humor, and his hearty laugh. Rest in peace, brother. AEKDB.*

**Leonard A. Carson** - January 29, 2021 at 10:10 AM

NS

“ My heartfelt condolences go out to Jim's family.

*After years of having a business relationship, I, and my deceased husband, found a true caring and delightful friend in Jim. His smile, concern and professionalism was always present and I know he will be deeply missed by so many.*

*Peace be with you.*

*Nancy S.*



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**Nancy S.** - January 28, 2021 at 05:02 PM



“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Mr. James Woodsen Hays.



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January 28, 2021 at 12:34 PM

DH

“ Don Hendry purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of Mr. James Woodsen Hays.



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**Don Hendry** - January 28, 2021 at 11:56 AM

SK

“ Jim helped people when they down. He brought hope to those who were in need. He will forever be loved and remembered as a true friend and kind soul.

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**Scott and Michelle Kelly** - January 28, 2021 at 10:06 AM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Mr. James Woodsen Hays.*



January 28, 2021 at 10:02 AM



“ *My condolences to the Hays family. May you find peace and take comfort in loving memories. Mr Hays when you get to heaven drive the boat as fast as you please. If the angels tell you to slow down then tell them to "put a wake on this".*

**Larry Mattei** - January 28, 2021 at 03:00 AM



“ *Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Mr. James Woodsen Hays.*



January 27, 2021 at 03:54 PM



“ *Jim was such a jovial guy and we had so much fun and so many laughs during the Trump boat parade. A Patriot that loved our Country and believed in the goodness of life and love! And he loved his kids in a very adoring and doting way! We will miss you Jim, but all of us that love God and Jesus know that we will see you again in heaven. God Bless you brother.*



**Jimmy Fitzpatrick** - January 27, 2021 at 12:30 PM

BT

“ *Many years of great memories. We were both gators who loved Gator football. We used to attend the games together until we got too old to drive to them. we opted for Hooters who gave us three big screen tv's and put the gators on the middle, which ever ones we wanted on each side. Last saw him in October and we would meet for the next one. He called and told me of his sudden illness and hoped he would recover enough to then do the following game. Just did not recover. So darn sad.*

*Bill Thomas*

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**Bill Thomas** - January 25, 2021 at 11:19 AM

SA

“ *Cor, Tracey, Terry, Steve, & Julie,*

*My heart is heavy for all of you. All of my memories of Jim are so funny and thinking about all the good times we had years ago. I am so glad I got to see him 2 years ago at Tracey's home. I hate to think what is going on up there with Jim, Barker and Nick!!! My love to all of you.*

*Suzanne*

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**Suzanne Armeda** - January 24, 2021 at 01:22 PM

CM

*Condolences to the family of Jim Hays. My brother Ned Latta was a classmate at SPHS.*

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**Carol Milner** - January 24, 2021 at 03:31 PM

DB

*My heart is still hurting but, I had the best Father in Law a man could ever ask for. It was my great fortune to marry a woman that had such a wonderful Father that I could call him Dad and it felt real. I will miss my friend, (Dad) more than anyone will know. Heaven truly has a new Angel.*

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**Don Alan Blackard** - January 27, 2021 at 04:07 PM