



## Mr. James L. Hilliard, Sr.

January 16, 1932 - November 23, 2024

Mr. James L. Hilliard, Sr., 92 of Plant City, FL., born on January 16, 1932. James was employed with the City of Plant City Water Department for 44 years and the Plant City Strawberry Festival for 20+ years. He is preceded in death by his wife of 69 years, Ruth Hilliard; and grandson, Aaron Hilliard. He is survived by his four children, Jim Hilliard (Vicki) of Ohio, Betty Messick (David) of Plant City, Debbie Cribbs of Plant City, and Dennis Hilliard (Amy) of Plant City; 13 grandchildren; 12 great-grandchildren; and many other family and friends. A funeral service will be held on Wednesday, December 4 at 11:00 A.M. at Hopewell Funeral Home, 6005 South County Road 39, Plant City, where the family will receive friends beginning at 10:00 A.M. Committal to follow at West Oaklawn Cemetery, Plant City. Expressions of condolences at [www.HopewellFuneral.com](http://www.HopewellFuneral.com).

# Cemetery Details

## Oaklawn Cemetery

N. Wheeler Road  
Plant City, FL

# Previous Events

## Visitation

DEC 4. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (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>

## Funeral Service

DEC 4. 11:00 AM (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



“ Hopewell Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Mr. James L. Hilliard, Sr.



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**Hopewell Funeral Home** - December 02, 2024 at 06:56 PM

DJ

“ It was great working with Mr Jim for 16+ years at strawberry festival he will definitely be miss rip

*Dusty joiner*

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**Dusty Joiner** - December 12, 2024 at 01:21 PM

DG

“ I just discovered Jim's obituary today and am deeply saddened by his passing. I first met him around twenty years ago at the Strawberry Festival and worked with him every year thereafter until his retirement. I owe a great deal of gratitude to Jim for believing in me and supporting me in my Festival endeavors. He and Ms. Ruth were amazing folks, caring and loyal friends. I truly hate that I missed his service but have every intention of placing flowers on his and Ms. Ruth's resting place. It will be my honor. My deepest most sincere condolences to his family for the immense loss of two wonderful people, two beautiful souls. God give you all peace in your time of sorrow.

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**D. B. Griffin** - December 11, 2024 at 02:45 PM

FW

“ *Frances Whiting lit a candle in memory of Mr. James L. Hilliard, Sr.*



Frances Whiting - December 03, 2024 at 11:38 PM

FW

*Every time I saw Mr. Hilliard he was smiling. He had a way of making you feel like he was your friend even if you didn't know him well. What a wonderful legacy he leaves to us all, that we should smile and strive to make strangers feel like a friends.*

Frances Whiting - December 03, 2024 at 11:47 PM

LF

“ *Love, Your WLELC Family purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Mr. James L. Hilliard, Sr..*



Love, Your WLELC Family - December 03, 2024 at 08:53 AM

AH

“ *Amy Hilliard lit a candle in memory of Mr. James L. Hilliard, Sr.*



Amy Hilliard - December 02, 2024 at 03:53 PM

AH

*Best "other" daddy a girl could ever ask for. I am truly blessed.*

Amy Hilliard - December 02, 2024 at 04:01 PM

BM

*He sure loved you* ❤️

**Betty Messick** - December 02, 2024 at 04:31 PM

AH

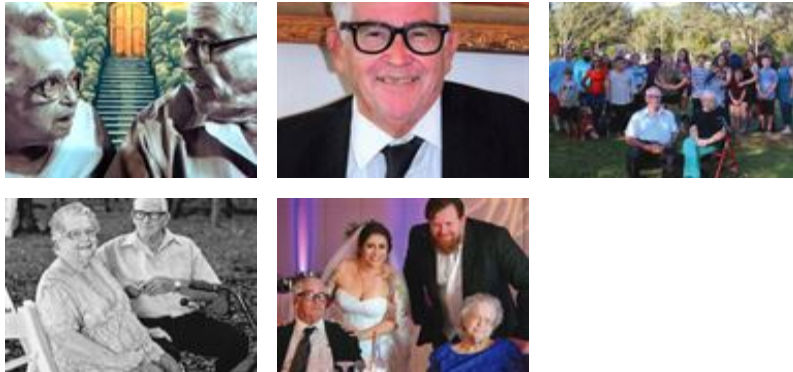
“ *Amy Hilliard lit a candle in memory of Mr. James L. Hilliard, Sr.*



**Amy Hilliard** - December 02, 2024 at 03:52 PM



“ 78 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



**Hopewell Funeral Home** - December 02, 2024 at 01:53 PM

SS

“ *Shawn and Colleen Spencer purchased the Beautiful Dreams for the family of Mr. James L. Hilliard, Sr..*



**Shawn and Colleen Spencer** - December 02, 2024 at 10:52 AM

RG

“ Robert and Chris Gonzalez purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Mr. James L. Hilliard, Sr..



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**Robert and Chris Gonzalez** - December 02, 2024 at 09:25 AM

MC

“ Oh no, I worked with him for years at the Stawberry Festival. I watched for him everyday to come out on his porch. You will be missed Mr. Jim

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**Margaret Campbell** - December 01, 2024 at 02:41 PM



“ Ocean Breeze Spray was purchased for the family of Mr. James L. Hilliard, Sr..



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November 30, 2024 at 06:21 PM

DP

“ Donna Keene Putnall lit a candle in memory of Mr. James L. Hilliard, Sr.



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**Donna Keene Putnall** - November 27, 2024 at 04:28 PM

BM

“ 2 files added to the tribute wall



Betty Messick - November 26, 2024 at 10:15 PM

AM

“ Angie Majors lit a candle in memory of Mr. James L. Hilliard, Sr.



Angie Majors - November 26, 2024 at 08:26 PM

DH

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Dennis Hilliard - November 26, 2024 at 07:25 PM

DC

“ 2 files added to the tribute wall



Deborah Cribbs - November 26, 2024 at 06:51 PM

DC

*miss you so much daddy*💔💔

**Debbie Cribbs** - November 26, 2024 at 07:00 PM

BM

*Our sweet daddy*



**Betty Messick** - November 26, 2024 at 07:13 PM

DC

“ *Deborah Cribbs lit a candle in memory of Mr. James L. Hilliard, Sr.*



**Deborah Cribbs** - November 26, 2024 at 06:49 PM

BM

“ *Betty Messick lit a candle in memory of Mr. James L. Hilliard, Sr.*



**Betty Messick** - November 26, 2024 at 06:34 PM

BM

“ *Betty Messick lit a candle in memory of Mr. James L. Hilliard, Sr.*



**Betty Messick** - November 26, 2024 at 06:33 PM

BM

*My sweet daddy*

**Betty Messick** - November 26, 2024 at 06:34 PM

DH

“ *Dennis Hilliard lit a candle in memory of Mr. James L. Hilliard, Sr.*



**Dennis Hilliard** - November 26, 2024 at 05:19 PM

BM

*My sweet daddy*

**Betty Messick** - November 26, 2024 at 06:33 PM

CR

*Sorry for your loss, I really enjoyed the friendship I had with your dad and your mom, which lasted many years. I know will miss them forever, but we must always remember the memories 🥰*

**Carl Rupp** - November 27, 2024 at 02:10 PM

DW

*A true gentleman and a good friend. I enjoyed working with him at the Strawberry Festival . I will miss him and your Mom.*

**Dan Walden** - November 28, 2024 at 10:43 AM