



Mr. James Anak Jones

July 29, 1931 - November 1, 2017

James Anak “Sonny” Jones, 86, of Plant City, Florida, born on July 29, 1931, joined his Heavenly Father on November 1, 2017. He was a loving husband, father, grandfather, brother, uncle and friend. He grew up in Plant City and was active in the community and in the schools. He worked in his family’s grocery store growing up. He attended Turkey Creek School where he graduated in 1949. He was a member of the well-known Boy Scouts Troop 5, President of the Spanish Club, member of the yearbook, Honor Society, Thespian Club, Class President, Improvement Club and voted Best All-Around in his class. He played the clarinet in the band where he met the love of his life, Betty. He received the D.A.R. Award for Citizenship. Wanting to continue with his career, Sonny attended Stetson University in 1950 and then later enrolled at Florida Southern College where he received his degree in 1953. In 1951, he married, Betty, and the two of them ran the family store and gas station with the help of his mother. He was a substitute teacher at Cork School and then went on to teach History & Civics at Turkey Creek School. Also, he taught Science and Library in Ruskin. He received his master’s degree from the University of Florida in 1961 after taking classes at University of Florida, Florida State and USF. He then became a full-time Counselor at Turkey Creek School, served as Dean of Boys at Horace Mann Junior High School and worked as Park Director at Simmons Park. In 1962, he signed on as Assistant Principal at Plant City High School. He was invited to attend Civitan Club and served in that civic minded organization up until his death. In 1967, he was

assigned Principal of Tomlin Junior High School and later promoted to Principal of Plant City High School from 1980 until his retirement in 1990. He served on the High School Council of Principals, Chairman of the Western Conference of High School Principals, formed the East Hillsborough Historical Society, was active in the Turkey Creek Masonic Lodge, named Citizen of the Year in 1990, received the Distinguished Alumni Award from Florida Southern College in 1991, volunteered at the Plant City Photo Archives, received the Heritage Award in 2010, active in Turkey Creek Baptist Church and served as Sunday School teacher, Deacon and Trustee and recently was honored to have the Plant City High School auditorium named after him. With all he did in his Church and community, he always found time to love on his family and friends. He has left a legacy behind. He will forever be remembered for his compassionate heart, his grand service to our community, and his love for Plant City and his family. He was preceded in death by his parents, Jefferson & Fannie Jones; sisters Verna Smith, Esther Walker, Mildred Tice, Zelma Durrance, and granddaughter Kimberly Waters. He is survived by his wife of 66 years Betty Jo Jones; daughter, Jackie Waters (Darrell) ; sons, Jim (Carolyn) & Randy (Glenda) Jones; grandchildren, Larry (Sheila) Rypkema, Krista (Nathan) Heavilin, Katie (Josh) Gibbons, Kevin (April) Waters, Brandy (Jeremy) Craddock, and Justin (Erin) Jones, as well as 16 great grandchildren and many nieces and nephews. The family will receive friends on Monday, November 6 at 9:00am to 11:00am at Turkey Creek First Baptist Church, 4915 W. Trapnell Road Plant City, Florida. The service will immediately follow. In lieu of flowers memorial contributions may be made to Turkey Creek First Baptist Church. Expressions of condolence at www.HopewellFuneral.com.

Cemetery Details

Pleasant Grove Cemetery

East County Civic Group
FL 33567

Previous Events

Visitation

NOV 6. 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Turkey Creek Baptist Church
4915 W. Trapnell Road
Plant City, FL

Celebration of Life

NOV 6. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

Turkey Creek Baptist Church
4915 W. Trapnell Road
Plant City, FL

Tribute Wall



“ Hopewell Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Mr. James Anak Jones



Hopewell Funeral Home - November 04, 2017 at 05:03 PM

LW

Dear Mrs. Jones, Jackie, Jim, and Randy, we are so very sorry to hear about the passing of Mr. Jones. He was a very wonderful and kind man. He was always a good friend and neighbor to my dad, mom, Norm, Zach , & me. We have very fond memories of him. We are so blessed to have been able to visit him and you, Mrs. Jones, the last time we were home from Ca. He will be loved and missed forever. With love, Norm, Linda, and Zach Whiteman

Linda Whiteman - November 13, 2017 at 09:37 PM

PA

“ What a beautiful family!!!! I worked with Betty at J.S. Robinson for many years and just loved seeing Sonny and Betty with the family! Mr. Jones was a fine man who loved his Lord and Savior, his family and the community! What a great legacy he left for so many! Many prayers continue for Betty and the family. I love you! Peggy Adams



Peggy Adams - December 18, 2017 at 08:30 PM

LR

“ *Mr Jones was a great guy. He was fair, and one of my role models.*

Les Rayburn - November 06, 2017 at 12:06 PM

CJ

“ *Sonny Jones has been one of Plant City's treasures. He practiced all of the fruits of the Spirit throughout his well-lived life - love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. He loved this community and its children. He honored his beautiful wife Betty and their sons and daughter, and his grandchildren and greats. We will remember this man and can take comfort knowing he is in the arms of his Savior, Jesus Christ, for eternity. Those who walk with Christ will see Mr. Jones again in the heavenly mansion God has prepared for him Thank you for being such a beautiful example to all. ~~ RJ and Cheryl Johnston*

Cheryl Johnston - November 06, 2017 at 09:35 AM

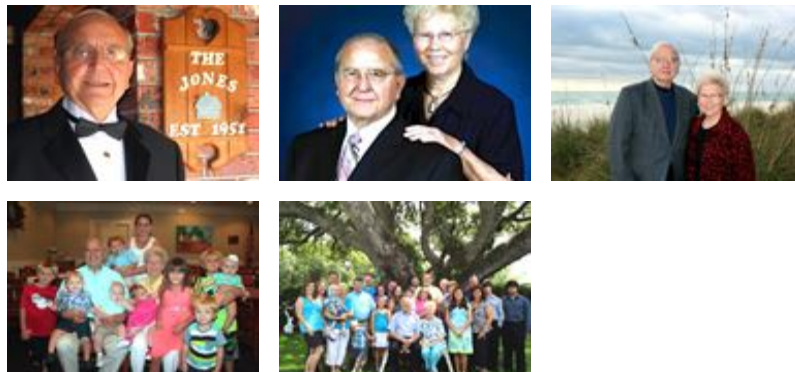
DS

“ *Our love and prayers are with Betty and the family. My husband, Calvin, and I have known Sonny and Betty for many years. You can hardly think of one without the other. Sonny was always smiling and was a great source of encouragement to others. He was always a compassionate and loving gentleman. He will be missed by his family and many friends. Again, our love to Betty and the family. God bless. Calvin and Donna Streetman*

Donna Streetman - November 05, 2017 at 01:19 AM



“ 44 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



Hopewell Funeral Home - November 04, 2017 at 04:00 PM

JB

“ Thank you for taking a chance on me back in 1986. Plant City High School became my home for many years afterward because of you. You were a fine, Christian man. What more do I need to say. Now rest with God.

Jim Beasley - November 04, 2017 at 10:41 AM

TV

“ Sonny was a fine man. We have been friends for over 80 years. He will be missed by many relatives and friends. God Bless his memories and God Bless his entire family.

Tom Vann - November 04, 2017 at 06:48 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum* was purchased for the family of Mr. James Anak Jones.



November 03, 2017 at 04:52 PM

HT

“ My thoughts and prayers are with Mrs. Betty and the family...Mr. Jones was a great man and will be truly missed by so many who know him



Heather Trapnell-Trnka - November 03, 2017 at 04:23 PM

RA

“ As a former science teacher for Mr. Jones, he would always help and respected me for many years at PCHS. He was a wonderful and caring principal. Ralph N. Aversa



Ralph Aversa - November 03, 2017 at 04:00 PM

PR

“ Sonny was a fine man and good fiend and also my first cousin. Our mothers were sister. Will be sadly miss by his family and all the friend he had. RIP Sonny love you.



Polly Rhoden - November 03, 2017 at 03:38 PM

PR

“ Polly Rhoden lit a candle in memory of Mr. James Anak Jones



Polly Rhoden - November 03, 2017 at 03:35 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Mr. James Anak Jones.*



November 03, 2017 at 03:30 PM



“ *From your Friends and Co-Workers at Mosaic purchased the Fairest of All for the family of Mr. James Anak Jones.*



From your Friends and Co-Workers at Mosaic - November 03, 2017 at 01:54 PM



“ *Just heard about Mr Jobes. So sad to hear. We first met him personally when he came into our business to collect the Christmas Villages which he loved and opened his home for our annual Christmas Village tour. He was so kind and we appreciated his business and friendship along with getting to know his children and wife. Praying for all of them and that the Lord will bring peace and comfort to all. Rick, Susan-Lynn, Sarah, Johnathan and Joshua Lewis and families.*

Susan-Lynn Lewis - November 03, 2017 at 12:36 PM



“ *Sonny was such a special man - always had a smile and welcomed everyone into his circle. Blessings to Sonny's family and friends. Vance & Cathy Singletary*

Cathy Singletary - November 03, 2017 at 10:08 AM

VS

“ Vance & Cathy Singletary purchased the A New Sunrise Spray for the family of Mr. James Anak Jones.



Vance & Cathy Singletary - November 03, 2017 at 10:04 AM

WA

“ Sonny was a fine man. His family is such an inspiring part of this community. He always had a beautiful smile. He will be missed by so many.

Wiley & Audrey - November 03, 2017 at 09:21 AM

LL

“ Good men are great to have went you are growing up. Mr. Jones was a great one . Good memories! Sorry for the lost he will be missed.

Linda (Booth) Lariscy

Linda Lariscy - November 03, 2017 at 08:00 AM

KH

“ Papa was an AMAZING person! His love for his community and his family will forever live on. I had the pleasure of speaking to him briefly on Saturday and will cherish the "I love yous" forever. May he forever live in our hearts and continue to inspire us! Love you Papa!

Krista Heavilin - November 03, 2017 at 12:01 AM

JT

“ I was so saddened to hear of the passing of Mr. Jones. He was the Dean of Boys when I attended Plant City High School in 1964 - 1967. I never got into trouble with him or Mrs. Wright. I was fortunate to be able to see him back in September at our 50th class reunion. My sincere condolences and prayers to his family.

Julia Feduccia Thompson - November 02, 2017 at 10:51 PM

DS

I remember the times that I would go to Uncle Sonny's house and here tell us our family history and we would go through the family photo albums and remembering the days. I also remember the one time I had breakfast with them at Buddy Fredmys because he helped me get tires for my wheelchair he will be greatly missed. I truly loves my uncle Sonny.

Destiny sands - November 03, 2017 at 12:25 PM

PS

“ We are very sorry to hear about Sonny. He was our son and daughters principal at Plant City. Pokey was a friend many years ago. We are sure he will be missed by his family and friends. Prayers from Pokey & Linda Smith

Pokey Smith - November 02, 2017 at 06:12 PM

RG

“ Rose Goodall lit a candle in memory of Mr. James Anak Jones



Rose Goodall - November 02, 2017 at 06:09 PM

SW

My love and prayers are with the family.

stella welch - November 02, 2017 at 10:55 PM

SB

*It was just last week that I shared a hug with Mr. and Mrs. Jones at the EHHS Annual Banquet - he looked great and was smiling and really enjoyed the evening. We will all miss him and will be praying for his family. He is at peace and with his Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.
Shelby & Andy Bender*

Shelby Bender - November 02, 2017 at 11:47 PM



Randy sorry to see your dad has passed . I got a lot of memories of Mr. Jones in school

Robert Tatum - November 05, 2017 at 01:44 PM

BV

Sure will miss a real good friend for such a long time Billy Joe Varnadore

Billy Joe Varnadore - November 08, 2017 at 09:37 AM