



James David Henderson

July 4, 1935 - August 15, 2014

KATHLEEN- James David Henderson, 79, of Kathleen, passed away Friday, August 15, 2014, at his residence, surrounded by his loving family, after a brief but very courageous battle with cancer. James was born July 4, 1935, in Alturas, FL to Kenneth Leroy and Madeleine (Wright) Henderson. He graduated from Pinecrest High School on December 17, 1954. By June of 1955, he had enlisted in the Air Force where he trained as an Aircraft Control and Warning Operator and served in that capacity until he was honorably discharged in September 1959. For 3 1/2 years of his service, he was stationed overseas in Japan. Once he returned stateside, he set out to make a life for himself and later his loving family. In the early to mid-60's, he went to work for the state of Florida, the first time, as a Driver's License Examiner. This is where he was working when he met a beautiful young woman, Shirley Griffis. She stole his heart, and he, hers. Together, they held tightly to those hearts for the next 49 years, theirs is a love that stood the test of time. After a while, he decided to try something different so he went to work for the City of Lakeland, driving a boom truck for the E & W Department. He retired from the City after roughly 20 years. He went back to work for the state of Florida, this time for the Department of Corrections at Polk Correctional from where he retired 14 years ago. Once he retired, there was no stopping him. It didn't really matter to him what he was doing whether it was mowing the yard, tinkering on one of his many projects or just sitting there contemplating his next move, just as long as he was outside. He loved fixing things and could fix

almost anything that he put his hands on. It didn't matter if it was a broken lamp or a broken heart, if you brought it to him, he would do his best to fix it. James was preceded in death by his father Kenneth Leroy Henderson, brother Larry Kenneth Henderson, sister-in-law Bobbye Henderson, and Sassy, his first spoiled Pekingese. James is survived by his loving wife of 49 years Shirley Henderson of Kathleen, his daughter and son-in-law Kim and Mike Weaver of Live Oak, his daughter Sharron of Kathleen. His four grandkids, who most of the time were more like his kids, Shana and Tyson Cheney of Kathleen, Timi-Shane and Lee Miley of Live Oak, Daniel Judd of Kathleen and James Judd of Swainsboro, GA. Four great-grandsons, Bryson and Reed Cheney of Kathleen and Quintin and Tobias Miley of Live Oak. His mother Madeleine Buchanan of Bartow. He is also survived by his brother Andy (Carolyn) Henderson of Dade City, brother Jack Henderson of Tavares, Mike (Rita) Henderson of Cheyenne, WY and sister-in-law Mary Henderson Euleless, TX. He's survived by his loyal and faithful companion, Bo. He's also survived by his honorary daughter and son-in-law Carol and Rich Johnson of Lakeland and honorary son Darrell Hunt of St. Pete.

Friends are invited to the visitation at Gentry-Morrison Funeral Home, 3350 Mall Hill Rd on Sunday August 17, 2014 2:00-4:00pm. There will be a private service for the family on Monday. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the SPCA of Florida.

Tribute Wall

SH

“Daddy,



God got one heck of an Angel Friday when he got you, just try not to take over please. Remember, it's His house and He is in charge.

You have always been the strong one in the family, always putting others ahead of yourself and taking awesome care of your family. I promise that even though it won't be as good of a job as what you would do, I promise you that I will try my best to take good care of everybody for you, especially Mommy, she loves you so very much. She's devastated right now, but she is a very strong woman and will go the best that she can without the love of her life.

I miss you so very much but I know that you will always be here when I need you. Thank you for stepping up and being more like a father to Daniel and James than a grandfather. They love you so much and are hurting deeply right now but you helped make them the strong young men that they have turned out to be so I know that eventually, they will be ok. Just please watch over them and continue to protect them.

You put up such a brave fight the past 5 months and your body grew too tired to fight and as hard as it was to say "Until we see you again", I know that you are in a much better place.

I don't know what I am going to do without you, you have always been there and I have always been able to come to you with any problem I may have had. And even if you were disappointed in me, you never turned your back on me, never stopped loving me. Even though my heart is breaking and I will never completely get past the hurt of losing you, I know that you will always be there.

I love you daddy and you will always be in my heart

With all my love

Your Baby Girl

Sharron - August 18, 2014 at 12:34 AM

RS

Our deepest condolences from your Pinecrest High School Family and Friends.

Rita Sumner - August 18, 2014 at 03:25 PM

SB

“ Rest in peace, James. You were a kind and loving person who took great care of everyone! You have rightfully earned your spot in heaven. You will be missed.

Sarah Bowles - August 17, 2014 at 10:38 PM

SC

“ So sorry to hear of your loss of husband, father, grandfather, great-grandfather, son, brother. Hope it helps to know others care and share your grief! Praying for strength, courage, comfort and most of all a peace from GOD which surpasses all understanding as only HE can give for each of you! May all your memories of better times help to bring great comfort in the coming days and years! We graduated with Andy, Carolyn and attended school with David! Blessings to each one!



Sam and Carol Conrad - August 17, 2014 at 08:36 AM