



James William Vernon

January 10, 1949 - December 19, 2019

JAMES WILLIAM VERNON

1/10/49 – 12/19/19

James William Vernon, age 70, lost his courageous 11 year battle with Early On-set Alzheimer's and Frontal Lobe Dementia on Dec. 19. Jim was born January 10, 1949 in Plant City, FL to Betty Jo and William D Vernon.

Jim is survived by his wife of 43 years, Bett Hetland Vernon; his daughters, Brittany and husband Ryan Dodge of Orleans, Ontario, Canada (children- William, Charlotte & Benjamin) and Laura, her husband David Middleton of Orlando, FL (daughter Kayleigh); his parents William and Betty Jo Vernon of Plant City; and brother Christopher and wife Tami of Naples, FL (children- Grace & Katherine)

Jim proudly served his country in the US Army during the Vietnam conflict. He earned an Associates Degree in Police Administration from Old Bennington College in Vermont and a BA in Criminal Justice from the University of Memphis. Jim was a Deputy with the Polk County Sherriff's Department from 1976-1988 and then worked at Badcock and More in Mulberry as their Director of Human Resources and later as Director of Employee Relations from 1988-2009.

When Jim was no longer able to work, he still enjoyed walking 5 miles a day and playing golf every day that it didn't rain. He last resided at Merrill Gardens at Champion's Gate.

The family wishes to thank our wonderful friends and family members for all the love and support we have received during Jim's long and difficult journey with Alzheimer's.

Jim's Celebration of Life will be Saturday, December 28 at Highland Park Church, 4777 Lakeland Highlands Rd, Lakeland FL 33813. Family members can be greeted from 10 to 11 and the service will be at 11. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to The Alzheimer's Association or Good Shepherd Hospice House.

Previous Events

Visitation

DEC 28. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Highland Park Church of the Nazarene
4777 Lakeland Highlands Road
Lakeland, FL 33813

Memorial Service

DEC 28. 11:00 AM (ET)

Highland Park Church of the Nazarene
4777 Lakeland Highlands Road
Lakeland, FL 33813

Tribute Wall



“ Gentry-Morrison Funeral Homes created a Tribute Video in memory of James William Vernon



Gentry-Morrison Funeral Homes - December 26, 2019 at 01:43 PM



“ James William Vernon

November 17, 2022 at 10:14 AM



“ 63 files added to the album Life Tributes



Gentry-Morrison Funeral Homes - December 26, 2019 at 01:11 PM

DW

“ Dear Bett, I am so very sorry for the loss of your beloved husband.....I saw up front and personal that you were his champion, caregiver, and advocate for many years....No regrets, because you did an awesome job...the most difficult disease.....praying for you and yours that the most precious of memories God will bring to comfort your hearts.....<3

Diane Wilson - December 22, 2019 at 09:52 PM