



## James Barton Sikes

March 28, 1942 - February 5, 2020

James Barton Sikes, age 77, of Orlando, Florida, passed away on February 5, 2020. James was the son of Arnold Barton Sikes and Wanda Myrthine Moore Sikes and was born on March 28, 1942 in Paris, Arkansas.

His family relocated to North Little Rock, Arkansas when he was young. Following his graduation from North Little Rock High School, he attended Arkansas Tech University, then transferred and ultimately graduated from the University of Arkansas. He met his wife Eileen while on a summer internship in Washington D.C. After their marriage, Jim served in the Army, achieving the rank of Major, and was posted at the National Security Agency during the Vietnam War. He continued to serve in the Army Reserves afterward, and went to work for the United States Postal Service as a postal inspector. Jim and Eileen were eventually blessed with five children, and lived in Kentucky, Illinois, and Missouri before finally settling in Orlando.

After he retired from the United States Postal Service, Jim enjoyed a second career working in the security department at Walt Disney World. He also went back to school and earned a Master's Degree. He was a lifelong Arkansas Razorbacks fan, and continued to attend football games whenever he was able, most often with his sister Mary Nell. He was an animal lover: late in life he became particularly passionate about Rottweilers, especially his own, Max and Hercules. He attended St. Luke's United Methodist Church and

volunteered his time through the Methodist Ministry, teaching reading to incarcerated adults.

He is survived by his wife, Eileen (O'Brien) Sikes, and daughters Amy Gerdel (Vernon), of Moselle, Missouri, Rebecca Flanagan (Scott), Kathleen Sikes, Elizabeth Sikes, all of Orlando; and son James A. Sikes, also of Orlando. Grandchildren include Kasey Kroeck, Kyle Kroeck, Madaline Gerdel, all of Missouri, Brennan Flanagan of Orlando, and J.D. Sikes, also of Orlando, as well as one great-grandchild, Everly Gerdel, of Missouri. Other survivors include his beloved sister Mary Nell Blackwell, of North Little Rock, Arkansas.

He was loved by many, whether they called him Jimmy, Jim, Dad, Uncle, or Grandpa, and he will be greatly missed.

Services Pending, please check back at a later time.

Arrangements entrusted to DeGusipe Funeral Home & Crematory, Maitland, FL.

# Tribute Wall

FB

“ Jim was a true stalwart representing what is right with Christianity. I had the opportunity to teach on occasion with Jim in the Orange County Jail and the men would listen intently when he told them a life story. Despite his ailments, Jim was an absolute pillar in the Shalom Reader's Club and could always be counted on. We lost a great man and an inspiration to all of us with his passing.  
Frank Brough

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**Frank E Brough** - February 15, 2020 at 08:37 AM

JH

“ Mary Nell, We were so sorry to hear of your loss. Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family. Gary & Jackie Hopper

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**Jackie Hopper** - February 13, 2020 at 01:09 PM

CR

“ Jimmy was my roommate for a time at the Acacia fraternity at the University of Arkansas. During that time, I suffered a minor (but painful) injury in an intramural football game. Jimmy took over as my caretaker -- brought meals to our room, made sure I had everything I needed, etc. I regret that we lost touch when we left school.  
Charlie Russell  
Fayetteville

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**Charlie Russell** - February 13, 2020 at 12:35 PM

DI

“ Eileen, we were very surprised to read of Jim's passing this morning. Our condolences go out to you and the children. Dianne and Dennis Becher

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**Dianne** - February 09, 2020 at 03:29 PM

RK

“ So sorry to hear of Jimmy's passing. We used to skip church together and go riding around in his father's black 59 Buick.

Robert Kirby - February 09, 2020 at 02:21 PM

WH

“ So sorry to hear of Jame's death. WE were classmates together.

Wayne Haver

Wayne Haver - February 07, 2020 at 08:04 PM

DC

“ Jim and I worked together at Walt Disney World for several years. He was courageous and professional. He was also a friend and a comrade. I am so sorry to hear of his passing. May Jim rest in eternal peace in Gods arms.

DeWayne Cook - February 07, 2020 at 07:09 PM

RT

“ So sorry to hear of your great loss. My prayers are for Eileen and family. Jimmy was a great friend and classmate at NLRHS.  
Ron Tribell

Ron Tribell - February 07, 2020 at 03:22 PM

 Monty Sherrill

“ I remember James when he stated school at Mc Rae Elem. in the Sixth Grade. We were classmates until we graduated in 1960. My prayers go out to the family



Monty Sherrill - February 07, 2020 at 03:04 PM

AS

“ *I'm so sorry for your loss. I went to school with Jimmy, and considered him a dear friend.* ”

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**Ann SPERRY** - February 07, 2020 at 02:42 PM