



James W. Norris Jr.

May 20, 1928 - August 20, 2022

On August 20, 2022, James W. Norris Jr. (Big Jim) passed away at his home in Grove, Oklahoma at the age of 94. James is preceded in death by his Father James W Norris Sr., Mother Lucille Emery-Norris, Wife Willodean Norris, Son James W. Norris III, Sisters Norma June Holder, Mary Ellen Elliot. Survived by his brother Robert (Bob) Norris, Daughter Deborah Norris-Welliver and Husband Warren, Wichita Kansas, Grand Daughter Jennifer Norris and Aaron Hull Grove, Oklahoma, Grandson Michael Welliver Derby, Kansas. Numerous great grandchildren and great grandchildren.

He was born in Springfield, Missouri May 20, 1928, to James W. Norris Sr. and Lucille Emery Norris. He spent most of his earlier years in Houston Texas. Jim moved with his Mother Lucille Norris, sisters June, Mary Ellen and brother Robert Norris to Marshall Arkansas. Jim would join the Army in 1946 where he would serve a year in Korea during the Korean War receiving an honorable discharge from the Army in 1947. Jim would return to Marshall Arkansas where he finished high school and started the romance with Willodean Horton, James was a gentle giant and Willodean was smitten for him and when Willodean spotted young jimmy at the local fair in Marshal Arkansas Willodean told her best friend Mary Ellis, she was going to marry that man in that uniform. Jimmy and Deborah never understood why he was in his uniform but

that was the type of man he was the romance would begin with Willodean giving Jim a Valentine that led to courting and then a marriage on April 29, 1949, Jim Norris and Willodean Horton would be married, they would have 2 children a son James W. Norris III on February 16, 1950, and a daughter Deborah Norris-Welliver September 23, 1956. They would live in Wichita, Kansas where Jim would begin his journey with working for Boeing in 1952, he would retire in 1987 giving 35 years of service. He was part of the Machinist Union for 74 years he is a Mason in Albert Pike Lodge Wichita, Kansas and has been for 65 years. Jim and Willodean Norris would move to Grove, Oklahoma where they would build a beautiful home together along with other family members their legacy to be passed through the family. Jim and Willodean's love affair would end after 72 years when he lost his best friend and the love of his life in 2021.

He loved his family and would give the shirt off his back for his family and friends. He was a provider and a protector he was known as a "gentle giant". Graveside services will be at noon Saturday, August 27, 2022, at Olympus Cemetery. Arrangements entrusted to Nichols-Stephens Funeral & Cremation Services.

Previous Events

Graveside Service

AUG 27. 12:00 PM (CT)

Olympus Cemetery
Grove, OK

Tribute Wall



“ *James W. Norris Jr.*

October 04, 2023 at 03:23 PM



“ *Rest James, until you hear at dawn, the low,
clear reveille of God.
Thank you for your service to this nation. U.S.
Army.*



Harry Simpson - August 24, 2022 at 02:37 PM



“ *Although I had not seen my Uncle Jim in many years, we kept up via phone conversations occasionally. I have such wonderful memories of him and Aunt Willie when they would come to Marshall, Arkansas to visit. I remember his kindness and his sense of humor and his boyishness when it came to play. His visits would always mean a trip to the Buffalo River to swim and picnic. He played with us in the water and it was always such fun! He and Aunt Willie were a beautiful, loving couple and it was always great to see my cousins, Jim and Deborah. I wish we could have visited more often. The last time I spoke with him, as always, he said, “come see us, we have a guest room”. He always ended our conversations with “I love you Kiddo”. I love you too, Uncle Jim. My heart goes out to Deborah and the family.*

Dianne Elliott - August 23, 2022 at 05:03 PM

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“ I’ve only known this man not by father or dad it’s always been daddy. My daddy never knew a stranger. He was proud, love America, love his family. He was a proud member of the Albert Pike Mason Lodge of Wichita Kansas for over 75 years. He was a respected member of the Boeing Local Machinist Union for over 70 years. He believed that everyone has the ability to be a strong member of the community. He believed in doing what is right for everyone not just himself. He will always be my daddy now and forever. We don’t say good bye we say see you soon. I love you daddy, give momma a hug and kiss from me and the boys 🌸🙏

Deborah - August 22, 2022 at 05:34 PM

RN

what more can be said he is my brother

ROBERT NORRIS - August 26, 2022 at 03:25 PM