



James Loran "Jimmy" Riggs Sr.

January 3, 1943 - January 23, 2019

Saluda, SC

James Loran Riggs, Sr., passed away Wednesday, January 23, 2019, at his home. The son of the late Loran Alexander Riggs and the late Claire Smith Riggs, Jimmy was born in Savannah, GA, on January 3, 1943, and was the middle of five children.

He was raised on a farm in south Georgia and spent many happy days hunting and fishing. He lived with his favorite uncle and aunt, Harold and Lazetta Riggs, and their children, Joy, June, and Jan, when he was old enough to drive so that he could begin working at Kelly's Market in Claxton.

After graduation in 1962, he sought employment with the newly opened Claxton Poultry Company and spent 17 years there. He was trained by his mentor, William Felton Gailey, Sr., learning all aspects of the poultry processing industry which proved to be more valuable than a college degree at the time. In 1979, he moved to Batesburg, SC, to accept employment with Amick Poultry Farms where he served in multiple management positions until his declining health forced his retirement in March 2011.

Jimmy led a very interesting life. As a young man he won several drag races in his 1957 Chevrolet and excelled at skeet shooting, placing 2nd in the World

Skeet Shoot in Savannah at Forest City Gun Club in the early '70s. Some of his happiest moments were spent on the greens playing golf with his friends at Evans Heights Golf Club in Claxton, GA, and at Persimmon Hill Golf Club in Saluda, SC and college football had no bigger fan, especially the Georgia Bulldogs and Clemson Tigers.

Jimmy was a generous, kind and loving man that his family and friends adored. As recently as a few weeks ago, he always made it a special point to give the youngsters in the family some "folding money" when they left his presence as a tribute to his Uncle Harold who did the same thing for him when he was a child.

Surviving are his loving wife of 54 years, Connie Gailey Riggs; his children, Jay Riggs of Trenton, SC, and Sandy Riggs of Columbia, SC; his grandchildren, Heather Riggs of Columbia, SC, and Jonathan Riggs of Saluda, SC. He is also survived by his sisters, Lori Riggs Jenkins of Marietta, GA, and Barbara Riggs Wise of Savannah, GA, and two life-long friends, Jimmy Lanier of Claxton, GA, and Reuben Grant of Saluda, SC.

In addition to his parents, he was predeceased by his infant daughter, Kimberly Ann Riggs, and his brothers, Thomas Lamar Riggs and Charles Riggs.

The family would like to send heartfelt gratitude to his doctors over the past several years, Dr. Bill Sawyer, Dr. Stan Juk, and Dr. Greg Cauthen as well as to his wonderful hospice nurse, Shaunta Moon, Dr. Michelle Floyd, and social worker, Shannon Moody, with Hospice Care of South Carolina for the special care he received this past year. Memorials may be made in his name through the Hospice & Palliative Care Foundation, P.O. Box 151, Drayton, SC 29333 or www.hpcfoundation.org/.

Funeral services will be held 11 a.m., Friday, January 25, 2019 at Celebration Church with Rev. Jerry Brunson officiating. The family will receive friends one hour prior to the service at the church.

Funeral services will be held 11 a.m., Saturday, January 26, 2019 at J. Mellie NeSmith Funeral Home with Rev. Jerry Brunson officiating. Interment will follow in Brewton Cemetery. The family will receive friends one hour prior to the service at the funeral home.

Cemetery Details

Brewton Cemetery

Claxton, GA 30417

Previous Events

Visitation

JAN 25. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Celebration Church
1765 Batesburg Highway
Batesburg, SC 29006

Funeral

JAN 25. 11:00 AM (ET)

Celebration Church
1765 Batesburg Highway
Batesburg, SC 29006

Visitation

JAN 26. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

J. Mellie NeSmith Funeral Home
513 West Main Street
Claxton, GA 30417

Funeral

JAN 26. 11:00 AM (ET)

J. Mellie NeSmith Funeral Home
513 West Main Street
Claxton, GA 30417

Tribute Wall

SM

“ I just saw Jimmy's death. I am so sorry. Having worked with him at Amick Farms for several years, I have to say what a kind person he was. I know he is greatly missed.
Sandra (Sam) McDowell

Sandra McDowell - February 19, 2019 at 01:17 PM

NM

“ Am so sorry to learn of your loss. I always looked forward to seeing Jimmy at the Batesburg Leesville Leisure Center. Quinton and I just found out about Jim today. As Jim and I shared the same health problems, it was always uplifting to see and talk with him. We have missed you all at the center and have been thinking of ya'll.

Nick Martin

Nick Martin - January 29, 2019 at 03:23 PM



“ Peace, Prayers & Blessings - Blue and White was purchased for the family of James Loran "Jimmy" Riggs Sr..



January 25, 2019 at 12:00 PM

JE

“ Lots of good times and conversations with a true FRIEND that will be greatly missed.

Your Family are in our Thoughts and Prayers.

Jerry and Brenda Pow

Jerry - January 24, 2019 at 12:06 PM

BW

“ Jimmy was a caring, smart, giving brother, He and a friend went frog-gigging and cooked frog legs in Mama's favorite skillet. She threw it out and was he in trouble! (He got me into trouble a few times, too!) Jimmy had a loving family, and a wonderful history.. Evans County was named for our (paternal) great-great Uncle Clement Anslem Evans, who was a Confederate General and was with Gen. Robert E. Lee when he surrendered at Appotmattox Court House in VA. And, Charles Spurgeon Smith, our maternal grandfather owned the only elevated store in Claxton, GA and the first miniature golf course in Georgia. Probate Judge, Bert Smith was our mother's uncle. I will miss Jimmy so much...he was 4 years older than me.....called me "little sister" to aggravate our older sister...he loved sports, and seafood, and had a great sense of humor. Rest in peace until I see ypu again. Love and hugs! Barbara Riggs Wise

Barbara Wise - January 23, 2019 at 09:58 PM

CS

“ Sending comfort for your loss. Mr. Jimmy was a kind and special person. May Ms. Connie and the family find comfort that he no longer struggling. Cathy and Arnold Stone

Cathy Stone - January 23, 2019 at 08:28 PM

DW

Thoughts and prayers are with you Connie, Lori, Barbara and family. He fought a good fight. Love you, Cousin Debbie Williamson.

Debbie Williamson - January 24, 2019 at 10:35 PM

JF

Connie & Family, Lori and Barbara & Family: Our thoughts are with you all as you share memories of Jimmy as a wonderful husband, father, grandfather and brother. Sending our love and sympathy, Cousins Jackie & Larry Fall

Jackie and Larry Fall - January 25, 2019 at 07:26 PM