



James T. Blackburn

September 30, 1939 - February 6, 2021

James "JT" Blackburn, 81 of Franklin Grove, passed away on Saturday, February, 6 2021 at home surrounded by his loved ones.

He was born September 30, 1939, in Dixon, IL, the son of Thomas Francis Blackburn and Eva Elizabeth (Sondgeroth) Blackburn. He married Barbara North on August 29, 1959 in Oregon, IL. Barbara preceded him in death on July 24, 2000. He married Mary Ann (Chesley) Mauch on May 31, 2003.

James was a lifelong farmer, he also worked in the fertilizer and petroleum business for many years and received many awards for his service. He later worked as a federal crop adjuster until his retirement.

James earned his FFA IL State Farmer degree in 1957 and his FFA American Farmer degree in 1959. He was a member of the District 271 Board of Education 1979 - 1983 and was a past member of the Franklin Grove Lions Club.

He is survived by his wife, Mary Ann of Franklin Grove; sons: Jeff (Paula) Blackburn of Oregon, IL, Tom (Kathy) Blackburn of Wheaton, IL, Rich (Molly) Blackburn of Amboy, IL, Jeff (Meghan) Clark, Ashton, IL, daughter: Janet (Todd) Sutton of Naperville, IL, and daughter-in-law, Cheryl (Bob) Allen, step-children: David (Wanda) Mauch, Larry (Beth White) Mauch, Denise (Tom) Bauer, Craig (Mary) Mauch, Darwin (Martha) Mauch and Jennifer (Maury) Wilmoth, step-brother John (Mary) Leffelman, Amboy, IL and 26 grandchildren, eight great-grandchildren and many nieces and nephews.

James was preceded in death by his parents, his first wife, Barbara, sister,

Geraldine Heckman, son James R. Blackburn, granddaughter, Joellen Mauch, step-brother Sylvan Leffelman and his wife Virginia.

The family would like to express their deep gratitude to all of the staff at Serenity Hospice & Home, and to his night time "Angel" Gwen Weidman.

Visitation will be on Wednesday Feb. 10, 2021 from 4:00 to 7:00 PM with the Rosary at 7:00 PM at the Jones Funeral Home in Dixon.

Funeral services will be on Thursday Feb. 11, 2021 beginning with a 10:00 AM prayer service at the funeral home followed by a 10:30 AM Mass of Christian Burial at St Patrick Catholic Church with the Rev. Keith Romke officiating.

Burial will follow in Oakwood Cemetery in Dixon.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be directed to Serenity Hospice and Home, 1658 S. Illinois Route 2, Oregon, IL 61061 or St. Judes Children's Research Hospital, www.stjude.org.

Cemetery Details

Oakwood

416 S Dement Ave
Dixon, IL 61021

Previous Events

Visitation

FEB 10. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Jones Funeral Home, Dixon
204 South Ottawa
Dixon, IL 61021
Ph: 815-288-2241
info@thejonesfh.com
<https://www.thejonesfh.com>

Service

FEB 11. 10:30 AM (CT)

St. Patrick Catholic Church in Dixon
612 S. Highland Ave.
Dixon, IL 61021
(815) 284-7719
office@stpatrickdixon.comcastbiz.net
<http://www.stpatrickdixon.org>

Tribute Wall



“ *James T. Blackburn*

October 08, 2023 at 11:30 AM



“ *James T. Blackburn*

December 31, 2022 at 02:40 AM



“ *We are so sorry for all of your families loss as Jim certainly was a very special Man. He was our neighbor on Hoosier Road for most of my days in the neighborhood. He came from a Great Family and carried that Greatness into his whole life. Please know you all have our Deepest Sympathy. Sincerely, Steen and Kathie Full Smith*

Kathleen Smith - February 11, 2021 at 01:06 PM



“ *I am so sorry to hear of Jim's passing. I have fond memories of Jim and our families years ago. He was a great guy. My heart goes out to all of his family. Sharon Brockwell*

Sharon Brockwell - February 10, 2021 at 07:24 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of James T. Blackburn.*



February 10, 2021 at 03:25 PM

CJ

“ *Craig, Mary, Jaclyn, Michael, Clark, Jake, & Joanna purchased the Country Basket Blooms for the family of James T. Blackburn.*



Craig, Mary, Jaclyn, Michael, Clark, Jake, & Joanna - February 10, 2021 at 10:00 AM

WF

“ *With love, your GDM family purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of James T. Blackburn.*



With love, your GDM family - February 10, 2021 at 09:28 AM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of James T. Blackburn.*



February 10, 2021 at 07:23 AM

JS

“ *Our deepest sympathy to you and your family. Mrs. Bill Schmidt and family*

Jody Schmidt - February 09, 2021 at 09:12 PM

WW

“ Wayne and Sharon Wilson purchased the *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum* for the family of James T. Blackburn.



Wayne and Sharon Wilson - February 09, 2021 at 10:54 AM

AW

“ My deepest sympathy goes out to you and your family for the loss of such a great man. My prayers are with you as you move through your grief. May you see your father’s wisdom in all that you do, and recognize his kindness in your own heart. May you always feel him with you today because he is always with you in your memories and in all of life’s lessons that he instilled in you. Carry that on, and he will live through you.

John 14:1-4 - “Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. In my Father’s house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also. And you know the way to where I am going.”

Ann Wege

Ann Wege - February 09, 2021 at 10:44 AM

BR

“ Brian, Kate and Sam Russell purchased the *Medium Dish Garden* for the family of James T. Blackburn.



Brian, Kate and Sam Russell - February 09, 2021 at 08:48 AM

JD

“ *My deepest condolences to the family. JT was absolutely among the finest men that I have ever known. I feel so blessed to have known him for so many years and truly grateful for how he always treated me. He was an amazing friend and best neighbor you could wish for. He will be missed by so many*



John Dillon - February 08, 2021 at 07:12 PM

DA

“ *Prayers to the family*

Dale - February 08, 2021 at 04:11 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of James T. Blackburn.*



February 08, 2021 at 04:00 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of James T. Blackburn.*



February 08, 2021 at 03:31 PM

RB

“ I am so so sorry Jim and their family. I have a lot of good memories of Jim What comes to thought first is when Jim knew that I was cooking or smoking ribs he would love it to help me with the ribs. most of all he loved to lather the ribs. we did quite a bit. I will miss my friend forever. I love that man forever. God bless and rest in peace.

roland

roland brault - February 08, 2021 at 02:18 PM

SD

“ Mary Ann and BLACKBURN family: Heaven just gained a great family man and friend to all he met. We knew going to be some laughs when we got together. During the years I've known Jim we shared some good times and some tough ones. When Jim was sick with cancer we blended our two families together to help out and support Jim in any way we could, Thank you Jim for the wonderful Grandpa you were to our mutual grandchildren. Also treated our daughter and her spouse with respect and love. It didn't go unnoticed! You are going to be missed but those who went before you will welcome you home.

Sandra DeVries - February 08, 2021 at 01:57 PM

SU

“ Jim was a true gentleman in every sense of the word. He was the first to welcome us to IM inFlorida. God speed friend.

Sue - February 08, 2021 at 01:57 PM

MK

“ So many wonderful memories we have of JT and the Blackburn family! Sending our sympathy to all of you. Ron and Mardelle Kennay

Mardelle Kennay - February 08, 2021 at 01:40 PM

SH

“ My name is Stan Haenitsch I have know Jim most all of my life. We both grew up on farms about 2 miles apart. We would help them make hay, his mother made the best Angel Food Cake that anyone ever could make. His Father Tom died one night at the old gym in Ashton Square dancing. When his sister got married his Uncle Pete had walked into Ashton and had a few to many to drink, he stopped at our place on his way home having a hard time walking so Dad gave him a ride the rest of the way home. Jim and My cousin Carmen Haenitsch and myself went through grade school together an eight grade graduation class of 3 then Jim went to Ashton for High School and I went to Franklin Grove. I kinda lost track of Jim after school I know that when his dad died he had to grow up fast. He made a good life for himself and his family

Stan Haenitsch - February 08, 2021 at 01:37 PM

RP

“ Jim, I am sorry to see you go. I always envied you for being able to stay with the land and live near friends and family. I'm sure you had your share of hardship, as we all do, but, from my side of the fence, I figure you had a good run and I know you were a good and kind neighbor to all those around you.

I enjoyed seeing you at the class reunion. I apologize for not recognizing you. As you may remember from comments I made at the reunion, I visited Franklin Grove more than Ashton until I started school in Ashton. I did a little research and found that the population of Franklin Grove today is almost the same as in 1835. What a beautiful and historic town to retire in.

I hope your passing was not painful. A live span of 81 years is about all we can ask for, and the rest is borrowed time, I think. I know you were fit and capable of enjoying life when I saw you at the reunion, so I'm confident you didn't have a long, drawn out illness that dragged you down.

You were a great guy and I'm sure you are survived by some fine family and friends who will be talking about you for generations to come.

Bye, Jim.

Ron Page - February 08, 2021 at 10:56 AM

BH

“ MaryAnn and family, we are so sorry to hear of Jim's passing. You are all in our prayers. Ed and Barb He kel

barbara Henkel - February 07, 2021 at 10:58 PM