



## James(Jim) F. Russell Jr.

October 26, 1935 - July 23, 2018

James (Jim) Franklin Russell, Jr passed away Monday July 23, 2018 at a Bluefield hospital after a long battle with a respiratory illness. He was the only child of Frank and Ruth Maxey Russell who preceded him in death. He is survived by his loving wife and best friend of over 65 years, Tonia Harrison Russell of Bluefield, WV, his Daughter, Lynn Russell Williams of Bluefield WV and her children, Jeremy Williams and wife Brandy, and their son Shad of Clearwater, FL, and Laura Williams Clark and her husband Stephen of Killeen, TX. His son; Jeffrey Carl Russell and his wife Jo, of Blue Ridge, VA, their daughter, Ashley and husband Adam Hollingsworth, and their children Jason, Jacob, Braydon and Brooke of Roanoke, VA, son; John and Syndi Diller and their children Jake and Ethan of Algonquin, IL.

Born in Bluefield WV October 26, 1935, he graduated from Beaver High School class of '53. He earned a B. S. Degree from Concord University in 1957. Began his business career at the Bank of Pocahontas as Assistant Cashier. In 1959, he joined Virginia Foods of Bluefield as advertising Manager. After 35 years service he retired as Vice President and General Manager.

During his business career, he was an active member of WV Wholesalers Assn, VA Food Dealers Assn, VA Wholesalers Assn, and National American Wholesale Grocers Assn where he served as a Vice President/Convention Planning Team/Task Force, and as Division Managers Exposition Host. He served as Vice President of the Greater Bluefield Chamber of Commerce,

President of the Bluefield Sales Executive Club.

He was active in many charitable/civic organizations; Chairman, Salvation Army Advisory Board; Chairman, United Way Commercial Division; Eighteen years on City of Bluefield Planning/Zoning Commission; Board of Directors, Bluefield Union Mission.

His volunteer activities included, Bluefield Regional Medical Center; Chairman, West Virginia Homecoming '96, City of Bluefield; Chamber of Commerce Ambassadors Club; Bluefield Coal Show; Better Living Show and Mountain Festival. He served as a Hokie Representative of the Virginia Tech Athletic Fund since its inception.

He was a veteran of the U S Army and a member of American Legion Riley-Vest Post 9, Bluefield Masonic Lodge 85, Bluefield Chapter Rose Croix, Scottish Rites Bodies 32 Degree Mason, Bluefield Commandery No 19, Knights Templar, Beni Kedem Shrine Temple, Bluefield Shrine Patrol, Royal Order of Jesters Court 111, Mountaineer Ridge Runners, Princeton Elks Lodge 1459, University Club, Past President Clover Club, Bluefield Country Club, Fincastle Country Club, Honorable Order of Kentucky Colonels, Concord He-Mans Assn, and the Sons of Confederate Veterans.

He was an active member of First Christian Church, Bluefield WV, where he served as Deacon.

In keeping with Jim's wishes, his body has been cremated.

A memorial service celebrating the life of Jim will be conducted at 11:00 AM on Thursday July 26, 2018 at First Christian Church, Bluefield WV with Pastor Doug McDaniel officiating. Friends may call at the Church from 10:00AM until the service hour.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions can be made to Bluefield Union Mission, 2203 Bluefield Ave., Bluefield WV, 24701.

Those wishing to share memories or condolence messages with the family may do so by visiting [www.MercerFuneralHome.com](http://www.MercerFuneralHome.com). Mercer Funeral Home & Crematory is serving the family of Jim Russell.



# Tribute Wall



“ *James(Jim) F. Russell Jr.*

October 05, 2023 at 06:08 PM



“ *Jim and Tonia have been friends of ours for years having spent most of our lives in Bluefield. Other than they being such big Hokie fans I would say that we have a lot in common. Tonia please accept our sincere sympathy. We will always remember Jim as a good friend and one with whom we enjoyed many good times together. Our love to you and your family.*

**Mike and Kay Sudduth** - July 31, 2018 at 09:31 AM



“ *Condolences, to Tonia and family. Many memories of working with Jim at Virginia Foods.*

**John Harman** - July 28, 2018 at 04:07 PM



“ *Mrs. Russell... So sorry to read of Mr. Russell's passing. I had the utmost respect for him as my boss. He and my Dad (Carl) were friends through the years. May all your memories bring you comfort. You were a great 6th grade teacher. Sending prayers. Carleena Sword Blankenship*

**Carleena Sword Blankenship** - July 27, 2018 at 08:28 PM



“ *Mrs. Russell...so very sorry for your loss. My thoughts and prayers are with you.*

**Derrick Felts** - July 27, 2018 at 05:39 PM

JM

“ *Jane Mustard lit a candle in memory of James(Jim) F. Russell Jr.*



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**jane mustard** - July 27, 2018 at 09:51 AM

BJ

“ *I was very sorry to hear of the loss of Mr. Russell. I wish to express my condolences to his family.*  
*Bob Jackson*

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**Bob Jackson** - July 27, 2018 at 09:21 AM

PE

“ *TONIA, CAN'T REMEMBER WHAT YEAR YOU AND JIM WERE IN ONE OF MY CLASSES AT CONCORD. SO SORRY YOU'VE LOST YOUR WONDERFUL HUBBY. HOPE YOU ARE DOING WELL AS YOU GO ON ALONE. LOOKS LIKE YOU HAVE LOTS OF FAMILY TO GO WITH YOU ON THE REST OF YOUR JOURNEY. PEGGY EDMUNDS*

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**PEGGY EDMUNDS** - July 25, 2018 at 05:12 PM

JB

“ *Our deepest love and sympathy to you Tonia and your family. You have 65 years of wonderful memories. May that help carry you through in this time of deepest sorrow.*  
*Jack and Judy Burchette*

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**Jack and Judy Burchette** - July 25, 2018 at 09:42 AM



“ *May the love of God surround you and your family during this difficult time,  
May you come to know that the love of God is with you always,*

*May your memories of James F. Russell, Jr., give you peace,  
comfort and strength...*

*Rest now in the arms of our Lord your mission on earth is complete.  
I thank you for your service to our Country and my Freedom. You  
will not be forgotten.*

*My thoughts  
and prayers to the family of ....*

*US Army Veteran, James F. Russell, Jr., is “A True American Hero”  
God Bless†*

*† Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life  
for his friends. John 15:13 †*

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**Cheryl Skinner, Tri-state Military Museum** - July 25, 2018 at 04:23 AM

GS

“ *Mrs. Russell, Lynn, Jeff, and Family. So sorry for your loss. I pray  
you all will be comforted and blessed by all the thoughts and  
prayers of friends and family during this difficult time and as you  
celebrate the accomplished and full life of Jim. Gary and Wendy  
Spry.*

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**Gary Spry** - July 24, 2018 at 05:39 PM

CP

“ *My sympathies to Toni and the family in this difficult time.*

*Carmelita Peters*

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**carmelita Peters** - July 24, 2018 at 04:28 PM

JB

“ So sorry for your loss.

Joan Buchanan - July 24, 2018 at 04:02 PM

RY

“ I will remember Jim as a proud Hokie! You will be missed Jim!

Ron Yost - July 24, 2018 at 03:07 PM

IS

“ Toni - I am so sorry to hear about Jim's passing. Want you to know how much Jim and your friendship meant to me the six years I was in Mercer County. You were both always so supportive and welcomed me into your home and included me in so many great times. My thoughts and prayers are with you and your family. - Sue Shepard Simmons

I. Sue Shepard Simmons - July 24, 2018 at 12:23 PM

NS

“ Jim was so special and he was the one that held our Beaver Class together. He will be so missed. He did the best reunions for all of us in the Class of 53. "One of life's greatest treasures that God in His goodness sends is the love that binds hearts together in the covenant known as friends." Norma and Tom Stevens.

Norma and Tom Stevens - July 24, 2018 at 09:06 AM

BM

“ So sad to hear about Jim tonight. I worked with Jim for (10) years and we enjoyed the success that came our way during that time. Our love and prayers for Toni and the family.  
Brad and Sandra McIntosh

Brad McIntosh - July 23, 2018 at 10:20 PM

KM

“ So saddened to read of Jim’s death. My thoughts and prayers are with you and your family in this tough time ... Keith McKenzie

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**Keith McKenzie** - July 23, 2018 at 09:44 PM

AW

“ My deepest condolences to Tonia, Jeff and Lynn and families. Sending love and prayers.  
Anne Wright. (Jo’s sister)

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**anne wright** - July 23, 2018 at 09:14 PM

FR

“ So sorry to hear of Jim's death, he was always upbeat and positive even in later life will he became very ill. Best, Frank&Maria Pochick

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**frankpochick** - July 23, 2018 at 09:07 PM

TJ

“ Please accept my condolences to the entire Russell family, Jim was a great guy and will be sorely missed by all that knew him.

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**Todd M. Johnson** - July 23, 2018 at 08:03 PM

GS

“ Tonia, Jeff, and Lynn,  
We were so saddened to hear about Jim. Our thoughts, and prayers are with you all. Remember the good times! Had a lot of good times tailgating with all the Russell clan in Hokie Nation, and also partying at the house back in the day. Jim was a ton of fun! He will be missed.  
Love,  
Greg and Laura

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**Greg Spry** - July 23, 2018 at 07:18 PM

JS

“ *Mrs. Russell, Jeff and Lynn  
We are so sorry to hear about this, please know that you all are in  
our prayers and thoughts.*

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**Joe and Karen Simon** - July 23, 2018 at 06:24 PM

AM

“ *Tonia. Lynn and family, we are so sorry for your loss. Your family  
was so  
kind to our Kimberly over the years as Lynn was her wonderful  
friend. Love  
and prayers for all of you, Anita and Bob*

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**Anita Martin** - July 23, 2018 at 04:06 PM

HC

*So sorry to hear about Jim. Toni and family are in our prayers. May Jim  
Rest In Peace.*

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**Herman & Norma St. Clair** - July 23, 2018 at 10:28 PM

NH

*Tonia ,Jeff,Lynn and other family members, my thoughts and prayers  
are with you. Our lives were intertwined throughout the years and I  
have been thinking of all the good times we had together. So sorry for  
your loss..i pray God gives you the peace that passes all  
understanding. Love to you all, Nancy.*

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**Nancy Hedges** - July 24, 2018 at 01:48 AM

EH

*Toni and Lynn,  
We are so sorry for your loss of husband and father. It sounds like you  
have many wonderful memories to help comfort you in the days and  
weeks ahead. Please know that our family will be thinking of you and  
praying for you.  
Love, Elaine, Bill, Christopher, and Katie Hincer*

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**Elaine Hincer** - July 25, 2018 at 09:28 PM

DC

*Toni and Family, Sorry to read of your loss. You are in my thoughts and prayers. Dorothy Kinser Chudina*

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**Dorothy Chudina** - July 26, 2018 at 08:44 AM

SB

*Toni, Teena and I are so sorry to hear of Jimmy's passing. You are in our thoughts. You have been his rock for years. Please know we will always value your devotion to everyone in your life. Love you. Sharon Belcher*

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**Sharon Belcher** - July 27, 2018 at 07:48 AM