

Lt. Col. Ret. - Dr. James Lee "Jim" Strom



Jim was born on December 13, 1933 in McCormick, South Carolina, in the heart of the Old Ninety Six District, amidst the uncertain times of The Great Depression and passed into everlasting life with his Lord and Savior Jesus Christ on January 29, 2020.

He was the son of Charles Lee and Ruby Jernigan Strom. He professed his faith and claimed salvation with his baptism at the age of 11. For the rest of his life, Jim modeled the Christian walk for all who were blessed to cross his path...he walked the talk.

The first in his family to attend college, Jim graduated from Clemson University in 1956 with a Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering. To his final days, he proudly claimed the heritage of membership in the Clemson Corps and his beloved alma mater.

Jim proudly served the nation he so loved. Following his graduation from Clemson, he was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the United States Army and served on active duty, including a tour in Germany. He left active duty in 1959 as a First Lieutenant and continued serving in the Army Reserves, retiring as a Lieutenant Colonel. He loved all that was right and good about the United States and the opportunities it affords anyone who claims the title of American. His love of country fell behind only his love for God and family in terms of how Jim ordered the priorities of life.

Jim met the love of his life, Margaret Faye Adams, in 1959, and they were married on September 10, 1960. For over 59 years, they modeled what the covenant of marriage means to their family and friends. Together, they took immense pride and joy in the lives of each of their children, Mark, Stephen, Nancy, and Sharon. Known as "Big Daddy" to his beloved grandchildren, he enjoyed every opportunity to visit with them. His determination to provide for and protect his family was demonstrated right up to his final hours...he was and is always there for them.

Jim's professional career spanned five decades. As a life-long learner, he firmly believed that education was the key to unlock the opportunities the United States offers to anyone. He had brief stints in the 1960's working on the Polaris Submarine Project at the Charleston Naval Shipyard and with Continental Can in Augusta, GA, before transitioning into his life's work of higher education fundraising, moving the family back to his beloved alma mater in 1971. Throughout his career in higher education, he served Clemson University, California Polytechnic State University in San Luis Obispo, and Appalachian State University as Chief Development Officer and Vice President of University Advancement. His last professional endeavor implemented a National Science Foundation grant that provided distance learning into rural Appalachia. For this work, he was recognized by the Governor of North Carolina with induction into the Order of the Long Leaf Pine. His passion for aligning people's philanthropic

desires in support of the mission of higher education mission was always evident.

He is survived by his beloved wife, Margaret of the home; sons Mark (wife Julie) of Milledgeville, GA and Stephen (wife Paula) of Lakeville, MN; daughters Nancy Strom Morgan (husband Ben) and Sharon Strom Frye (husband David), both of Anderson, SC; nine beloved grand-children, Allison, Elizabeth (fiancé Grant), Bethany, Mitchell, Mattison, Katelyn, Joshua, Walker, and Zachary, and one great-grandson, Kane; and a cherished sister Barbara Strom Lindsey of Boiling Springs, SC. He was predeceased by his parents, Charles Lee and Ruby Jernigan Strom of Charleston, SC, and his mother-in-law Thelma Pope Adams of Boone, NC, whom he adored and provided for and sheltered until her passing.

Jim was always a glass half full kind of man, who saw opportunity and positives to be seized, even under the most trying circumstances. Always upbeat and quick to bring a funny story into a conversation to lighten any moment, he loved the life and the family God had provided him, and his constant smile was a testament to this. To his family, he wishes this to be a time of celebration, he is Home with his Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. In typical Jim Strom fashion, he went first to blaze the path and ensure he would be there to embrace each of us upon our arrival.

The celebration of the life of Jim Strom was on Monday February 3, 2020 at the First Baptist Church of Clemson followed by a military honors graveside service at the Old Stone Church Cemetery in Clemson.

A message of condolence may be sent to the family by visiting www.standardfuneralcenter.com

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to First Baptist Church of Clemson Foundation; the Clemson University Foundation Strom Adams Endowed Scholarship supporting the Clemson Corps; the Georgia Military College Foundation Strom Tetrick Endowed Scholarship; the Appalachian State University Foundation Dr. John and Jan Thomas Leadership Scholarship for Appalachian Upperclassmen; or another charity of your choosing.