



## James David Chamberlain

August 18, 1918 - March 27, 2020

James David “J.D.” Chamberlain, 101, of Mooresville, died on Friday, March 27, 2020. The former co-owner and publisher of the Mooresville Tribune, who also was an active and respected church and civic worker, moved to his eternal home in Heaven leaving a loving and grateful family, and numerous dear friends and colleagues, with many memories and stories to celebrate and cherish. He is survived by son David Chamberlain (Donna), daughter Donna C. McConnell (Bill); grandchildren Dennis Chamberlain (Leticia), Dan Chamberlain (Alyse), Kelli M. Wolf (Joey), Guy McConnell (Jackie); 6 great grandchildren Mateo, Zaki, and Sofia Chamberlain, Harper and M.J. Wolf, and Kennedy McConnell; and sisters-in-law Marion S. Chamberlain, Sue Kyles and Ann Wilson, and brother-in-law M.W. (Nick) Nixon.

J.D. was preceded in death by parents James Lon and Sallie Christopher Chamberlain; also, by his wife of 63 years, Nelda W. Chamberlain; son, Chester Steven Chamberlain; and brothers, Roy, Banks, and James Chamberlain; and sisters, Edna Morrow, Lillian Morrison, and Nadine Nixon.

J.D. was a WWII Navy veteran serving on 2 aircraft carriers, both named the Block Island. The first fought enemy vessels in the Atlantic until torpedoed and sunk by a Nazi sub. The new Block Island carried the war to the Japanese in the Pacific where J.D. continued his assignment as a radioman 2nd Class. Prior to the war, J.D. graduated from high school in 1936 at the Junior Order of United American Mechanics Children’s Home in Tiffin, OH, with a major in printing and working as the school’s athletic student manager. Before and after the war, J.D. worked at newspapers in Statesville, Mooresville, and Kinston, and taught printing and Linotype at Danville (VA) Technical Institute.

In 1952, J.D. moved to Mooresville to manage the Tribune. In 1968 he and editor Len Sullivan, bought and ran the newspaper until they sold it in 1986. J.D. was an active worker and leader in Mooresville’s First Baptist Church, serving on several pastor search committees and being treasurer for many years. Likewise, he worked in a number of civic organizations including the Mooresville Chamber of Commerce, the Iredell County

Industrial Bonds Commission, and the Optimist Club.

A funeral will be held at 2 PM on Sunday, March 29, at Cavin-Cook Funeral Home with Rev. Eddie Hicks officiating. Due to the coronavirus outbreak, ushers will assist with social distancing and maximum allowable group size. After the funeral, the body will lie in state until 4 PM for paying last respects, and family will be available in groups of 5 or less. Links to watch the funeral live or to view later can be found at

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC864hAs96dTRLVVL1la0Qlw/videos?view=57&flow=list&app=desktop>

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Hospice & Palliative Care of Iredell County Mooresville Capital Campaign, 2347 Simonton Rd, Statesville, NC 28625 or First Baptist Church Debt Reduction or Music Ministry, 150 S. Church St, Mooresville, NC 28115. Cavin-Cook Funeral Home & Crematory, Mooresville, is serving the Chamberlain family. Condolences may be made to the family at [www.cavin-cook.com](http://www.cavin-cook.com).

# Events

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**APR** **Graveside Service** 11:00AM - 11:30AM

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Iredell Memorial Park

2304 Shelton Ave., Statesville, NC, US, 28677

# Comments

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“ JD and I met at Cracker Barrel and realized we were birthday twins. We developed a great friendship and I will always have a special place in my heart for him. - Lindsay Jack



**Lindsay Jack** - April 03, 2020 at 09:04 AM

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“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



**Michael Roberts** - April 01, 2020 at 12:09 PM

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“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



**Teresa C Lewis** - March 31, 2020 at 10:51 PM

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“ J. D. Was a blessing to us, he always left us smiling, and supported us for many years. He was a very inspiring man. Our prayers and thoughts are with you.

Tim and Tammy Whitener

Tim Whitener - March 31, 2020 at 04:54 PM

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“ So very sorry to read this - but I know Nelda has waited for this day to see JD again. I loved to hear him talk about her after she passed. What a sweet and wonderful man, I enjoyed serving as deacon and steward at FBC Mooresville with him. They don't make men like that anymore but they should. Much love and prayers. Rob Reading

Rob Reading - March 31, 2020 at 09:48 AM

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“ I loved being able to go up to the Mooresville Tribune and talk to Mr Chamberlain! He was always so encouraging to me growing up and learning to play the piano for the church

Anne Powers - March 30, 2020 at 09:04 PM

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“ Bill and I have been so blessed to know and love J.D. . We extend our sympathy to all of the Chamberlain families.

Bill and Judy McCall - March 29, 2020 at 08:27 PM

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“ To the family of J.D Chamberlain:  
You all are in our thoughts and prayers! J.D. was such sweet person! Love and prayers!  
Jennifer Eakle Cook. and Al Eakle

Jennifer Eakle Cook and Al Eakle - March 29, 2020 at 05:31 PM

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“ Thank you for the beautiful memories of such a precious man. When we began church at First Baptist, JD "gave us a seat" on the front pew of the back section of the sanctuary and we remained there, sitting with our new best friend, until he was no longer able to attend services. JD was a joy and loved chatting with me and his little princess, Kaylyn. What a beautiful fulfilling life he led! We are honored to have known and loved JD. Praying for you all.

**Teresa C Lewis** - March 29, 2020 at 03:21 PM

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“ 2 files added to the album Memories Album



**Michael Roberts** - March 29, 2020 at 02:53 PM

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“ It was an honor to visit my neighbor, JD, in his home on Main Street several times in recent years to share his friendship and listen to his stories. He was a kind and loving Southern gentleman. I was impressed with his depth and breadth of knowledge and his clarity of mind. He will be remembered for his heroism during World War II and in the Mooresville community. Well done, good and faithful servant.

**Julie Memrick** - March 29, 2020 at 02:37 PM

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“ David and Donna,

My family has shared many wonderful memories with your family for over 50 years. all of my brothers and sisters were so honored to see your Dad at his 100th birthday celebration and share some of those outstanding memories. Thank you so much for sharing that celebration with the town. Your Dad was a true hero, a leader, and boots on the ground worker on all fronts in his life.

I am sure he was welcomed into heaven with the sought after words that all Christians long to hear, "Well done, good and faithful servant".

Prayers and love to you both and all of your family.

Joy Maddrey Miller

**Joy Miller** - March 29, 2020 at 01:41 PM

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“ Uncle JD lived his life as a wonderful example of how to spread love throughout his family and community. He was so proud to have served his country speaking often and sharing pictures of his history with the Navy. I know he loved the Lord which was evident through his lifelong devotion to Him. My heart breaks for the entire family as I know it's so hard letting go of those so near and dear to our hearts. He will ALWAYS be with you ALL remaining forever within your heart. This is the Power of our Father to carry on All that is Good sharing His Love with everyone...just like your Daddy did; a shining example of genuine love will always remain in every heart he touched. May God provide you ALL with strength, comfort and peace knowing today you're celebrating a life so well lived. I'll miss my pit stop in Mooresville and I'll always think of how he brought the final piece of the family Home as he joins his brothers and sisters in heaven. God is Sooooo Good to us to have allowed us to have people in our lives like my Uncle JD. Love you ALL! Big BIG Hugs!!!

Carol

**Carol Desmarais** - March 29, 2020 at 09:17 AM

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“ Dear Donna and David,  
Please know that you are in my thoughts and prayers at this time. Your father had such a positive influence in my life as he did in that of numerous others. Growing up with you at FBC I always was encouraged by your parents; their kind words, your dad’s remarkable sense of humor, his beaming smile and twinkling eyes and the Christian example that he set for all of us. I know that you will miss him terribly as will all of Mooresville. May God give you peace and assurance, and the knowledge of your dad’s presence in Heaven today.

**Susan Kelley Brown** - March 29, 2020 at 03:01 AM

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“ I am so saddened to hear this. He was such an amazing man who taught so many, my sons included, how to love the Lord. My prayers are with you all as you celebrate his life. God truly welcomed home a true and faithful servant.  
Love to all,  
Denise Graves

**Denise Graves** - March 29, 2020 at 12:51 AM

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“ Dear David & Donna, JD was one of the most influential people in my life as a business man, a stewardship partner, a MILITARY HERO and one of the most outstanding citizens of Mooresville. I will never forget that laugh of his. Nor will I ever cease to be amazed by his amazing memory. His stories were always such a delight !  
  
He is already sorely missed. Connie & my prayers are with you and your family.  
  
Hugh Sykes

**Hugh Sykes** - March 28, 2020 at 07:29 PM

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“ Dear Donna and David, Janielle and I are so sad for you and your families! We know where your daddy is! He lived a long, long time. It was such a joy to teach his two children and meeting them from time to time over the years. Mr. Chamberlain and his wife were so supportive of me as a teacher and as a friend. I shall always remember him coming into Corine's for lunch with David and his wife. His mind remained so keen! Know that we will be thinking of you and praying that the days without him will become easier as the years pass. Love, Roy (Monsieur) and Janielle

**Roy and Janielle Watkins** - March 28, 2020 at 12:11 PM

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“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of James David Chamberlain.



March 28, 2020 at 10:04 AM

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“ Fine friend who I will truly miss. Fine example to each of us. No more pain nor suffering. Praying for those left behind.

**Tom Nixon** - March 28, 2020 at 09:15 AM

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“ I had the pleasure and honor of working together with JD for many years where he served as a Chamber Ambassador, he was actually a founder of the group. I cherished every moment and learned a lot about the United States. He loved his country, friends and cherished his wife and family. I'm a better person because I knew JD. Rest In Peace. God bless the family. Sylvia Spuryb



**sylvia spury** - March 27, 2020 at 08:43 PM

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“ To the Chamberlain Family, I send my condolences. He was a good person and the Tribune was a crowning glory

God bless you all.

Willie



**Willie Beaver** - March 27, 2020 at 07:45 PM

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“ J.D. was a special man. I served with him on several committees at First Baptist Church the most memorable one was Finance which at that time was a 5 year term. He always had a funny story to tell and loved to make me as well as other laugh which he did every Sunday. At his 100th Birthday Celebration he reminded that he was the first one to show me around the church. He did and made sure my children got to the correct Sunday School classes. That was in 1972. Praying for your wonderful family. I am sure you are still telling your stories. Love to all of you.

Ginger Feather

**Ginger Feather** - March 27, 2020 at 06:24 PM



“ JD was a fine Christian gentleman and will be missed by so many friends! Don and I loved him! Suzanne and Don Markofski

**Don Markofski** - March 30, 2020 at 08:36 PM