



## James Lee Hardy, Jr

February 8, 1950 - September 19, 2024

James "Jae" Lee Hardy Jr., born on February 8, 1950, passed away peacefully on September 19, 2024, at the age of 74. He was raised in Moultrie, Georgia, but had made North Carolina his home for many years. Jae was a devoted husband, father, brother, and above all, a loving granddad.

He is preceded in death by his parents, Cornelia P. Hardy and James Lee Hardy Sr., and his sister, Connie Mullins. He is survived by his beloved wife of 46 years, Mary L. Hardy; his three children, Jennifer L. Ayers (Drew), James Lee Hardy III, and Margaret "Meg" E. Hardy; and his two cherished granddaughters, Aubrey Ayers (10) and Caroline Ayers (6), who were the lights of his life. He is also survived by his sister Jane H. Brown, and his brother Robert Hardy.

Jae earned his bachelor's and master's degrees in engineering from the University of Georgia and later completed his MBA at St. Ambrose University. He was a proud member of Mensa International, reflecting his deep intellectual curiosity and love for learning. Throughout his career, Jae was a dedicated and accomplished professional engineer, whose work was a testament to his discipline and expertise.

As a father, Jae was present and active in his children's lives. He could often be found at dance and cheer recitals, soccer games, football games, or

anywhere his kids needed his support. He served as an assistant scoutmaster for his son's Boy Scout troop, teaching valuable life skills and encouraging leadership. Jae was always ready to lend his expertise during home renovations, offering not just moral support but also his engineering skills for the many projects his children undertook.

Outside of his career, Jae was a man of many passions and interests. A lifelong Georgia Bulldogs fan, he loved cheering on his team. He had a remarkable talent for sewing, baking, grilling, and even crafting his own knives, finding great joy in creating with his hands. He also cherished the peaceful moments at the cabin he and Mary shared in Millers Creek, NC, where they would sit together and listen to the calming sounds of the creek. Road trips were another shared passion-Jae loved hitting the road with his copilot Mary but never passed up the chance to embark on a new adventure with other loved ones, always eager to explore and make memories.

In retirement, Jae fully embraced his favorite role of "Granddad." His greatest joy was spending time with Aubrey and Caroline. He deeply valued his family, and his granddaughters held a special place in his heart.

A devoted husband, father, and grandfather, Jae found his most fulfilling years in the moments spent with his family. His legacy of love and devotion will live on in the lives of all who knew him.

A graveside service will be held at 11 AM, Monday, September 23, 2024, at Glenwood Memorial Park, Mooresville, with Rev. Timothy Friar officiating.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to the American Heart Association ([www.heart.org](http://www.heart.org)) in Jae's memory.

Cavin-Cook Funeral Home, Mooresville, is serving the family of Mr. Hardy.

Condolences may be made to the family at [www.cavin-cook.com](http://www.cavin-cook.com).

# Cemetery Details

## Glenwood Memorial Park

273 Glenwood Drive  
Mooresville, NC 28115

# Previous Events

## Graveside Service

SEP **23**. 11:00 AM - 11:30 AM (ET)

Glenwood Memorial Park  
273 Glenwood Drive  
Mooresville, NC 28115

# Tribute Wall

SW

“ Peggy and I send our condolences to Mary and the family. The Timber Ridge community will always remember his warm smile and willingness to help out. Visiting with Jae and Mary just made your day brighter. I'll miss his texts letting me know he had checked on our cabin and all was well. A fine respectable man.

Scott Wilson - October 05, 2024 at 10:12 AM

SH

“ I'm so sad to her of Jae's passing. We went to school together at MHS! He was a great guy and supported his school by attending our reunions! He loved the Packers!! He won't be forgotten, his sweet and kind sole was impeccable. The Class of 1968 sends sincere condolences💔💔

Susan Hardin - September 29, 2024 at 03:01 PM

TT

“ I worked with Jae for many years and I think I know anyone with more integrity and just a truly good person My family and I will keep you in our prayers.

Tim Taylor - September 24, 2024 at 11:51 AM

NU

“ Our deepest sympathy, thoughts and prayers are with all of Jae's family. May God give you strength, comfort and peace during this sad and difficult time.

Blessings from Jane's Ivy Lane Friends and Neighbors, Moultrie GA

Nancy Reeves Usry - September 23, 2024 at 10:31 AM

JH

“ With deepest sympathy our class is holding you and Jae’s family up in prayer . Since his funeral is out of town we will donate to the American Heart Association. Lots of love!  
Class of MHS 1967

June Higgs - September 23, 2024 at 08:54 AM

MM

Wishing the family peace and love

Margaret Mckinnie - September 23, 2024 at 11:57 AM

ME

“ Morgan E. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of James Lee Hardy, Jr.

Morgan E. - September 22, 2024 at 10:24 PM

JJ

“ Jeana Jacobs lit a candle in memory of James Lee Hardy, Jr



Jeana Jacobs - September 22, 2024 at 05:13 PM

JJ

“ Larry and I only knew Jae for only 3 years after moving into our community. Larry was always so delighted to speak with Jae about his wood carvings, all the concerts and music they both enjoyed and that bottle of Dickel on top of his cabinet in the garage. He had that country charm that put a smile on our faces. He will be dearly missed.. Larry & Jeana, Jacobs

Jeana Jacobs - September 22, 2024 at 05:12 PM

FC

*I remember Jay from school and I always thought of him. He was a good person. my condolences to the family. Floyd Crosby.*

**floyd crosby** - September 25, 2024 at 05:48 PM

LW

“ *Larry and Michele Weatherly planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of James Lee Hardy, Jr.*

**Larry and Michele Weatherly** - September 22, 2024 at 03:48 PM

LW

“ *Larry and Michele Weatherly purchased the Large Basket Garden for the family of James Lee Hardy, Jr.*



**Larry and Michele Weatherly** - September 22, 2024 at 03:48 PM



Julianne  
McLawhor

“ *Clay and I are so sorry to hear of Jae's passing. We are so blessed to have you as neighbors in Timber Ridge. Our thoughts and prayers are with Mary and all the family.*  
*Clay and Julie McLawhon*

**Julianne McLawhon** - September 22, 2024 at 03:42 PM

DW

“ Jae and the Hardy family were such an integral part of our life in Rockingham. Our life was definitely enriched by our friendship with them. Hunter and I made a donation to the American Cancer Association in memory of Jae. Much love to Mary, Lee, Jenny and Meg.

Debbie Waitley - September 22, 2024 at 06:18 AM

PJ

“ Paul, Michelle and Paul Jr. purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of James Lee Hardy, Jr.



Paul, Michelle and Paul Jr. - September 21, 2024 at 04:15 PM

PJ

“ Paul, Michelle and Paul Jr. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of James Lee Hardy, Jr.

Paul, Michelle and Paul Jr. - September 21, 2024 at 04:15 PM

CM

“ CHS MAHNOMEN planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of James Lee Hardy, Jr.

CHS MAHNOMEN - September 21, 2024 at 12:11 PM



“ *Large Basket Garden was purchased for the family of James Lee Hardy, Jr.*



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September 21, 2024 at 12:11 PM



“ *Blair Weatherly planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of James Lee Hardy, Jr.*

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**Blair Weatherly** - September 21, 2024 at 12:11 PM



“ *Blair Weatherly purchased the Simply Elegant Sp athiphyllum for the family of James Lee Hardy, Jr.*



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**Blair Weatherly** - September 21, 2024 at 12:11 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of James Lee Hardy, Jr.*



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September 20, 2024 at 06:38 PM