



## James Loftin Meadows

December 2, 1940 - December 9, 2024

James Loftin Meadows, Sr., 84, of Mooresville, NC, passed away on Monday, December 9, 2024.

He was born December 2, 1940, on a beautiful snowy day, in his childhood home that he grew up in. He was the son of Merman Fletcher Meadows and Lillian Smith Meadows. He was born into a large, loving family of fifteen brothers and sisters whom he cherished dearly.

He lived a blessed life with his best friend and wife of 63 years, Betty Jane Raney Meadows. Where you saw our dad, you saw our mom. Their love story is one for the history books. He met the love of his life at the age of 14. He often told the story about the first time he "laid eyes on her." They shared seventy years of love and friendship. Out of this love, their family grew. They became parents to four children, Jimmy, Crystal, Johnny and Tonya. They built a strong foundation based on faith, love and trust. Our family was blessed to share our dad with so many others. He was a mentor and pillar of pure goodness to all that were fortunate enough to know him.

Our dad's many accomplishments in life began during high school. He was awarded with the Woodsmen of the World Award for achieving the highest academic proficiency in American History. He was voted most likely to succeed and most athletic by his peers. After high school, he continued his

education at Appalachian State Teachers College (Appalachian State University). He graduated with high honors and received his Bachelor of Arts Degree in Education and History. With four small children, a full time principalship, teaching classes and coaching, dad earned his Masters of Educational Specialist Degree. He was an advocate for the entire educational field.

All that knew him, knew that he was more than an educator. He served as a school principal for 37 years, shaping the lives of countless students and colleagues. His calm demeanor, quiet strength, and steadfast patience left a lasting legacy in the schools he led. He was a teacher and principal that cared deeply about those he served.

As his children, we all knew the importance of a good education. He and mom also taught us about the importance of giving back to others. Dad would often take each of us with him to deliver food, clothes, air conditioners, heaters and so much more to anyone that he felt might be in need of something. He never talked with us about those excursions. He didn't need to. He showed pure love to everyone and his eyes, everyone was valued. Our education was beyond books. He and mom taught us to make sure those around us felt valued. The most important education came in the examples of love and caring for others.

Dad was a farmer. Growing up on a farm and being taught the importance of growing crops, farming brought dad joy. He could make anything grow. He was sure to always share what he grew! Dad also took immense pride in his role as "Papaw" to 11 grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. He was so excited and looking forward to the great grandson and great granddaughter due in April. He loved each of his grandchildren beyond all measure and they knew it. He enjoyed their many sporting events, graduations, marriages, family get togethers, beach trips, mountain trips, good talks, visits and any accomplishment that they were involved in. He and mom were always there, always so proud.

Growing up, so many memories that we cherished as a family came from a ballpark or sporting event. Dad coached and mentored many youth sporting teams. Those teams were like family. Dad was the best coach and won several state championships. On those ballfields and courts, if you were lucky enough, you also received life lessons mixed with a whole lot of fun, not to mention some amazing fundamentals. He was a valued member of our church. He was a Sunday School teacher and served on the church council. His knowledge of the bible and deep faith were evident in everything that he did. You see, he was once in a lifetime. There is once in a lifetime that you may meet a man like our dad. We were so blessed and honored to share him as Mr. Meadows, teacher, principal, mentor, coach, neighbor, brother and uncle. His great love will be forever felt.

Dad wore many hats. He had so much love for his family, his school families, his teams and his community. He leaves behind a legacy of love, kindness, and a life well-lived, which will continue to inspire those fortunate enough to have known him.

He is survived by his beloved wife of 63 years, Betty Jane Raney Meadows, and their four children, James "Jimmy" Loftin Meadows Jr., and his wife Melissa, Crystal Meadows Darden and her husband Bob, John Fletcher Meadows and his wife Paige, Tonya Meadows Mays and her husband Bart; grandchildren, Aubrey Meadows and wife Jessie, Aaron Meadows and his wife Michelle and their son Rhett James Meadows, Jacob Mays and his wife Alex and their two children Watson James Mays and Loftin Claire Mays, Andrew Meadows and his wife Sarah, Madison Darden, Kennedi Meadows Cobb and her husband Joe, Kepli Meadows, Jaxon Mays, Jentri Meadows, Bentli Meadows, and Brooklynn Mays. Others left to cherish his memory are brothers Whitey Meadows and his wife Bobbie, Frank Meadows; sister Dovie

Meadows Beaver; along with numerous nieces, nephews and friends that he loved so dearly.

The family will receive friends on Saturday, December 14 from 5:30-8:30 PM at Cavin-Cook Funeral Home. Funeral services will be held at 1:00 PM on Sunday, December 15 at St. Mark's Lutheran Church, Mooresville, with Rev. Dave Keck officiating. Burial will follow the service at Salem Lutheran Church in Salisbury.

Cavin-Cook Funeral Home & Crematory, Mooresville, is serving the Meadows family. Condolences may be made to the family at [www.cavin-cook.com](http://www.cavin-cook.com).

# Cemetery Details

## Salem Lutheran Church Cemetery

5080 Sherrills Ford Road  
Salisbury, NC 28147

# Previous Events

## Public Viewing

DEC 14. 5:30 PM - 8:30 PM (ET)

Cavin-Cook Funeral Home  
494 E. Plaza Drive  
 Mooresville, NC 28115

## Funeral Service

DEC 15. 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM (ET)

St. Mark's Lutheran Church  
454 Fieldstone Road  
 Mooresville, NC 28115

## Graveside Service

DEC 15. 2:45 PM - 3:15 PM (ET)

Salem Lutheran Church Cemetery  
5080 Sherrills Ford Road  
Salisbury, NC 28147



# Tribute Wall

WB

“ I am sorry to learn of Jimmy's passing away. I know you all have precious memories of him. God bless all the Meadowses(?).

*Willie Beaver*

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**Willie Beaver** - December 26, 2024 at 08:02 PM

KB

“ I work with Jimmy and wanted to share condolences with your family. Thank you for sharing this beautiful tribute. It warms my heart to hear a life story of those who live as our creator intends.

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**Kelly Bishop** - December 16, 2024 at 08:48 AM

KR

“ Dear Meadows clan,

*What a precious man and amazing life. I met him as a 9 year old playing baseball against Jimmy in the 5 pitch league at Edgemor park. Although never on any of his teams always thought highly of him. Mr. Meadows was happy and positive all the time. He would think carefully before speaking and then hit you with that amazing voice. In the summer my dad would often trade him apples for corn. It was a great time to be alive in Mooresville. Jimmy, all of us in the class of 1980 who knew your dad were fortunate and blessed by his energy. Love to all of y'all.*

*Kyle Rhodes*

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**kyle rhodes** - December 15, 2024 at 12:31 AM

RO

“ Prayers and thoughts go out to the Meadows family. James was a great man who supported all his children and grandchildren faithfully.

Ritchie Oliphant - December 14, 2024 at 11:46 PM

LB

“ Tonya and family, there are no words yet coined to describe the hurt now enveloping you. Losing a parent breaks you and transforms you. It's unearthing. Don and I both pray that your love and God's peace sustain you as He welcomes your dad back home and surrounds him with perfect, everlasting love.

Lynn and Don

Lynn Gibbons Beddow - December 14, 2024 at 12:01 PM



“ Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of James Loftin Meadows.



December 14, 2024 at 08:46 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of James Loftin Meadows.

December 14, 2024 at 08:46 AM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of James Loftin Meadows.*



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December 13, 2024 at 10:43 PM



“ *Johnny, Paige and the Meadows family. As you struggle with this loss, faith, family and friends will provide the strength you need to get through your grief to a bright and joyful tomorrow. God bless you all.*

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**Bill Thunberg** - December 13, 2024 at 10:32 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of James Loftin Meadows.*



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December 13, 2024 at 05:43 PM



“ *Large Basket Garden was purchased for the family of James Loftin Meadows.*



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December 13, 2024 at 10:16 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of James Loftin Meadows.

December 13, 2024 at 10:16 AM



“ Good educator, good friend, but most important good human being. Sincere sympathy to the Meadows family. Susan Beaver

**Susan Beaver** - December 12, 2024 at 10:28 PM



“ Rick, Andrea, Alexis, Hailey, & RJ Sales purchased the Enchanted Cottage for the family of James Loftin Meadows.



**Rick, Andrea, Alexis, Hailey, & RJ Sales** - December 12, 2024 at 09:24 PM



“ I am so sorry for your family's loss. My thoughts and prayers are with your family

**Kenny Rimmer** - December 12, 2024 at 08:20 PM



“ Teresa N. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of James Loftin Meadows.

**Teresa N.** - December 12, 2024 at 03:56 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of James Loftin Meadows.

December 12, 2024 at 03:53 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum* was purchased for the family of James Loftin Meadows.



December 12, 2024 at 03:53 PM



“ *Vickie lit a candle in memory of James Loftin Meadows*



**Vickie** - December 12, 2024 at 01:19 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of James Loftin Meadows.

December 12, 2024 at 12:23 PM



“ *Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of James Loftin Meadows.*



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December 12, 2024 at 12:23 PM



“ *I knew James Meadows as “one of the Meadows Clan” since I was “one of the Carrigan Clan”. In that country way we were neighbors along Wiggins Rd. I knew him as a fellow educator and an ASTC grad. He was known as one of those school principals a teacher worked “with” rather than “for”. I was fortunate to have one of those for several years as an elementary teacher so I know what a blessing they are. I’m sure family neighbors and colleagues have many wonderful memories to keep.*

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**Annette Russo** - December 12, 2024 at 12:00 PM



“ *Janielle and I have prayers going to the wife of James and to his four children and all others who loved him. James and I went to ASTC (Appalachian State) at the same time! He was such a caring heart-warming person. One always felt better after meeting him! He will certainly be missed! The following is a French quote that is very appropriate during this time: "Que Dieu vous bénisse!" (May God bless you!) The "vous" can be singular or plural. During this time, I mean it to be plural. (By the way, thanks to the person or persons who wrote the obituary. It is so well written and meaningful!) Love, Roy and Janielle Watkins*

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**Roy Watkins** - December 12, 2024 at 10:42 AM

UR

“ *Uriah R Redden lit a candle in memory of James Loftin Meadows*



Uriah R Redden - December 12, 2024 at 10:35 AM



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of James Loftin Meadows.*



December 12, 2024 at 08:50 AM

TS

“ *Tina G Shelton lit a candle in memory of James Loftin Meadows*



Tina G Shelton - December 12, 2024 at 08:26 AM

ST

“ *Shari Thompson lit a candle in memory of James Loftin Meadows*



Shari Thompson - December 12, 2024 at 08:08 AM

RW

“ Truly a man created by God to make the world a better place & he did. As a parent & educator, he taught you how to live life; hard to believe right now, but he taught you how to live without him physically beside you because of his faith as a Christian. Special love to Mrs Betty.

Randy “Oscar” & Cindy Wiggins - December 11, 2024 at 09:23 PM

DT

“ Diane Atwell Turner lit a candle in memory of James Loftin Meadows



Diane Atwell Turner - December 11, 2024 at 09:15 PM

JM

“ Jason, Dana, and Fletcher Meadows planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of James Loftin Meadows.

Jason, Dana, and Fletcher Meadows - December 11, 2024 at 08:54 PM

JM

“ Jason, Dana, and Fletcher Meadows purchased the Medium Dish Garden for the family of James Loftin Meadows.



Jason, Dana, and Fletcher Meadows - December 11, 2024 at 08:54 PM

CP

“ *Carol Powers lit a candle in memory of James Loftin Meadows*



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**Carol Powers** - December 11, 2024 at 05:59 PM

SB

“ *Mr Meadows was such a treasure! He will be missed by everyone who knew him. Prayers for the family*



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**Sandra Brown** - December 11, 2024 at 03:13 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of James Loftin Meadows.*



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December 11, 2024 at 02:47 PM



“ *A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of James Loftin Meadows.*

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December 11, 2024 at 02:47 PM

KW

“ *Kay Woolledge lit a candle in memory of James Loftin Meadows*



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**Kay Woolledge** - December 11, 2024 at 01:08 PM

WB

“ *Prayers and condolences for all!*

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**William D. & Danette S. Bumgarner** - December 11, 2024 at 10:13 AM

KS

“ *Karen Smith lit a candle in memory of James Loftin Meadows*



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**Karen Smith** - December 11, 2024 at 09:32 AM

PF

“ *Paula O Fuller lit a candle in memory of James Loftin Meadows*



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**Paula O Fuller** - December 11, 2024 at 08:52 AM

RR

“ *Thumbs up! If you know what that means, you know what a person and a man Mr. Meadows was. Well done, good and faithful servant.*

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**Rob Reading** - December 11, 2024 at 08:24 AM

K(

“ *Principal Meadows was the best principal ever.he was always kind and he cared about his students and staff.he loved everyone.he was a great man with a big heart.all of his students loved him may you rest in peace*



**Kimberly Zeback (Smith)** - December 11, 2024 at 01:04 AM

SE

“ *One of the kindest gentlemen on the planet. A genuine man. Always a greeting with a big smile and a strong hand shake. Always enjoyed our wide-ranging conversations involving baseball, family, education, farming, history, trucks, etc., during MHS, American Legion and Spinner’s baseball games. James was so proud of the entire family. Always the gentleman. James has now crossed home plate, and is now home. Rest in Peace.*

**Sean** - December 10, 2024 at 09:38 PM

BH

“ *Beverly Holt lit a candle in memory of James Loftin Meadows*



**Beverly Holt** - December 10, 2024 at 09:27 PM

CC

“ *He was such an awesome principal but most of all a good friend to my family. He would give my grandmother the tree that the school would have up every year to have is her Christmas tree. He also paid to have flooring put down in her house. Love and Prayers for the family.*

**Carolyn McAlister C.** - December 10, 2024 at 08:39 PM



“ *Emily Overcash lit a candle in memory of James Loftin Meadows*



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**Emily Overcash** - December 10, 2024 at 07:40 PM