



James D. King

July 16, 1950 - August 17, 2019

Services honoring the life of Pastor James King will be 12:30 p.m., Friday, August 23, 2019 at Hayhurst Funeral Home Chapel. Burial will follow at Calvary Cemetery. Friends may visit the funeral home on Thursday from 11:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

James D. King was born July 16, 1950 in Fort Smith, Arkansas to Noel and Jetty King (deceased) of Fort Smith, Arkansas, as well as his sister Jean Adams (deceased) of Fort Smith, Arkansas. He leaves behind the love of his life, wife Connie (Constance) Mae Saffa King and his arm chair buddy, Bruno. He also leaves four daughters: Sunshine and her husband Bryce Hill of Tulsa, OK; Gretchen and her husband Aaron Tighe of Gaithersburg, MD; Beverly King of Tulsa, OK; Bobbi Parisotto of Broken Arrow, OK; Additionally, two step-sons: Michael Vines and his wife Peri of Tulsa, OK; Daniel Vines and his wife Donna of Chula Vista, CA.

Jim loved all his 9 grandchildren: Aaron Vines, Tanner Shust, Cody Vines, Kaylee Vines, Skyler McMinn, Alexis McMinn, Lydia Fears, Aaron Fears and Brianna Fears. His two nephews, Steve and Stan Adams, brought him great joy, plus his wife's siblings: Sonya Saffa, Susan Curtis, John Saffa and wife

Carmen, and niece Angie Diggle. All were very dear to him.

From his first group the “Royals” as a teenager to many subsequent memorable groups he played with across the Mid-West, Jim King left his footprint on the hearts of all who knew and worked with him. He made his name as a brilliant guitarist and vocalist with groups such as The Hustlers, The Effects, Bee Bumble and the Stingers, and his best known group, Cornbread, with two hit records “Bumble Boogie” and “Nutrocker.”

Moving to Tulsa in 1970, Jim worked at some of the best music stores: Shields, Roy & Candy’s Music, and Music Sound World, all while playing music on the side. Jim instantly became a name in the nightclub industry in Tulsa and soon gained the nickname “Jim King and his Invisible Orchestra”. He was booked continuously at clubs around town such as Angelo’s, The Fountains, The Harvard Club, The Orange Blossom Café, and the Shadow Mountain Inn. During this time, he met and married Connie Saffa, another local entertainer that he said “had the voice of an angel”. They sang full time at Lenny’s Club until Jim took a position with Fender Musical Instruments as District Sales Manager. In 2012, Jim left Fender and worked for Firey Music and Guitar Center until he had a stroke in 2016.

In 2004, Jim and Connie learned of the Messianic movement and embraced it fully. They started HalleluYah Messianic Fellowship in Jenks, OK where Jim taught the Bible until May 2018 when he was diagnosed with bulbar ALS. Jim touched so many lives through his many talents in music and preaching the

word. But more than that, he truly loved Jesus and it showed through his extended kindness, understanding of others, and love for all. His wisdom and strengths in the teachings of the Bible were extraordinary and he shared that with all until his death on August 17, 2019 at home with his family at his side.

Jim will be missed by his friends and colleagues, but most of all his beloved family who watched that kind and gentle spirit stay with him until his last breath.

To send flowers or a memorial gift to the family of James D. King please visit our Sympathy Store.

Cemetery Details

Calvary Cemetery

9101 S. Harvard Avenue
Tulsa, OK 74137

Previous Events

Viewing

AUG 22. 9:00 AM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Hayhurst Funeral Home
1660 South Elm Place
Broken Arrow, OK 74012
(918) 258-9623
hayhurstfuneralhome@gmail.com

Funeral Service

AUG 23. 12:30 PM (CT)

Hayhurst Funeral Home
1660 South Elm Place
Broken Arrow, OK 74012
(918) 258-9623
hayhurstfuneralhome@gmail.com

Tribute Wall



“ *James D. King*

October 23, 2023 at 01:21 AM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of James D. King.*



August 22, 2019 at 10:08 PM

DW

“ I met Jim at Shields Music in 1973 where I bought my first "real" guitar. I was going to buy a guitar of lesser quality but Jim asked me if I really, really was going to be a real player or just a tinkerer? I think he knew something about me or guys like me because he once had to cross the same bridge and few there be that would find it. He was bold enough to offer me some real good advice that inspires me some 45 years later, that I still carry with me in a guitar case every week to play and remains in my heart 24/7 seven days a week. The pic here was in Dec. 2015 @ GC Tulsa where I bought a Gibson LP and Jim sold me perhaps the last guitar I will ever buy, and he left me with what would become his final words of wisdom to me and I also was humbled to give him some advice as well- " Jim, please leave some room in your heart for the unimaginable! " We hugged each other and I saluted him. I love you my Brother.



Daniel Williams - August 22, 2019 at 12:31 PM



“ Serene Retreat was purchased for the family of James D. King.



August 22, 2019 at 09:33 AM



“ My heart swells with sadness over Jim's passing. Jim was a good man and a good friend. I met Jim back when he worked at Shields and bought my 1st Bass from him back in the early 70's. It was Jim who got me my 1st gig playing bass at a local club. I was only 13 and had a chaperone. My music has never stopped since then. Jim was a true inspiration to me and many many musicians in Tulsa. He will be deeply missed. My deepest condolences go out to his family.
John Williamson

John Williamson - August 21, 2019 at 10:35 PM



“ Lee and Sara Houchin, Laura Raby purchased the Large Basket Garden for the family of James D. King.



Lee and Sara Houchin, Laura Raby - August 21, 2019 at 09:41 AM



“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of James D. King.



August 21, 2019 at 08:09 AM



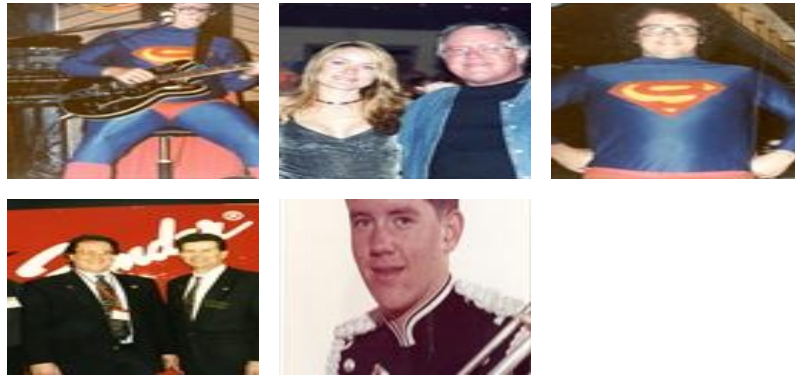
“ Beautiful Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of James D. King.



August 20, 2019 at 10:34 PM



“ 55 files added to the album Memories Album



Hayhurst Funeral Home - August 20, 2019 at 03:18 PM

BL

Jim was a great friend and fabulous guitar player. We played together at Grace Fellowship/Grace Church for many years. We recorded together on their production cd's in the 90's. I will miss him but I know that I will see him again. Prayers for his family.

Bill Lanning - August 20, 2019 at 04:50 PM

BT

“ *BattleCreek Worship and Production Team purchased the Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet for the family of James D. King.*



BattleCreek Worship and Production Team - August 20, 2019
at 12:10 PM

RT

“ *I was lucky enough to know Jim and play in two of the first bands we both were in, we were just kids but Jim could really play. The bands were the Effects and the Hustlers, we were ground breakers with the latter band simply because we were the first interracial horn band in Arkansas. Jim was a really great guy and very, very talented. We lost contact over the years and i did not know Jim was ill. he will be missed by the family and his friends RIP Jim. The Lord got himself a good guitar player! and i know the heavenly band will be something to hear! Sincerely; Rick Tinder class of 68 NHS Ft. Smith Arkansas. August 19th 2019*

Richard Tinder - August 20, 2019 at 12:15 AM

HH

“ *It is our honor and privilege to serve the King family and to provide this permanent tribute website in memory of James.*



Hayhurst Funeral Home - August 19, 2019 at 11:21 AM

BW

Connie and family..

John and I are sorry we are far away at this time...wishing we could be there with you. Jim was my brother in heart and spirit. I loved him so much and will miss him so much! Connie I love you, grieve with you and will see you soon! I know exactly where you are and what you will walk out in the days, weeks and months to come. I am here for you!

John and I send our love and shalom to all of you during this very difficult time.

Jim is free from pain and in the Father's capable arms!

We love you!

Becky Way - August 19, 2019 at 07:24 PM

RS

Jim King became our friend while he was working at Shields Music. Jim was always such a positive and high quality person to talk to and deal with that he made each phone call or personal visit a real pleasure. When Jim became our Fender Sales Rep we always looked forward to his visits and made every time he came to town an opportunity to share a meal and some enjoyable time together. We know that his faith was strong and his final destination was heaven. We send our most sincere condolences to his family. We are so thankful that he was our friend and that he shared his faith and his integrity with our family and staff. . Roger and Diane Sparks Arkansas City, Kansas

Roger Sparks - August 21, 2019 at 04:05 AM

BD

I was so sorry to hear about Jim's passing. Had not seen him in probably 30 years. Meet him in the early '70s when he was playing with CORNBREAD at THE FACTORY in south Tulsa. He was such a talented musician. I am delighted to know of his work in the ministry. If one of his girls is interested, I have one of his albums made with CORNBREAD. They can contact me through their mother. God bless Jim's family!

Barbara Reel Dahlke, Coweta, OK

Barbara Reel Dahlke - August 23, 2019 at 06:48 PM