



James Whitaker

August 2, 1947 - January 23, 2021

James Thomas Whitaker passed peacefully on January 23rd, 2021 at the age of 73. He's preceded in death by his father, Thomas "Vaughn" Whitaker, mother Lorene "Owens" Whitaker, and his brother Michael "Mike" Whitaker. James was born in Pauls Valley, OK on August 2nd, 1947, the first of 5 children. He graduated from high school in Fort Smith, Arkansas in 1968 and received his Bachelor's of Art at East Central University in 1972. James was drafted into the US Army in 1972 where he served in Germany for 18 months before being discharged at the rank of private specialist 2. He married Deborah Mae Butler on October 19th, 1973 and they had 2 daughters, Cristina "Crissy" Nicole (1977) and Whitney Paige (1988). They divorced in 1990 and James never remarried by choice. Whitaker worked for Gulf Oil before striking out on his own to form and run several, infamous oil and gas companies until he retired in 2015 to be a full time Opa to his girl, Marley Gabrielle.

James is survived by brothers Raymond Whitaker of Pauls Valley and Gary Whitaker of Elmore City, sister Marilyn Poyner of Pauls Valley, his daughters Crissy Whitaker-Rennie of the home and Whitney Whitaker of Oklahoma City, and his granddaughter Marley Gabrielle Rennie of the home.

James was an active man until the very end and passionate athlete throughout the tenure of his life. He loved playing basketball, running sprints,

weightlifting, and playing tennis with his family, with Ryan especially, in his later years. He was a lifelong resident of Pauls Valley and enjoyed the town for what it had to offer. The library was one of his favorite haunts, as reading was one of his greatest passions. He loved to travel and drive fast cars and he especially loved good food and strong drink. James' memory lives on in every single person who has ever been in his presence but especially those of his daughters and granddaughter. There will be no service. It was James' desire that a private ceremony be held, per his wishes, at a later date and location. The family requests that in lieu of flowers, you send donations to the Nora Warren Sparks Library or the Pauls Valley Tennis Club and court renewal project. Arrangements will be carried out by Wooster Funeral Home.

Tribute Wall



“ *James Whitaker*

November 12, 2022 at 02:44 AM



“ *Marley and family,*

I am so sorry to hear about your grandpa's passing. He adored you sweet girl. I can picture him now bringing you to school and picking you up every day when you were at Jackson School. He told me he was so proud of you and that was your time together! Continue to be your sweet self and make him proud! Please know my thoughts and prayers are with you and your family. You will always be special to me and I love you! Sending a hug!



Kristi Herd - February 01, 2021 at 08:38 AM

CO

“ James, what a story...so many memories, and so many that I just don't have the words for. The many talks as a young boy, as you drove me home when I was 14yrs old. The talks that I can remember vividly today, where we spoke for hours. I learned from you...life through the eyes of such a beautiful mind. I've always known that when I spoke with you, I was to listen. Not because I had no opinion...because I always did. But when I was with you, I knew I was around one of the most intelligent people I'd ever know. And I can still say it today...you are the most intelligent person I've ever known, and I will always remember your beautiful mind.

One thing stood out most in your life. It was that you loved your girls more than anything. You lived sacrificially, so that you could take care of your girls the way that you wanted to. The satisfaction in your life came through seeing your girls thrive... your most prized possessions.

Throughout the years, you always saw me for me, and not what the world saw. You never once judged me, nor treated me differently. You were consistently a friend, and have not once, not dropped everything to help me in whatever way you could. Most of the time it was way more than I deserved, but that's just who were. You went out of your way to help when you didn't have to. Your fulfillment in life came, by fulfilling someone else's need, and that is a very rare today but it's safe to say that you were rare.

Thank you for being you. Thank you for the golden years. You'll always be remembered,
and never forgotten.

Coby Wright

Coby - January 30, 2021 at 02:21 AM

ES

“ You will be missed by your favorite Yankee from Nebraska. I knew you as my best friend’s daddy, and an awesome dad you were indeed. Whether pulling our cars out of the mud in Pauls Valley, mending broken hearts, or sending Crissy and I “artistic grant” money in New Orleans, you were always there in a pinch! Thank you for supporting Crissy as she supported me through The Canca. And thank you for the middle of the night biscuit run recently, as your mind was playing tricks on you with your heart always in the right place. Your daughters and granddaughter will miss you dearly but your intelligence and wit will live on in precious memories. Rest easy James Whitaker.

Emily Sipp - January 28, 2021 at 12:45 PM

BR

“ Branam lit a candle in memory of James Whitaker



Branam - January 28, 2021 at 10:22 AM

TH

“ James was one of my favorite people and I was glad to call him my friend. I have good memories of James. He loved his girls with all of his heart. He will be missed. As days and weeks pass and as you return to life’s routine, may you continue to feel comforted by the love and support of family and friends.

Tina McCarty Hume - January 28, 2021 at 02:31 AM

AM

“ John and I were sad to hear the news of Uncle James passing. Sending prayers!

Amy McCullough - January 27, 2021 at 08:39 PM

MG

“ Chrissy, I just learned of your dad's passing, and I am so sorry. He loved you and your sister, as he talked about you when I'd run into him. My thoughts and prayers are with you.

Mickie Grimmatt - January 27, 2021 at 12:55 PM

JW

“ so sorry to hear about James. lots of good memories of hanging with him and Raymond. girls, i was with your dad the night he met your mother. he was one of the most intelligent individuals i have ever known.

james watson - January 27, 2021 at 07:40 AM

LW

“ You were one of the kindest souls I have ever known. You genuinely cared for so many people. You loved your daughters so much and truly lived for them. I will never forget how in some of my hardest moments you could somehow make me laugh for even a moment. We always shared our bond of loving weird food and eating everything in sight when Crissy would just eat a “nibble”. I could listen to your old stories for days and how you would tease Crissy about anything. One memory that will always stick out to me is the day Crissy and I brought the big green chair home in the back of my car and you couldn’t believe two gals like us could get it done. You were so very smart and seemed to know everything about life. You had more faith in me than most people I had known my entire life and I selfishly wish you didn’t have to leave this earth so soon. I love you.

Lindsey White - January 27, 2021 at 05:40 AM

DH

“ Sorry to hear of the loss of James Whitaker. Prayers and hugs for all of the Whitaker family. 🙏🙏🙏❤️❤️❤️



David Fryar and Rita Hines-Fryar - January 26, 2021 at 11:58 PM

JB

“ Crissy, Whitney, Marley We are sadden to learn of your Fathers/Grandfathers passing. He loved you girls and Marley his granddaughter very much. As you know your Dad always did everything his way. I am sure he also in the end did it his way. He will be missed by many. We know you girls will keep him in your hearts forever. Our prayers and love for the three of you.

Uncle Eddie and Auntie Myrna

James Butler - January 26, 2021 at 09:41 PM

JW

“ so sorry to hear about James. lots of good memories. girls, i was with your dad the night he met your mother. he was one of the most intelligent people i have ever known.

james watson - January 26, 2021 at 06:46 PM

MP

“ **CRISSY AND WHITNEY, I AM SADDENED TO HEAR OF THE LOSS OF YOUR DAD AND MY OLDEST BROTHER. HE SURELY LOVED YOU GIRLS AND GRANDDAUGHTER. I WAS SPOILED BY HIM AS A CHILD MYSELF! PRAYERS FOR COMFORT AND PEACE DURING THIS TIME. LOVE TO ALL OF YOU. MARILYN**

MARILYN Y POYNER - January 26, 2021 at 12:57 PM

DW

Marilyn & Crissy, he will be missed, he always came in Ballards Drive In and got Chili Buns. Love and Prayers to y'all and family, Dixie & Danny Williams💕💕

Dixie Williams - January 28, 2021 at 10:12 PM