



James Frederick Strong Jr.

July 19, 1938 - May 20, 2025

James (Jim) Fredrick Strong Jr, age 86, went to be with his Lord on Tuesday, May 20, 2025. From his birth in Evanston, IL on July 19, 1938, to his passing he loved God and loved his family. He was born to James Fredrick and Hazel Wales Strong. He attended Highland Park High School and graduated from Southern Methodist University with a degree in Geology. On November 14, 1964, James married Beverly Elaine Strong – the love of his life. Together they had two children, Paul William Strong and Sheryl Renee' Strong. James was a master gardener, extremely handy, enjoyed spending time with family, especially his grandchildren. Being a provider and at the same time charitable was important to him. He was a very thoughtful man in actions and words. He thought before he spoke and was intentional with what he wanted to say. He spent quite a few years driving around the United States with his wife pulling a fifth wheel, dog Sydney in tow and building furniture for Christian camps. James treasured his relationship with his lifelong family friends The Walls. Times spent on Lake Travis with his grandchildren were some of his fondest memories – making his homemade biscuits, pulling them on a tube or just relaxing in a cove. James is survived by his son, Paul and his wife Debbie Strong; grandchildren, Jacob, Will, Sophie and step grandchildren, Kendall and her wife Jenna, Bennett and Zachary; sister Marita Wagner; nephews Bill Baugh and his husband Robert Blanchfield, Bobby Baugh, Scott Wagner and wife Erin; niece Angela Oberer and husband Frank; cousin Robert Wales. He is preceded by his wife Elaine Strong and daughter Sheryl Strong. We will be

having a private family Celebration of Life.

Tribute Wall

BW

“ *Bob Wales purchased the Sweet Sincerity for the family of James Frederick Strong Jr..*



Bob Wales - May 28, 2025 at 10:00 PM

RW

“ *I remember the times when the cousins would see each other at Christmas at Aunt Norene's home. At the Christmas dinner, we all had a seat at the Kid's table even though we were teenagers or older.*

Jim always impressed me as being a very responsible person who you could count on keeping his word. He was always very business like, which is how I mainly knew him later in life. He would remember my birthday, which I appreciated.

I will miss his practical wisdom.

Robert (Bob) Wales

Robert Wales - May 28, 2025 at 09:27 PM

“ Jim has been a brother in Christ for over 60 years. I met Jim shortly after I was introduced to his wife, Elaine. She and I were two souls who grew closer than sisters, and her family became mine. The bond held through all these years and we shared our lives in every possible way. Our families celebrated holidays and birthdays together. We vacationed together, spent endless days at the beach. Our kids were best friends , and we spent as much time in each other’s homes as we did our own.

Jim was always the quiet steady force in the family . He was always puttering around the house, fixing things that broke and refusing to pay anyone to do something he could learn to do himself. He repaired cars and toilets and shamed Dick with his mechanical skills. If I ever said ,”Jim Strong wouldn’t have called a plumber”, his head would hang and tell me I really knew how to hurt a man when he was down.

. Jim came to faith in his Lord Jesus Christ in his mid-life, and after that could be found every weekend at Church of the Redeemer ushering and giving hugs to people who passed through its doors.

After retirement, Elaine and he jumped in their 5th wheel and joined a group of like minded seniors remodeling Baptist Encampments all over the United States. I was privileged to join them on some of those trips and got to see Jim at work as a master craftsman.

The only bad thing Jim ever did was move Elaine to Lago Vista on Lake Travis during this time. But she and I tore the road up between our homes, because we couldn’t be apart for long.

Jim’s finest hour came when Elaine entered her final years and needed full time care. He modeled servanthood to her. His love and patience were endless. If love could have saved her, she would still be here with us.. After Elaine passed, Sheryl moved in with him and they took care of each other in their grief until cancer robbed us of Sheryl also. I have missed them every day since they left this earth,

and now I will miss Jim too.

Jim was one of the quiet ones who never talked about his accomplishments—just lived his life as it played out before him, served where and when he was called to, and loved fiercely, but without fanfare. Jim, it seems we never had a chance to do for you the way you did for all of us. You are gone too soon.

Thank you for your life of love and service lived out before all of us. Thank you for being an ex-office member of our family. And thank you, Lord, that I will see all three Strongs in heaven someday soon. Jim and Elaine and Sheryl, the Walls promise to take care of Paul and his sweet family in the best way we can.

Betty Wall - May 28, 2025 at 05:47 PM

KO

“*Jim was always so thoughtful. He once paid to have my hair color corrected. This was prior to Sheryl becoming a hairdresser! It was so unexpected and much appreciated. He was also funny. He once taped a \$2 bill on my windshield with a smile face sticker after spending the night after a concert that Sheryl and I went to. Rest in peace Jim.*”

Kimberley ONeal - May 28, 2025 at 05:18 PM

HW

“ Jim loved his family and his pets. Every year on my birthday he gave me a \$2 bill. I just found one the other day and it made me smile. I loved how he could be so serious and so goofy at the same time. I also have very fond memories of him pretending he was a bear when Sheryl and I camped out under the table. He was a good sport when we took father daughter trips and came along because he wanted to spend time with his daughter, with zero intention of hiking the Grand Canyon :). So many memories but mainly that he just really loved his family and had a quiet faith that anchored him.

Holly Wall - May 28, 2025 at 04:27 PM

KH

“ Jim was a delightfully funny I, smart, and kind man. A wonderful father and husband. I will miss our dinners with Jim and Sheryl's close friends. RIP.

Kathleen Havens - May 28, 2025 at 12:44 PM