



William James Ebanks Jr.

October 28, 1936 - September 10, 2021

William J. (Jim) Ebanks, Jr., age 84, passed from this life Friday, September 10, 2021 in Houston. Mass will be celebrated on Monday, September 20th at 10:30 am at St. John Vianney Catholic Church in Houston, Texas.

Jim was born in Port Arthur, Texas to William J. Ebanks and Doris (Ducote) Ebanks. He married Eleanor (Mengden) Ebanks on June 1st, 1958 and lived a life devoted to her for more than 63 years. He was preceded in death by his eldest son, James D. Ebanks and his parents.

Jim attended Lamar High School and Rice University in Houston, Texas where he earned bachelor's, master's and doctoral degrees in Geology. While at Rice, among other activities, he was Honor Council Chairman, a member of the swim team, and was named among the "Top Ten Seniors." Following graduation, he served as Captain in the United States Marine Corps.

Throughout his distinguished career, Jim worked for various companies in the oil and gas industry, the Kansas Geological Survey, and the University of Kansas where he occasionally taught graduate level courses. A life-long learner, he loved geology and the study of the earth. He routinely arranged family vacation routes in a manner that would maximize exposure to interesting geologic features or to enable stops to an outcrop to collect rock samples.

His career provided him the opportunity to travel the world, and he particularly enjoyed his expatriate assignments with his wife in Jakarta, Indonesia and Caracas, Venezuela. After retiring, Jim and Eleanor settled in Bryan, Texas

where he was a Fourth Degree member of the Knights of Columbus at Saint Thomas Aquinas Catholic Church and led his church's work crews for many years as a volunteer for Habitat for Humanity. He loved his Cayman Island family roots and spent countless hours completing the work his father began in tracing the family's genealogy. Jim will be remembered as a faithful servant and a humble family man. He cherished his wife, kids, and all his relatives and will be deeply missed.

Jim is survived by his wife, Eleanor M. Ebanks, three children and their spouses, Kathleen M. Pearse (Wayne), Theresa L. Wagner (Jim), William S. Ebanks (Annette), his brother, Gerald K. Ebanks (Bulinda), daughter-in-law, Nancy Olson Ebanks, twelve grandchildren, Diana, Erik (Ashley), Laura and Brittany Ebanks, Lisa (Tyson) Russell and Shelly (Eric) Degenhardt, Benjamin, Timothy and Luke Wagner and William, Matthew and Sarah Ebanks, and two great grandchildren, James and Addison Ebanks.

A funeral Mass will be held at St. John Vianney Catholic Church at 10:30am on Monday, September 20th, preceded by the Rosary at 10:00am. Following a reception at the Church, a private rite of committal will occur at Forest Park Cemetery. Funeral arrangements are under the direction of Dettling Funeral Home.

The family would like to thank the caregivers at Parkway Place, Hospice Plus, and Life Enhancers, particularly Antoinette Huggan, for their loving, compassionate care during Jim's extended illness.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that memorial donations be made to the Parkinson's Foundation, Habitat for Humanity, or a charity of your choice.

Previous Events

Rosary

SEP 20. 10:00 AM (CT)

St. John Vianney Catholic Church
625 Nottingham Oaks Trail
Houston, TX 77079
(281) 497-1500

Funeral Mass

SEP 20. 10:30 AM (CT)

St. John Vianney Catholic Church
625 Nottingham Oaks Trail
Houston, TX 77079
(281) 497-1500

Tribute Wall



“ *William James Ebanks Jr.*

October 08, 2023 at 10:52 AM



“ *William James Ebanks Jr.*

October 06, 2023 at 01:12 AM



“ *William James Ebanks Jr.*

October 05, 2023 at 09:45 AM



“ *William James Ebanks Jr.*

October 05, 2023 at 01:54 AM

CV

“ Jim was one great mentor. We all learned SO MUCH from him. He gave us knowledge and then room to run with where we took it - the mark of an incredible advisor/mentor/supervisor. I look back at those years and where the industry has gone the last few years. Decades/generations of incredible insight and knowledge are gone. Kinda glad Jim was not cognizant of it. It would have been devastating. I still remember him warning me and a colleague “I have no problems with practical jokes, but NO PLASTIC SUSHI.” Given what he taught us about “thinking outside the box,” we responded. “Yes Sir.” No plastic sushi. Next time... live goldfish in the miso soup.
I can't imagine where I would be without Jim's mentoring and trust in me. God bless!

Chuck Vavra - September 24, 2021 at 06:54 PM

LM

“ I am truly at a loss for words but simply will say God definitely has a new angel in heaven. He will be truly missed. Love, Leslie Mosier and family

Leslie Mosier - September 20, 2021 at 02:45 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of William James Ebanks Jr..



September 19, 2021 at 09:48 PM

KH

“ Aunt Eleanor, Kathy, Terry and Bill, sending you love and hoping you find comfort in so many wonderful memories. My memories of Uncle Jim as a child were how special he made me feel whenever I was with him -- I felt seen and cared for, His dedication to his faith was an inspiration to me and it's why I had him be my confirmation sponsor even though he lived far away from me. He will always have a special place in my heart.

Karen Mengden Hershenson - September 19, 2021 at 04:15 PM

MM

“ Our Mengden family have many fond memories of time spent with your family. I recall visiting your family in Lawrence Kansas. Jim took such pride in every detail of his vegetable garden. Love and condolences to your entire family. Marilyn

Marilyn Mengden - September 18, 2021 at 09:38 PM

EH

“ Elizabeth Reyes & Richard Hernandez purchased the Treasured Lilies Spray for the family of William James Ebanks Jr..



Elizabeth Reyes & Richard Hernandez - September 17, 2021 at 12:29 PM

DS

“ Eleanor, my words are not sufficient to express the respect and thanks that I have for you and Jim. My first memory is being with you at Supper Club and later after Sue died you invited me into your home for a meal. You are special people and I have thought of you often since you left College Station. You are in my prayers. Don Swoyer

Donald Swoyer - September 16, 2021 at 05:11 PM



“ Rose Remembrance was purchased for the family of William James Ebanks Jr..



September 16, 2021 at 03:16 PM

KH

“ Regrets and loving condolences to Jim’s family since “The Hambys” will not be able to attend as we will be in West Texas. Wonderful memories of Jim/Eleanor as we enjoyed their Christian fellowship over the years whenever we brought communion/had lovely chats with them. God bless.

Kris & Ray Hamby - September 16, 2021 at 12:27 PM



“ Pink Tribute Spray was purchased for the family of William James Ebanks Jr..



September 16, 2021 at 11:45 AM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of William James Ebanks Jr..



September 16, 2021 at 08:13 AM



“ 7 files added to the album KofC and church



Ray Thomas - September 15, 2021 at 08:20 PM



Photos courtesy of Leonard Muesse, KofC Council 3205

ray thomas - September 15, 2021 at 08:36 PM

LF

My most recent memory of Jim was from a number of years ago, not long after I retired. We ran into each other at a family gathering and, I asked him if he would like to go fishing with me. It was during the dog days of summer late August as I recall. My plan was as usual to trailer my boat down to Freeport and launch from a free launch spot I found. In doing so if conditions were not as reported regarding offshore wave heights we could always fish the bays nearby. My boat, named Grace Darling, is a 22 foot, center console, Bay Stealth. It's not ideal for making a 20-mile trip to fish the platforms and wells offshore south of Freeport; but, that's what I like to do, but conditions have to be just right. We lucked out that day and conditions were near perfect. We had a great day in the sun and on the water. I had a great picture of Jim and me kneeling on the bow with our catch laid out between us. We caught our limit of red snapper and also managed to catch several mangrove snappers which there is no limit on, but they're every bit as good eating. I've been looking for that picture for several hours but can't find it! Anyway, I hope Jim enjoyed that trip as much as I did. Kristl cooked the snapper for us and we had an enjoyable evening visiting with each other. Always admired Jim for his love of God, his family, his obvious intellect, and his professional accomplishments.

Leol Franklin - September 16, 2021 at 04:27 PM

MO

*Eleanor, please accept our sincerest condolences on the passing of Jim. We remember you and Jim so fondly, where we saw you every Sunday at Mass at St. Thomas Aquinas. May he rest in peace.
Meredith and Jim Olson*

Meredith Olson - September 17, 2021 at 10:19 PM

RB

I first met Jim when I joined the Kansas Geological Survey in 1978. He was a great colleague who contributed to the understanding of Kansas geology. .He was a strong, respected leader and a compliment from Jim meant the world to me. My condolences to his family.

Rex Buchanan

Rex Buchanan - September 18, 2021 at 09:00 AM

LT

Dear Eleanor, we were very saddened to hear of Jim's death. Jerry and I have very fond memories of you both from our shared time at St. Thomas Aquinas in College Station. Please accept our heartfelt sympathy and prayers for peace and healing through our Lord, Jesus Christ.

Jerry and Lisa Trampota

Lisa Trampota - September 18, 2021 at 10:13 AM

SR

Don and I send our sincere sympathy to Eleanor and the entire family. I have wonderful memories of Jim from our early childhood as 1st cousins and the many times we spent with our brothers and other Ebanks cousins being "kids". On the top of the list of Jim's admirable accomplishments has to be his love and devotion to his family. May God Bless you all today and always.

Sybil and Don Riggs

Sybil and Don Riggs - September 19, 2021 at 12:17 AM