



Jim W. Blair Jr.

March 26, 1936 - March 29, 2024

James W. Blair, Jr., Chairman of Smith Tank & Equipment Company, passed away on March 29, 2024, in Tyler. He was 88 years old.

Services will be held on Saturday, April 6, 2024, at 10:00 a.m. at Stewart Family Funeral Home officiated by Rev. Dr. Stuart G. Baskin of First Presbyterian Church of Tyler, assisted by Rev. Larry Wickham. Visitation is Friday, April 5, from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. at the funeral home, 7525 Old Jacksonville Hwy, Tyler. Pallbearers will be Larry DeSorbo of Las Vegas, NV, JB Smith of Tyler, TX, Paul Gleiser of Dallas, TX, James B. Blair of Draper, UT, Judge Bill Bass, Tim Mullins, and Alan Honeycutt.

Jim Blair was born in Douglas, AZ on March 26, 1936. He grew-up in Mill Valley and graduated from Mount Tamalpais High School in 1954. He attended The University of Arizona in Tucson where he earned his BS in Mechanical Engineering. Jim married his college sweetheart and the love of his life Jeanne Daily in 1958. Jim was honored to achieve Master Mason at the Bethlehem Lodge in Lynn, Massachusetts, in 1961. Jim was hired into General Electric right out of college. His only son, James Walter Blair III was born in 1962, while Jim worked on nuclear power plants. Jim worked for Handy & Harmon, a Fortune 500 company, based in NYC. They lived in Rye, NY from 1976 until moving to Tyler and buying Smith Tank on April 9, 1985. Jim was an active member of the original Tyler Rotary and the

Breakfast/Coffee Clutch of Tyler. Jim and Jeanne both worked in the business until Jeanne passed in 2018. Jim Blair III, joined in 1986, left with his wife and 11-month daughter for IL in 1992, but returned in 1997, now with 3 kids, to the family business.

Jim left the Blair family with the Oldest Tank Manufacturing business in Texas, now at 95 years old. Jim was preceded in death by his parents, James Walter Blair and wife Edith Blair, wife of 59 years, Jeanne Daily Blair in 2018, sister, numerous uncles and aunts, and granddaughter Savannah Blair in 2018. He is survived by his loving family: son, Jim Blair III; daughter-in-law, Tammy Blair; grandchildren, Sarah Rybicki and husband Trevor and James B. Blair; and 3 great-grandchildren, Christopher Blair, Rhett and Isaac Rybicki, all natural-born Texans. Jim and Tammy intend to manage Smith Tank through its 100-year anniversary, to continue JB1's Smith Tank legacy.

If desired, memorials gifts may be made to Shriner's Hospital for Children <https://donate.lovetotherescue.org>.

Previous Events

Visitation

APR **5**. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Stewart Family Funeral Home
7525 Old Jacksonville Hwy
Tyler, TX 75703
(903) 581-2008

Service

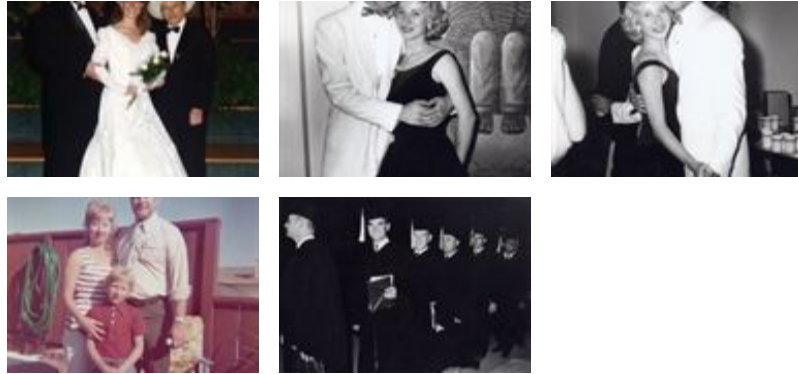
APR **6**. 10:00 AM (CT)

Stewart Family Funeral Home
7525 Old Jacksonville Hwy
Tyler, TX 75703
(903) 581-2008

Tribute Wall



“ 65 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



Stewart Family Funeral Home - April 05, 2024 at 05:29 PM



“ Alan & Melonie Honeycutt purchased the *Care and Compassion Spray* for the family of *Jim W. Blair Jr.*



Alan & Melonie Honeycutt - April 04, 2024 at 07:07 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum* was purchased for the family of *Jim W. Blair Jr.*



April 04, 2024 at 06:27 PM

SB

“ Jim and Tammy, we are so sorry to hear of your dad's passing. Praying for God's comfort for you and your whole family. Shawn and Susan Bradley

SUSAN BRADLEY - April 04, 2024 at 02:29 PM

CB

“ Charley and Donna Blackmon purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of Jim W. Blair Jr..



Charley and Donna Blackmon - April 03, 2024 at 04:40 PM

CB

“ Charley and Donna Blackmon planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Jim W. Blair Jr..

Charley and Donna Blackmon - April 03, 2024 at 04:40 PM

SC

“ Smith Tank & Equipment Company purchased the Lily and Rose Tribute Spray for the family of Jim W. Blair Jr..



Smith Tank & Equipment Company - April 03, 2024 at 04:24 PM

SC

“ Smith Tank & Equipment Company planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Jim W. Blair Jr..

Smith Tank & Equipment Company - April 03, 2024 at 04:24 PM

Tim Mullins

“ Tuesday April 9, 1985 Mr. and Mrs. Blair walked in as the new owners of Smith Tank & Equipment Company. I introduced myself and told Mr. Blair it was my birthday. He asked is that a good or a bad birthday present? I told him I hope it's a good birthday present, but time will tell. 38 years, 11 months and 20 days later of continuous employment, I would say it was a good birthday present. Mr. Blair will truly be missed.

Tim Mullins - April 02, 2024 at 06:45 PM

TM

“ Tim Mullins purchased the Strength & Solace Spray for the family of Jim W. Blair Jr..



Tim Mullins - April 02, 2024 at 06:01 PM

TM

“ Tim Mullins planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Jim W. Blair Jr..

Tim Mullins - April 02, 2024 at 06:01 PM

TS

“ *He was my friend, and a good friend since the 1980's. God bless the Blair family! Tom Sowell*

tom sowell - April 01, 2024 at 06:58 PM



“ *Enduring Grace was purchased for the family of Jim W. Blair Jr..*



April 01, 2024 at 06:01 PM