



Jimmy Wheeler

January 18, 1952 - July 21, 2017

James Allen “Jimmy” Wheeler passed away on July 21, 2017 in Tyler. A Celebration of Life service will be held at 1:30pm on Saturday, July 29th at Green Acres Baptist Church Chapel at 1607 Troup Highway in Tyler with Dr. David O. Dykes and Rev. Cory Welch officiating, under the direction of Stewart Family Funeral Home.

Jimmy was born in Dallas, Texas to Clifford Wheeler and Lillian Nabors Wheeler on January 18th, 1952. He graduated from Hillcrest High School and Southern Methodist University. He married the love of his life Joanne Wheeler on September 1st, 1979.

Jimmy was an Honor Roll student at Hillcrest High School where he participated in golf, basketball, Key Club and Student Council. He later attended Southern Methodist University where he was a four year letterman on the Men’s Golf Team and was a member of the Sigma Alpha Epsilon Men’s Fraternity. In the 1970s he worked for Martin Foods and Southland Corporation and later was a salesman for Mutual of New York. In the early 1990s he joined The Wheeler Company where he served as Vice President overseeing various investments including the family’s beloved Quick N’ Easy Car Wash.

Jimmy was an accomplished amateur golfer, playing in top amateur tournaments around the country. He loved the comradery and storytelling of the game and the many friends he made while playing. Jimmy won the first two Texas Golf Association Four-Ball Championships in 1976 and 1977, which

were played at his home course, Dallas Athletic Club. In addition to eight Hollytree Country Club Championships, Jimmy won club championships at Dallas Athletic Club and Northwood Country Club in Dallas. More recently, Jimmy finished 4th in the Texas State Senior Championship in 2013 at Willow Brook Country Club.

In 1985, Jimmy co-founded the Azalea Invitational Golf Tournament, a 54-hole tournament that attracts some of the top amateur players in Texas. The tournament was renamed in his honor in 2015. In later years, Jimmy was an inspiration to many as he relied on his Christian faith and the love of family and friends to withstand significant health challenges.

Jimmy will be fondly remembered for his faith, sense of humor, optimism, zest for life, and love of family and friends.

Jimmy was preceded in death by his parents.

Jimmy is survived by his wife, Joanne; brother Clifford Wheeler, sister Doretha Glass; three children, Jennifer Hall and husband David; Austin Wheeler and wife Lauren; Natalie Welch and husband Cory; and eight grandchildren, Laura Leigh, Anna, Ethan, Lilly, Lillian, Hudson, Jonah, and Mary Ann.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made in Jimmy's honor to Baylor Institute for Rehabilitation in Dallas and Hospice of East Texas.

"I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith." 2 Timothy 4:7-8

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

JUL **29**. 1:30 PM (CT)

Green Acres Baptist Church - Chapel
1607 Troup Hwy
Tyler, TX 75701

Tribute Wall



“ Stewart Family Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Jimmy Wheeler



Stewart Family Funeral Home - July 25, 2017 at 05:14 PM

MR

“ I knew Jimmy from 3rd grade all the way through our college days at SMU. He was such a nice guy and talented athlete. He was always up and positive. Rest in peace, my old friend. - Mitch Roberts

Mitch Roberts - September 05, 2025 at 08:31 PM

DD

“ Jimmy was one of the most amazing guys I've ever been around. He never met a stranger. When he was in the hospital with both legs amputated, he asked me about my knee and even prayed for me before I went for surgery. I entered his room to try to bless him, but he ended up being a huge blessing to me!
Pastor David Dykes

David Dykes - July 28, 2017 at 09:42 AM

NH

Jimmy and Joanne have been great friends for many many years! Our girls were in the same class and we shared a lot of fun trips and many Mexican dinners together!

We have visited Jimmy over these last 3 years of his stay in several nursing carefacilities. He amazed us in never complaining about anything which would have been so easy for most to do with all of his circumstances.

He usually asked to pray for one of us if we mentioned some little family difficulty.

He was a blessing to us in his positive attitude and his faith in our Lord. We will definitely miss our visits with his favorite Bodacious BBQ sandwich!

We cherish our times together

We are sad in that we won't see him anymore here on this earth but we WILL see him again in our heavenly home!

Nancy Hart - July 29, 2017 at 11:32 AM

DA

Just returned home from the celebration service for Jimmy. God is still using him even in his death to encourage others. Pray this will be said of me one day. We were so blessed by being there today.

Donna Alderman - July 29, 2017 at 09:06 PM



“ 2 files added to the album Life Tributes



Stewart Family Funeral Home - July 26, 2017 at 12:51 PM



“ 59 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



Stewart Family Funeral Home - July 25, 2017 at 05:02 PM



“ 50 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



Stewart Family Funeral Home - July 25, 2017 at 03:03 PM