



James Paul Gillispie

November 28, 1928 - April 29, 2025

James Paul Gillispie, 96 years, passed away peacefully in his sleep on Tuesday, April 29, 2025 at his home in Travelers Rest, SC.

Born on November 28, 1928, in Paintsville, KY, James served honorably in the U.S. Army immediately after WWII. He loved serving his country but chose to be discharged after eighteen months to hurry back to Kentucky and marry his one true-love, Loretta Short, in October 1948. The next 55 years were the best in their life as they made a home, raised 2 children, pursued careers and joyfully served the Lord together. James mourned Loretta for the next 22 years after her passing in June 2003. He was known to cry and laugh at the mention of her name and, in his old age, often asked the Lord to take him Home so he could be with Him and her.

James worked hard all his life. He was a trolley driver, merchant, realtor, property manager and business owner. He had a passion for building, repairing buildings, cutting grass and doing whatever

else Loretta asked him to do. After Loretta's death, he developed a relationship with a church in Ghana, Africa and traveled to Asseserte, Ghana three times to serve, minister and build multiple churches despite having never traveled internationally and being 80 years old.

James was strongly devoted to the Lord. He served as a preacher, deacon and elder in the Church of Christ. He raised his children to love the Lord and was an exceedingly good example of a faithful husband, loving father and Christian servant. Raised and loved by his father, James "Buck" Gillispie and his mother, Virginia & "Virgie" Gillispie (Conelly),

Preceding James in death was his wife, Loretta and daughter, Cindy. James is survived by his son, James Lee Gillispie as well as his seven grandchildren: Jordan Collier, Carie-Collier-Smith, Claire Measel, James Hunter Gillispie (Allie), Emily Foster (Ben), Meida Gillispie, Brighton Gillispie, 14 great grandchildren and 2 great-great granddaughters.

A family graveside service will be held on Sunday, May 4th at the family cemetery in Meally, Kentucky under the direction of Phelps Funeral Home.

Previous Events

Burial (Family)

MAY 4.

PRIVATE BURIAL

Tribute Wall

DM

“ *Mr. James was a dear, good man, and he and his beloved Loretta meant so much to our church family at the Xenia Church of Christ in Ohio. We so enjoyed going to Cedarville where they would generously give tours of their lovely home which was filled with antiques. They adored one another and served as admirable examples of Godly servant hood. Our sympathy, prayers, and love go out to those he left behind. It's a great comfort to know he is with God.*

Dick and Diane Moore - May 01, 2025 at 07:02 PM

LF

“ *What a beautiful obituary and an amazing man! Quite an extraordinary life. My love to the entire Gillispie Family.*

Lisa F - May 01, 2025 at 05:36 PM

JB

“ *There aren't enough kind words to describe what a wonderful person Mr.G was. I will always remember his laughter and smile every time he was given cake, donuts, milk shakes or even a special pumpkin roll! It was an honor to be your nurse, caregiver and friend!*

Love, Jessica and Jason Bailey

Jessica Bailey - May 01, 2025 at 02:33 PM

DM

“ *Heartfelt condolences from the staff of Heartland Hospice.* ”



Donald Y. Miller - May 01, 2025 at 08:35 AM