



James Leroy Clemons

December 4, 1947 - April 20, 2026

James Leroy Clemons, "Jim," 78, of Jacksonville, Florida, passed away on April 17, 2026.

Jim was born on December 4, 1947, in Jacksonville, to Gladys and Leroy Clemons. He grew up in a close-knit community where his father was a respected community leader. Jim met his future wife, Bettye Jo, while the two were in high school in Jacksonville, and they would go on to share 58 years of marriage.

After college, he began his career as a CPA practicing in both the public and private sectors before channeling his entrepreneurial spirit into the food and restaurant industry in the early 1970s. Over the following decades, he built a remarkable business legacy in Jacksonville, owning Wendy's and Arby's franchises, founding the beloved local fast-food chain Biskits, and establishing Cross Creek BBQ and Steakhouse, which continues to serve the Jacksonville community today.

Beyond his business achievements, Jim was a man of strength with a willingness to lend a helping hand. As a young man, he enjoyed fishing, running, skiing, Tuesday night poker games, and traveling. As his businesses grew, he gave generously his time and talents to the broader community. He served as president of the Florida Restaurant Association and as a member of

the Duval County School Board. He was a longtime, faithful member of St. Matthew's Catholic Church. In his later years, his four grandsons became his pride and joy.

Jim is survived by his beloved wife Bettye Jo; his daughters Leslie McAtee (Sean) and Nicole Lewis (Chip); his four grandsons Andrew James McAtee, John Michael McAtee, Bauer Wynn Lewis, and Walker Fielding Lewis; his brother, Steve Clemons; and his niece and nephew.

A mass of Christian burial will be held on Wednesday, May 6, 2026, at St. Matthew's Catholic Church in Jacksonville, Florida. In lieu of flowers, the family kindly requests that donations be made to the Jacksonville Humane Society in Jim's memory.

Previous Events

Mass of Christian Burial

MAY 6.

St. Matthew's Catholic Church

Tribute Wall



“ *We offer our deepest condolences to you and your loved ones, James. May God bless you with strength and courage as you cherish your loved one and the precious memories in the coming days.*

H. Harris - April 29 at 10:38 AM