



Mr. James Scott Lankford (Scotty)

June 12, 1941 - January 1, 2019

James Scott Lankford (Scotty), age 77, passed away January 1, 2019 in his Huntsville home after a valiant battle with cancer. His family, friends, and firm belief in God supported him in his struggle and ultimately gave him peace.

Scotty was born to the late Homer Truett and Mary Rivers Lankford in Hollywood, AL on June 12, 1941. He is survived by his devoted wife and best friend of 57 years - Joyce Huber Lankford; sister Carolyn Lankford and brother Michael Lankford (wife Carolyn); sons Todd Lankford (Paige) and Mark Lankford (Lisa); grandchildren Jana Kirksey, Johnathan Lankford, Jeffrey Lankford, Brent Lankford, Jordan Brook, Jay Lankford, Peyton Lankford, and Josh Lankford.

Scotty graduated Scottsboro High School in 1959, where he was a standout basketball and baseball player. Upon many awards and championships, he was awarded a basketball scholarship to Florence State College and was one of the famous “Hustling Eight from Florence State” going to the first National Championship Tournament in school history. In 1961, Scotty enlisted in the United States Air Force and ultimately became the USAF “Combative Measures” Judo Instructor; later winning the Mid-West 180lb Judo Championship. Upon his Honorable Discharge in 1965, he returned to Florence State to complete a degree in Biology which served him well in his position with Alabama Power/Southern Company for 35 years. During his career as a biologist, he served as past President of the Mid-South Aquatic Plant Management Society and past President of the Alabama Vector Management Society.

Scotty enjoyed teaching and coaching many young athletes during his lifetime. He always stressed the importance of a strong work ethic, physical conditioning, mental sharpness and always portraying an example of what a positive attitude can achieve. In 2017, Scotty was inducted into the Jackson County Sports Hall of Fame.

Scotty was a faithful member of First United Methodist Church of Scottsboro and served as a loving Christian example for his family. Words that have been used by close friends and family to describe Scotty are hardworking, witty, humorous, animated, positive, uplifting, motivating, smart, teacher, mentor, coach, giving, loving, outdoorsman, and a rock. Some of Scotty’s own last words expressed his joyful life – “I have been so lucky. I loved my wife and she loved me. I loved my children and they loved me. I loved my work. I

had close friends. I love the life God gave me. I was so very blessed!”

A Memorial service will be held at First United Methodist Church of Scottsboro on Saturday January 5, 2019 at 1:00pm with a Reception to follow. Dr. Steve Screws will officiate the ceremony and celebration of Scotty’s life. Flowers can be sent to the church at 1105 S Broad Street – Scottsboro, AL 35768. In lieu of flowers, donations can be accepted to St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital or First United Methodist Church of Scottsboro.

Comments



“ Days of Sunshine Bouquet was purchased for the family of Mr. James Scott Lankford (Scotty).



January 04, 2019 at 03:37 PM



“ I will always remember Scotty and basketball. We had great teams and great participation. He was always friendly , witty, and I called him my friend. Condolences to the family.

martha Lou Wright - January 04, 2019 at 03:05 PM



“ Scotty was always my big brother. When we were little he always held my hand when we went anywhere. We would dress up as cowboys and Indians and go to the movies on Saturday. He will always be my big brother. I will miss him so very much but praise the Lord I will see him again.

Carolyn Lankford - January 02, 2019 at 09:38 PM



“ A great friend and neighbor has gone to be with the Lord. Scotty and I talked with each other almost every week. Many times it was during the time I ran by his house in route to the fairways of the golf course where I run. He would be out getting his mail or paper or walking on the golf course pathways. Many times I stopped and talked to him while he was shooting golf balls on the golf course fairways behind his beautiful home while I was getting ready to run or while taking an intermission from cycling on the golf course pathways. I remember Scotty stopping me one frosty morning, with snow on the ground, not long after we moved to Scottsboro after retirement from a second round of teaching in Georgia. He said, "Tom, you don't ever let up, do you? I said, "No, Scotty, I try not to, because if I let up today, I might not get up tomorrow." I last talked to Scotty in his Huntsville home less than two weeks ago. He was very weak in voice but remained in good spirits as always. He told me he was prepared for death and was at peace with the Lord. Many will miss Scotty. He was a great friend and soldier of the Cross! He is finally at peace with His Master and out of pain in the Heavenly home, praise God! Tom Guin

Tom Guin - January 02, 2019 at 07:45 PM



“ Patricia Presley lit a candle in memory of Mr. James Scott Lankford (Scotty)



Patricia Presley - January 02, 2019 at 05:11 PM