



James "Jimmy" Chafin

November 23, 1950 - May 5, 2024

On May 5, 2024, James Lowe Chafin (Jimmy), a celebrated former coach and teacher from Burch High School, left his earthly body and entered Heaven, where numerous loved ones and friends welcomed him home. Born on November 23, 1950, to James Benny and Ruth Lowe Chafin, Jimmy grew up in Delbarton, West Virginia. After graduating from Burch High School, he went on to Marshall University, where he earned a degree in Health Education and Physical Education. After working as a mail carrier, a karate instructor, and a coal mining operator in the Huntington area, Jimmy returned to his home town to teach physical education and health and coach basketball and volleyball. Jimmy is survived by his loving wife of 50 years, Judith Ann Chafin. After Judith's mother's tragic death many years ago, the young couple took over the care of Tonya, Judith's 10-year-old sister. Tonya always considered Jimmy her dad, as he mentored her in many ways. Tonya Justice's children, William Slash and Destiny Cheyenne; her grandchildren, Nae Nae, A.J., Kaila Rose, and Lavon; and all who are part of their lives mourn the passing of Jimmy as well.

Although Jimmy was technically the only child to his parents, he and the children of Will M. and Ruby J. Smith, Mitzi, Bill, and Mike, considered themselves siblings. This family fusion resulted as Ruth and Ruby (the Lowe identical twins) cooperated in the rearing of their children, when Ruby's husband died, and she moved her family to Delbarton. Left to grieve their brother's passing are Mitzi Smith Farley and her husband Ralph (Charleston,

South Carolina), and Michael M. Smith (Delbarton). Jimmy is also survived by his niece, Jessica Farley Evans and her husband Cory, along with their children Harper, Grady, Millie, JoJo, and Henry (Charleston, South Carolina). Serving as a coach at Burch High School from 1988-2006, Jimmy earned a number of accolades with various teams: 1989 Junior High Basketball Championship, Asst. Coach; 1990 Girls' Basketball State Championship, Asst. Coach; 1991 Girls' Basketball State Runner-up, Asst. Coach; 1991 and 1993 Boys' Basketball State Championships, Asst. Coach; and 1994 and 1998 Boys' Basketball State Runner-up, Asst. Coach. As the first coach of Girls' Volleyball at Burch High, Jimmy won Sectional Titles in 2004 and 2005. In addition, he led his team in winning the Regional Championship and its first State Championship appearance.

Additionally, Jimmy was an excellent teacher and mentor to hundreds of students, who affectionately called him "Super Chaf." His close friends also marveled at his numerous capabilities: artist, black belt in Karate, drummer, writer of poetry and prose, magician, juggler, and athletic trainer.

In the last several years, Jimmy endured great suffering with dignity. Though he was not able to get out, he maintained great interest in the lives of those he loved. He and Judy spent time in prayer and shared a key verse from the Bible together each day. Also, he enjoyed listening to David Jeremiah, James Merritt, and Charles Stanley on television. His faith in God sustained him to the end.

In accordance with the wishes of Jimmy, his family will not have a funeral at this time. Instead, we will have a Memorial Service in his honor during the Delbarton Homecoming Event on Labor Day Weekend in September of this year. We ask that those who loved Jimmy plan to come to Delbarton and share in this time of remembrance of the life of Jimmy Chafin. Specific times and places will be announced as the time grows near. During these coming days of grieving, our family desires your prayers. However, we ask that we be afforded the time we need to mourn Jimmy in privacy.

Tribute Wall

DJ

“ Jimmy, Bill, Mike and I had so many good times together, either playing baseball, football, Basketball, Army, handball, or just goofing off. We had started a band called "The Patriots", back in the days of the Beatles and Rolling Stones, along with Mike Denver. We held a "Haunted House" on our front porch every Halloween, and charged a quarter to go through. So many great memories....such close friends....like brothers. May you rejoice in Jesus's Arms, dear Brother!

Donald H Crum Jr - May 08, 2024 at 01:53 AM

SC

“ I'm going to miss Jimmy, he was such a good teacher and coach. Prayers for the family during this time. R.I.P. now you will be missed but not forgotten

Stephanie Stepp Currence - May 07, 2024 at 11:52 AM



“ Emma G Runyon lit a candle in memory of James "Jimmy" Chafin



Emma G Runyon - May 07, 2024 at 08:04 AM

MB

“ Malena “Coleman” Browning lit a candle in memory of James "Jimmy" Chafin



Malena “Coleman” Browning - May 06, 2024 at 10:25 PM

AW

“ There’s few people who leave such a lasting impression on your life. One of them for me is Mr.Jimmy Chafin. “Super Chaf” He believed in me. But it wasn’t just that, I enjoyed watching him in the class, and out on the court. He was an encourager and made you feel like you were the VIP in the room when he spoke to you. Whether he was making awesome trick shots from half court, juggling basketballs, teaching or just in conversation - there was something special and unique about his charisma. I really looked up to him and throughout my fighting career and life now in ministry he always kept up. Sending messages along the way that made me feel like he was still cheering me on. He was a great man, from a great family. I had much respect and admiration for him and will miss him. My prayers are with Judith, her family and Mike, Mitzi, Ralph, Jess and her family. A piece of Delbarton history gone but never forgotten. I will see you again.



Angie M Woolum - May 06, 2024 at 09:49 PM

SJ

I, along with my two sons met Jimmy and Judy when they were going to Marshall. We became life-long friends. Jimmy mentored my two young sons as I was a single parent. He assisted with their little league baseball games and taught them how to use numchucks! He was such a wonderful influence on their young lives. We had remained friends for 50+years and I can truly say Jimmy was one of the most wonderful people in our lives. Such a gentleman and friend to everyone. He has left a wonderful legacy and will be sadly missed, but never forgotten. Rest in peace, Jimmy

Sherri Johnson - May 16, 2024 at 09:17 AM

GC

“ Greg N Pam Chapman lit a candle in memory of James "Jimmy" Chafin



Greg n Pam Chapman - May 06, 2024 at 09:44 PM

SL

“ Sue Light lit a candle in memory of James "Jimmy" Chafin



Sue Light - May 06, 2024 at 09:38 PM

DH

“ Coach Jimmy Chafin will always be a part of our memories as one of the finest men a girl could ever have as a coach. He was the embodiment of what it takes to be a winner. He was strict but very fair. I will miss his Facebook thumbs up on some of my posts. He always was an encourager and such a fine man to know. Not goodbye my friend, but see you later.

Diann Hannah - May 06, 2024 at 09:31 PM

SH

“ *Shana Hughes lit a candle in memory of James "Jimmy" Chafin*



Shana Hughes - May 06, 2024 at 08:56 PM

SH

I knew him as a high school teacher. He could barely talk but he knew how to get attention.

Shana Hughes - May 06, 2024 at 08:58 PM

BD

“ *Jimmy's wisdom to treat everyone he met with respect and love will remain in my heart and mind till we meet, again. What an example he set for us all!*

BRENDA DAVIS - May 06, 2024 at 08:49 PM

DE

Jimmy done a lot of great things for our children he will be missed by so many

Donnie Edwards - May 07, 2024 at 10:15 PM

G(

“ *Gail (Whitt)Ulisney lit a candle in memory of James "Jimmy" Chafin*



Gail (Whitt)Ulisney - May 06, 2024 at 08:18 PM

AW

“ My Family and I are Truly Saddened for the Loss of this Great Young Man!! Jimmy was a Friend to Everyone!! I had the Honor of being a Neighbor to him and Judy many Years ago in Huntington, WV while married to John Musick!! They Loved our Daughter, Marsha!! Our Family thought the World of him!! The Town of Delbarton will Forever Miss him!! Prayers to Judy and her Loving Family 🙏💜



Anita Witten - May 06, 2024 at 07:14 PM

CH

“ Connie Hatfield lit a candle in memory of James "Jimmy" Chafin



Connie Hatfield - May 06, 2024 at 06:21 PM

SS

“ Rest in peace coach.

Stephen W Sheppard - May 06, 2024 at 05:32 PM

ST

“ My thoughts and prayers for his family and friends!

Sheila Trippett - May 06, 2024 at 04:36 PM

EF

I am so sad to hear this. What a reunion you must be having with those who have gone ahead. Good bye my friend....Praying for God's comfort for all those who loved him and cared for him. Love to all, Evelyn (Hanshaw) Ferrell

Evelyn Ferrell - May 06, 2024 at 05:01 PM

RC

*Jimmy was a nice man and an awesome coach and a great co-worker.
But the greatest thing he ever done was to accept Jesus as his savior.
When all is said and done that's what counts Rest in peace my friend
Hope to see you in Heaven one day.*

Ranall Crum - May 07, 2024 at 02:48 PM