



Jim Clark

January 4, 1934 - November 13, 2020

Jim Clark, 86, of Rogers, Arkansas, died at Mercy Hospital on November 13, 2020, after suffering a heart attack. This was his second heart attack, his first having occurred 47 years before.

James Howard Clark was born in Carroll County, Arkansas on January 4, 1934 to Marion (Dock) and Ona Mattox Clark. He grew up in and around Eureka Springs, one of five children raised by a single mother as the area progressed through the Depression.

Having completed the credits for graduation and becoming restless, and as his mother was beginning college at the University of Arkansas, Jim left high school at the age of 16 and began college classes as well. He graduated with a History degree and participated in ROTC. After graduation he was commissioned a 2nd Lieutenant, and the Army sent him to Fort Benning, Georgia. In the service, he was assigned to work on the post newspaper, an assignment which would permanently shape who he was to become.

After discharge, Jim continued in the newspaper business, first briefly in Nebraska, then taking a job with the Arkansas Gazette in Little Rock. Jim worked as a copy editor and eventually left as the assistant news editor, present for and participating in its coverage of the 1957 Central High School desegregation crisis and its aftermath in Arkansas politics. In 1966, Jim moved to Bentonville, taking a position with Cooper Communities, to run the newspaper it produced for Bella Vista. In 1968, he went to work in the News and Information Department of the University of Arkansas, never missing a day there in his thirteen years.

Following a path blazed by his son, he entered law school at Fayetteville in 1981. Jim treated law school like a job and was a diligent student, and that along with the writing skills he had honed as a newspaperman led him to having a fine academic record and being selected for the Arkansas Law Review. After graduation in December 1983, and passing the bar exam early in 1984, Jim entered the private practice of law in Bentonville, partnering with his son at Clark & Crabtree. Jim represented clients on a broad range of

issues, and later served as a part time Deputy Prosecuting Attorney for Carroll County.

Following the death of his first wife, Dixie Clark, and weary of some of the aspects of private law practice, in 1997 Jim left private practice and took a full-time position as the Deputy City Attorney for the City of Rogers. He "retired" from that position in 2004 returning to do the daily crossword puzzle and practice a little law with his son at what by that time was Clark & Spence. During that period, he was elected to and served on the Rogers City Council. Jim left private practice again in 2008 to reprise his role as Deputy City Attorney for a period, "retiring" again from that in 2014.

In April 2014, Jim was appointed by Governor Beebe to serve as the Prosecuting Attorney for the 19th Judicial District-West (Benton County) filling the open position for seven months after which time he "retired" again. Jim's final call to service was when the Rogers City Council appointed him as its City Attorney in August 2015, filling the open position for sixteen months after which time he finally was fully "retired."

While Jim was a fine lawyer, he thought of himself at least as much as being a newspaperman. And Jim was a Yellow Dog Democrat. He participated in local politics having assisted several friends in runs for office and having run and been elected to the Bentonville City Council in the 1980s and the Rogers City Council in the 2000s.

In his "retirements," Jim took a keen interest in politics and the issues of the day. He was a regular reader of and active contributor to the Arkansas Times Blog as "plainjim." After Jim transitioned to become part of the Rogers community, and into his retirement, Jim became a fixture at Ozark Fence in Rogers being faithful in his attendance for choir practice and was a regular for many years on Whitey's Chicken Cookin' Crew.

Jim was a member of First United Methodist Church in Rogers, and taught Sunday school there in his later years – something that likely would have surprised his younger self.

Jim's parents predeceased him as did two sisters, Louise Berry and Madge Terrill. Jim is also predeceased by his first wife, the former Dixie Lee Stacy.

Jim is survived by his wife, Sharon (Adamson) Clark of the home; his son Greg Clark and wife Karen, of Bentonville; his daughter, Stacy Clark of Bella Vista; two sisters, Joanna Mickey of Phoenix AZ and Nancy Clark of Eureka Springs; three grandsons, Lucas Clark and wife Allison of Cave Springs, Adam Clark and wife, Jessica, of Centerton, and Chase Clark and wife Sarah, of Decatur; his step-son Todd Parker and wife Kate of California; step-daughter, Stacey Parker and husband Kyle Hickey of Utah, and step-daughter,

Lesley Fry and husband, Jay Hunter Fry of Rogers. Jim is also survived by eight great-grandchildren and two step-grandchildren.

Jim's earthly remains will be cremated, and the family will spread his ashes as he had requested. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Circle of Life Hospice, 1201 NE Legacy Pkwy, Bentonville, AR 72712 or the Frank & Barbara Broyles Alzheimer's Foundation, 3810 N. Front St, Suite 3, Fayetteville, AR 72703.

Many were lucky enough to call Jim a friend and he relished any excuse to spend time with them. But not for COVID, we all would be gathered to celebrate the life of this giant of a gentleman. When possible, a celebration of life will be planned. And there will be stories - lots of them. In the meantime, raise a glass, and remember Jim.

To place an online tribute, please visit www.stockdalemoody.com

Comments



“ We were sad to hear of Jim's death. When ever we say him, he always wanted an update on our kids! Our love and prayers for Sharon, Lesley, and all the family. Katie and Jay Kraner

Katie Kraner - November 29, 2020 at 10:26 AM



“ These tributes say so much about Jim and how he was regarded by those with whom he came into contact. He was so easy, enjoyable and interesting to spend an evening with. We send our condolences to Sharon and Family.

Fred and Brenda Wanger - November 25, 2020 at 09:50 PM



“ Our condolences to Jim's family.
Maritza & Robert Klock

robert klock - November 20, 2020 at 11:43 AM



“ Jim was a cousin but I didn't get to know him until later in life. He was a kind and honorable man. Would loved to have spent more time with him to listen to some of His stories

Peggy Penzo - November 18, 2020 at 10:54 PM



“ Jim Clark was a gentleman in the finest sense of the word, a friend and a credit to the legal profession.

Gene Kelley - November 17, 2020 at 03:15 PM



“ When I worked at the paper and covered courts, Jim was always a calm person, a lawyer with class and dignity, who cared about his clients and doing right. He was a true gentleman of intelligence and grace. He will be missed - I bet he is conferencing in Judge Tom Keith's chambers in that big courtroom in the sky.

Lana Hutchins Flowers - November 17, 2020 at 11:32 AM



“ I got to know Jim through the Rogers Google Group of the "Other Esquire Jim" ... who said of Jim Clark: "they don't make `um any better". It was so apparent that Jim was a very special person!! I learned more of Jim's interesting life by reading this excellent Obituary ... WHAT a great life!! My Condolences to Jim's Family and many Friends.

C. Schell (aka "Orv)

C. Schell - November 16, 2020 at 08:03 PM



“ I was so saddened to hear of Jim's passing. I first got acquainted with Jim when I moved to Bentonville as High School Assistant Principal and Dixie was the Secretary. Nanci and I became friends with Jim and Dixie and spent a lot of time in their home over the years. We as well as our children consider the Clark's as family. We have a lot of fond memories of playing pitch with them. Jim and Nanci would partner against Dixie and I. We won most of the time. They accused us of cheating, but we were very honest. Our family enjoyed lots of special get togethers at holidays and other times. Jim was my campaign chair as I ran as a Republican and he was a staunch Democrat. Friends first.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Sharon, Greg, Karen, Stacy, his sisters, Nancy and Joanna and all the Grands. He will certainly be missed by so many. RIP Jim.

David Green

David Green - November 16, 2020 at 04:19 PM



“ Sharon, so sorry to hear about Jim's passing. I Always enjoyed visiting with him.
Ron and Linda

Ron Roberts - November 15, 2020 at 07:53 PM



“ Pink Tribute Spray was purchased for the family of Jim Clark.



November 15, 2020 at 04:42 PM



“ Sharon, Greg, Stacy and families. I was so sadden to learn of Jim's passing, my heart goes out to each of you. What an interesting, beloved gentle man he was. I feel so honored and blessed to have had the opportunity to work for him and w/him those seven months at the PA Office. I frankly decided to retire at the end of 2014 due to the fact that he would be leaving, Van was gone and they were going paperless. Time for me to change courses as well. He will certainly be missed by the family and many, many people with so many fond memories of Jim Clark. Take care of yourselves, know that God is in charge, he will make each day easier and with all those memories you will be blessed.

Shirley Ferguson

Shirley Ferguson - November 15, 2020 at 04:08 PM



“ linda Porter is following this tribute.

linda Porter - November 15, 2020 at 02:04 PM



“ I remember most Jim's observations and calm, sage advice on issues politic and legal. And, such a gentleman; a rarity and a throwback to more civil times. Great sense of humor and fun to be around, you always wanted to sit next to Jim. Here's a toast to a long life well-lived.

John Sampiet - November 15, 2020 at 01:50 PM



“ What a dear man and a dear friend he was. When I went to work at the Arkansas Gazette in 1960 Jim edited much of the stuff I wrote and made me sound literate. He became the night news editor shortly afterward and was basically responsible for the layout of the morning paper and it was his judgment what went on the front page and how the stories were treated. The copy editors worshipped him. He was witty, ebullient. The accompanying photo with the mischievous grin captures him perfectly. I remember chatting with him late one night in the early '60s and his economic goal was to some day be paid \$10,000 a year. I think he probably made it and then went back to north Arkansas for a more lucrative career. On the Arkansas Times blog, Plain Jim was always right on the money.
Ernie Dumas

Ernie Dumas - November 15, 2020 at 01:32 PM



“ Jim always had a smile to share. Such nice man. My sincere sympathies to Jim's family and Greg and the rest of the family.

Mary Schneider - November 15, 2020 at 11:41 AM



“ RIP Jim, you will be missed.

David Menci - November 15, 2020 at 10:47 AM



“ What a lovely, lovely obituary. To his surviving family and close friends, may your memories of Jim give you comfort and soothe your soul. To the PlainJim fans, I hope a new, almost as qualified, voice of reason and experience eases into his blog spot.

Peggy Egan - November 15, 2020 at 10:38 AM



“ i was one of the lucky ones to know Jim as a friend in his later years, thanks to his wife Sharon, my former sister-in-law. I was pleased when they visited Billie and me at our Rogers home on S. 26th.

I knew and followed him as Plain Jim (sic) in the Arkansas Blog, where he was an outstanding contributor...amd he was far, far from being `plain`. Atty. Jim Lingle said it best to the Rogers Group..."they don` t make `um any better".

Sincere regrets !

Gene Bland
Rogers, Ar..(now N. Fort Myers, Fla)

Gene Bland - November 15, 2020 at 10:13 AM



“ Never met him in person but exchanged many words and ideas with him on the Arkansas Times' blog. His wit and wisdom will be missed by all of us.

Roger Head - November 15, 2020 at 09:33 AM



“ I remember him from the ua when he was in the news service area. And again after he married sharon and became an extended part of the family through Sheryl, Jan and sharon. He was a great Methodist and democrat and we shared many interests. He was easy to visit with and told great stories. We are grateful to have known him. Rogers will miss this man. He was a true patriot.

ann and morriss henry - November 14, 2020 at 09:29 PM



“ Our thoughts and Prayers to all the family in the loss of a great man. Jim always had a smile, a kind word and story for you. Find comfort and peace knowing he was loved and will be missed. Joe and Carol Featherston

Joe/Carol Featherston - November 14, 2020 at 08:08 PM



“ Gary Rains & I were so honored to call Jim, "friend". As many of you know, Gary has the gift of gab, and he & Jim could talk all night about many, many details that were known VERY well by them both! I, Barbara Steenblock Rains, grew up in Bentonville, and there wasn't anything I could bring up that Jim couldn't talk in depth about! He was a very knowledgeable man! We are going to miss him so! RIP

Barbara Rains - November 14, 2020 at 06:23 PM



“ Barbara, very well said ! Regards to you and Gary.

Gene Bland

Gene Bland - November 16, 2020 at 11:30 AM



“ I'm so sorry to hear this. Jim and I first became friends when he worked for the University of Arkansas news service and I was in college and working in radio in Springdale. Over the years we stayed friends as he went to Law School, became a very respected attorney and through it all he was always one of the nicest people you would ever want to meet. I'm a better person for having known Jim and will always treasure our friendship.

Elvis Moody

Elvis Moody - November 14, 2020 at 04:08 PM