



Mr James R. Winniford

October 2, 1935 - May 28, 2016

Services for James Robert Winniford, 80, of Gilmer will be held 10 a.m. Friday June 3, 2016 at the chapel of McWhorter Funeral Home. Private family burial will be held in Cumby Texas. The family will receive friends from 6p.m.-8p.m. Thursday June 2, 2016 at McWhorter Funeral Home.

James died peacefully May 28, 2016 in Longview following a lengthy illness. He was born on October 2, 1935 to the late John and Beryl Winniford in Cumby, TX

Mr. Winniford was married in Campbell, TX to Anna Mitchel June 11, 1966 He was a faithful husband and loving father.

He graduated from Commerce High School in 1953, having previously attended Cumby schools until his senior year. After high school he attended East Texas State College and received degrees in Chemistry, Physics, and Biology. In 1963 he received his Master's in Biology from East Texas State College. He taught in various schools around North Texas finally moving to East Texas for the remainder of his teaching career. Mr. Winniford retired from the public school system after having taught for 36 years.

Following retirement from public schools he taught several courses in chemistry at North East Texas Community College. He then went on to receive his real estate license and sold real estate in the East Texas area. He preached for over 60 years at congregations throughout East Texas. In 1974 he moved to East Mountain Church of Christ where he preached for 40 years, only recently retiring for health reasons.

In his spare time he enjoyed working cattle. He loved animals and enjoyed bird watching from his back porch, he loved people and nature, Always loved to tell stories and could always find a way to make them humorous. James loved making people laugh.

He is survived by his wife; Anna, Daughters; Kim and husband John Mayer, Shannon and husband James McCraw, Grandchildren; Kenny Mayer, Alex Mayer, and granddaughter Presley McCraw.

Please visit James's on-line register book at www.mcwhorterfh.com to leave a memory for the family.

Previous Events

Visitation

JUN 2. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

McWhorter Funeral Home
1074 St. Hwy 300
Gilmer, TX 75645
(903) 734-7070
info@mcwhorterfh.com
<https://www.mcwhorterfh.com>

Service

JUN 3. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

McWhorter Funeral Home
1074 St. Hwy 300
Gilmer, TX 75645
(903) 734-7070
info@mcwhorterfh.com
<https://www.mcwhorterfh.com>

Tribute Wall



“ *McWhorter Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Mr James R. Winniford*



McWhorter Funeral Home - May 31, 2016 at 01:32 PM

MJ

Rest in paradise Mr. Winniford. You certainly were a good person. I enjoyed you as my teacher. My prayers for the family.

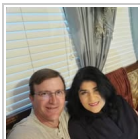
Monique Johnson - June 08, 2016 at 10:55 PM

KP

“ *Was sad to here about Mr.Winniford. Wasn't the best science student but he sure made class fun with his drawings, stories and facial expressions. He was an awesome teacher, but like I said I wasn't that great in science.
Prayers to his family*

Kim LaForce Pritchard

kim pritchard - July 07, 2016 at 08:48 AM



“ *Mr. Winniford was one of my favorite teachers at Big Sandy High School. Loved all his silliness and humor! I love science because of Mr. Winniford! What an awesome teacher and man!
So sorry for your loss. Prayers for all the family.*

Melinda Wigington - June 04, 2016 at 11:17 AM



“ So sad to hear of James' passing. He was a warm, caring, funny man. It's refreshing to meet an approachable preacher with such free and humorous expression. My heart goes out to Mrs. Winifred, Kim and Shannon and the rest of his family. I hope sweet memories of this wonderful man are a comfort to you and eases your sense of loss.

Darla Seter Moore - June 04, 2016 at 08:29 AM

CS

“ James was a very unique person. He was so much fun to be around. I remember him telling stories whether it be about Witch Doctor the Rooster or the "Cat House" my brother helped him build. By the way a house for cats. He could play the best drunk man I've ever seen. He was the most loving man I've known. His grandchildren were very lucky to have him for a grandfather. You are all in my thoughts and prayers Anna, Kim, and Shannon and all the family.

Cheryl Hagler, Joe Chase's sister - June 03, 2016 at 10:33 AM

CS

Cheryl Hagler

Cheryl Hagler, Joe Chase's sister - June 03, 2016 at 10:34 AM



Our whole family loved James. I wish I could have been to the service. We had our first baby goats born this morning and I had to help them. I know James would have appreciated that. God bless you all!

Cheryl Hagler - June 03, 2016 at 10:47 AM

RK

Yes he would!!!

Richard Klima - June 03, 2016 at 08:32 PM

EM

“ *My deepest condolences to the Family of this wonderful man...He will be missed by many but never forgotten.....Evelyn Meadows*

Evelyn Meadows - June 03, 2016 at 09:00 AM



“ *Blue & White Sympathy Floor Basket was purchased for the family of Mr James R. Winniford.*



June 03, 2016 at 08:19 AM

JS

“ *What a wonderful, funny man! He made learning fun! He was a joy to be around and I loved his drawings and funny stories! Jo Deane Vestal Sherrill - New Diana 1978*

Jo Deane Vestal Sherrill - June 02, 2016 at 09:32 PM

ST

“ *Mr. Winniford was my bus driver for many years. He did a good job, and made things fun at the same time. He went over the bump on Water Tower Road faster than he needed to, so we'd bounce in the back seats. He always carried home scraps from the cafeteria in a five-gallon bucket for his pigs. Made for an interesting ride! I was also in his Science class. He obviously enjoyed teaching, and the students. His humor was wonderful! He added a lot of joy to my life.*

Sarah (Rehak) Strub, Hawkins TX - June 02, 2016 at 05:23 PM



“ Sorry for your loss! I went to Big Sandy, and he was my science and biology teacher. His class was tough, but you learned a lot from him. I Loved walking into class to see what he had drawn on the board, and it was usually something funny!

Melinda Williamson Pope - June 02, 2016 at 04:27 PM

TB

“ Wow!!!! I can't believe Mr. Winniford has passed. I have such great fond memories of him. He was my bus driver at Big Sandy school district. I remember when I was 14 yrs. old and my grandmother passed away. He came to pick us up our normal time for school and learned of her passing. I can't remember his exact words in that small amount of time he had to stay on schedule with his route, however I remember how comforted I felt. I was only 14 and never had experienced death. I have so many fun memories that it would take up all this space. I will just end by saying that he was a great, spiritual and funny man and he will be greatly missed. My condolences to his family.

Sincerely posted
Tina Boyd-Cooper



Tina Boyd-Cooper - June 02, 2016 at 02:33 PM

CP

“ Beloved teacher, friend and minister; albeit, he could have been a professional comedian and cartoon artist ... So many fond memories of conversations and events throughout my years at NDHS and the few conversations, after he officiated at my June 15, 1973 marriage. He is a huge part of my "growing up" years. May you Rest in Peace, Mr Winnefred ...
Carolyn Smith Whiteside Pruett NDHS Class of 1973

Carolyn Pruett - June 02, 2016 at 10:52 AM

GP

“ Mr. Winniford was my chemistry teacher at New Diana in 1972. He had the unique ability to make you listen by injecting a little bit of humor every few minutes as he spoke.
He could also swing a fast hard paddle. One trip out to the hallway with him was enough for the school year!

Greg Pellett - June 02, 2016 at 09:19 AM

PL

“ I enjoyed teaching with James Winifred ar Big Sandy ISD. He was full of laughter and funny stories. He knew his science and helped the students enjoy learning.
I'm sorry for the loss, but I certainly know he is with Jesus for eternity!

Pat Lavender - June 02, 2016 at 08:34 AM

CJ

“ I was greatly saddened to learn of Mr. Winniford's passing. He was one of those who made me feel most welcome when I started teaching at Big Sandy in December 1974. He had a great sense of humor. I know he loved his family as he spoke often of them. May our Lord comfort you in your loss.

*Charles Johnson
Rosewood Baptist Church*

Charles Johnson - June 02, 2016 at 07:32 AM

RK

“ I really enjoyed working with him on the farm. He loves animals, especially those cows. I do think the goats ended up a close #2 though.

The most memorable moment is when I almost “wiped him out.” He often talked about the close calls and dangers throughout his life, like we all have.

I was digging a...16 inch hole for a cross tie. Not 13, 15, or 17 inch hole but 16 inch exact. He was supposed to be safely out of the way sitting on a tractor tire doing what God put him here to do... As I went to lift the cross tie in the hole, it kept going. Mr. Winniford's eyes got bigger and bigger as it fell his direction. I know my heart stopped for a longer period. Luckily, it grazed his belly, but enough to leave a good bruise. I don't think he ever knew how much that scared me!!!

The last time we spoke was ironic. Several months ago I had a missed call after finishing a test in Fort Worth. He always left me a voicemail starting with “This is Ol man Winniford here.” I called him back and told him I was thinking of him. I was in the middle of a 100 question chemistry test.

I am very glad he made that call. I had been putting in long hours the last few years, you know “busy.” One last great memory! We both got a kick out of it.

He never met a stranger.

Was tuff yet so kind and caring, loving.

The thing I learned the most, because I am guilty of it. Never be too “busy” to Serve God.

Love,
Ricky


Richard Klima - June 02, 2016 at 01:02 AM

VM

“ *With sympathy and fond memories.*

Venita McCellon-Allen

Venita McCellon-Allen - June 02, 2016 at 12:31 AM

 Kim
Ellison
Hubacek

“ *I remember going up to his desk one day to turn in a test and he was drawing a picture. I asked him what it was and he told me a "Skitty Kitty" and it was literally that... a flattened out furry body with a cat head. 😊 He was quite an artist and practical joker.*

*Love and prayers,
Kim "Ellison" Hubacek*

Kim Ellison Hubacek - June 01, 2016 at 09:36 PM

KM

Thanks Kim. Yes...I think that is one of Daddy's favorite drawings. We are trying to locate one and have it at the funeral.

Kimberly Mayer - June 01, 2016 at 11:52 PM

DS

“ *Mr. Winifred inspired me to major as pre-med in undergrad. My senior year in high school was a huge transition, and his humor, knowledge and belief in me got me through some challenging times. He will always be a special person in my heart.*

David Smith - June 01, 2016 at 06:05 PM

DS

Apologies. My spell checker changed Mr W's name.

David Smith - June 01, 2016 at 06:29 PM

RC

“ Mr. Winniford and I had some memorable moments behind the Ag. shop after lunch. We joked, cut up, and teased kids while waiting for the bell. He was a true friend that enjoyed life to the fullest. I was just through his part of the country two weeks ago and tried to remember where his place was located. Here's to you old friend. God Bless the family. Ron Compton

Ron Compton - June 01, 2016 at 05:18 PM

TF

“ The Gray family. purchased the Floor Plant for Sympathy for the family of Mr James R. Winniford.



The Gray family. - June 01, 2016 at 05:02 PM

RB

“ James Winniford "Winnie" was a dear friend of our family. We will miss him but know he has his heavenly home where there are no more tears, no more sorrow, no more pain. He married my husband Weldon and I 37 years ago today. He tied the knot very tight. He was our preacher and our friend for many years. He preached at my mother and father-in-laws funerals and you knew they were close because he would tear up from time to time telling stories about them. I will always cherish the memories and laughs I've had over the years with him.

Love,
Rhonda Barber

Rhonda Barber - June 01, 2016 at 12:15 PM



“ 11 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



McWhorter Funeral Home - June 01, 2016 at 11:34 AM

JG

“ *Mr "Winniford" was very special to me. I learned the love of science from him and the encouragement to follow my dreams. Im a nurse today and have always thought about him, and wanted to tell him thank you. He is the backbone of my career and gave me the love of science and helping people. He will never be forgotten and Im heartbroken for his family. Prayers for the family, and Mr "Winniford" thankyou for keeping me laughing when I wanted to quit, patients to teach me much more then science, and being a friend and teacher when I didn't have one. You will never be forgotton.*

Joyce Graham RN LSU Level 1Trauma Center

Joyce Graham - June 01, 2016 at 09:26 AM

 Paula
Wood

“ *Mr. Winniford "Winnie", was my biology teacher my sophomore year. He was always smiling but you knew he meant business. There is not a student that doesn't remember his "Maudie Fricket" stories and impersonation. He made learning interesting and fun. (I hated the fish dissection.) He will be remembered fondly.*

Paula Wood


Big Sandy High School 1978

Paula Wood - June 01, 2016 at 07:05 AM

K1

“ *I first met Mr. Winniford in 1977 when he was pastor at East Mountain Church of Christ. My family and I attended church there for a short time before we moved. He definitely touched my spirit with his preaching because that is when I was baptized by him. This has always been a sweet memory for me. Then, I had the privilege to be his student at Big Sandy High School. He made learning fun! What a blessing he has been to so many people! I am so sorry for your loss. Praying for the family.*

Kim Stephens Berger - Class of 1984 - June 01, 2016 at 06:37 AM

 Renea
Bailey

“ *My dad and Grandma, Wayne and Lula Harper, use to work for Mr. Winniford when I was a little girl. Well, if you call it work, him and my dad mostly sat around drinking sodas and talking about any and everything, lol! He was a great man and will be truly missed.*

Renea Bailey - May 31, 2016 at 10:34 PM

JP

“ He was always a happy man he loved talkin bout his cows and his project at the time was a Austin heley that was bout 1986 a very good man and I can tell y first hand he had a hard swing lol RIP MR Winniford

Jeff Plunkett - May 31, 2016 at 08:15 PM

KM

Yes, he did. Shannon and I know first hand. He got the Healey fixed very recently, but never got to ride in it. He couldn't bend to be able to get into it. The firemen who helped mom get him up when he would fall said they would try to make that possible, but he went into the hospital before they had an opportunity to do so.

Kimberly Mayer - May 31, 2016 at 08:31 PM

AH

“ Mr. Winniford was the best, The greatest teacher made learning fun, and he was our bus driver. I found out latter in life he was a gospel preacher. May God bless your family an put his loving arms around you. Your family in Christ,Bro. Alvin Hunt

Alvin Hunt - May 31, 2016 at 08:05 PM

KM

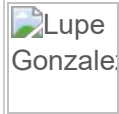
Yes, Daddy was a preacher and had been since he was 16 years old. He loved the Lord all his life. Most people don't know that he had an amazing singing voice as well, and also led singing. As a teenager, he would go around East Texas to country congregations and help folks with their services when their preacher or song director was gone. I will miss his beautiful voice.

Kimberly Mayer - May 31, 2016 at 08:37 PM

KM

It took a little time for me to recall your face, but I remember you Alvin...and your sweet sister.

Kimberly Mayer - May 31, 2016 at 10:54 PM



*Mr. Winniford was one of my most favorite teachers. I loved Science because of him. He made learning fun and enjoyable.
He will be missed
Lupe Gonzalez - Class of 88*

Lupe Gonzalez - May 31, 2016 at 11:48 PM

CR

“ Mr. Winniford was one of my favorite teachers. His classes were never boring and he always had a humorous side. He also had a serious side and you knew when he meant business. I learned a lot from him. He was a good man and a great teacher.

Chuck Rieger - May 31, 2016 at 06:06 PM

SH

“ Mr. Winniford was one of the coolest science teachers ever at Big Sandy. So sorry to hear of his passing.

Susan Hanson Hubbard - Class of '72

Susan Hubbard - May 31, 2016 at 05:50 PM

KC

“ He was a teacher that worked for the kids not a pay check. Sorry for this but he has gone on to a better place.

kirk cobb - May 31, 2016 at 05:12 PM



“ 68 files added to the album Life Tributes



McWhorter Funeral Home - May 31, 2016 at 01:20 PM

SB

One of the best men I have ever met!

Who remembers the cartoon's he would draw on the chalkboard?

Scooter Bell - May 31, 2016 at 06:21 PM

KM

I think Daddy is most remembered for "skiddy kitty"

Kimberly Mayer - May 31, 2016 at 07:21 PM



Shannon Mccraw

Poor 'ol skiddy Kitty!

Shannon Mccraw - May 31, 2016 at 10:00 PM

JG

One of the greatest man I have ever met..God Bless him.

Joyce Graham - June 01, 2016 at 09:43 AM



I remember "MRPigs"

Sharon Klimski - June 01, 2016 at 03:15 PM



“ *Sorry hear about your loss. The few times I meet him he always made Mr Laugh.*

Deanna Moore - May 30, 2016 at 06:47 PM



“ *Deanna Moore lit a candle in memory of Mr James R. Winniford*



Deanna Moore - May 30, 2016 at 06:44 PM