



## Fire Chief Jim White

March 27, 1945 - February 7, 2020

Funeral services for Jim White, 74, of Overton, Texas will be held at 11:00 am, Wednesday, February 12, 2020, at The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, Gilmer, with Brother Dean Fowler conducting. Interment to follow at Kelsey Cemetery. Visitation will be held 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm, Tuesday, February 11, 2020 at McWhorter Funeral Home, Gilmer.

Fred James White, Jr. passed away Friday, February 7, 2020 surrounded by family and loved ones at the age of 74. He was born on March 27, 1945 in Gilmer, Texas to Fred James White, Sr. and Bernice Knight White. He graduated from Gilmer High School in 1963. He attended school for 2 years at Kilgore College, earned his Bachelor of Industrial Arts and Education from East Texas State University in 1968. He attended Texas A&M University and University of Texas at Tyler to work toward his Masters in Education. He began his coaching career in Tallulah, Louisiana at McCall Junior High coaching football and track while teaching industrial arts in 1968. In 1972, he took his teaching and coaching talents to West Rusk High School in New London, Texas. This is where he would spend the following 37 years of his career until his retirement in 2009. During his time at West Rusk, he coached football, track, and golf while teaching industrial arts, drafting, and computer technology and education.

Jim joined the Gilmer Fire Department in 1961 when he was 16 years old. He went on to join the Overton Fire Department in 1972. For the Overton Fire Department, he served as Rescue Squad Leader, Assistant Chief, Fire

Marshall, President, and Chief. He also had affiliation with Texas Eastman Fire School as Instructor, Lead Instructor, Assistant Field Coordinator, and Head of Registration. He was involved with the Texas A&M Fire School for 40 years as Rescue Instructor, Ropes and Knots, Instructor of Project A, Assistant Instructor over Rescue Projects, Head of Rescue, and a Group Supervisor. He served as Executive Board Parliamentarian, Assistant Secretary, and Secretary on the Northeast Texas Firemen Association.

Jim built his beautiful family after marrying the love of his life, Judy Carolyn Ward on August 17, 1968. The two were married for 40 years before Judy's passing. They had 3 children and 5 grandchildren. He is preceded in death by his wife, mother and father, mother and father-in-law Edith Ward and Arleigh Ward; brother Grant White, Sr. and sister-in-law Margo White; and brother-in-law Billy Joe Young. Those left to cherish his memory are his daughters, Michelle White Williams and husband, Michael Paul and Becky White Harman and husband, Chris; son, Fred James (Trey) White III, and wife, Aubrey; sister, Kimlyn White Young; grandchildren, Michael Zane Williams, Emberlie Carolyne Harman, Avalie Cherylene Harman, Wesley Noble White and Knighton Sarge Harman; and several nieces and nephews.

Pallbearers will be Brian Keith, Shawn Snider, Dallas Renfrow, Mike Fennell, Bill Gardner, Henry Perry, Lynn Bizzell, Larry McRae, Mickey Hamilton, Joe Zalman, and TJ Lewis.

Honorary pallbearers will be Overton Fire Department, Tom Ansley, Billie Don Davis, Vic Einspahr, Bob Looney, Robert Moore, Keith Russell, Rayford Gibson, Richard Van Winkle, and Greg Wall.

Please visit Jim's on-line registration book at [www.mcwhorterfh.com](http://www.mcwhorterfh.com) to leave a memory for the family.

# Cemetery Details

## Kelsey

Upshur County, TX

# Previous Events

## Visitation

FEB 11. 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

FEB 12. 11:00 AM (CT)

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints  
1122 Pine St,  
Gilmer, TX 75644  
(903) 843-3307

# Tribute Wall



“ *McWhorter Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Fire Chief Jim White*



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**McWhorter Funeral Home** - February 11, 2020 at 04:00 PM

MF

*God Bless this family as they mourn this wonderful man.*

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**Madaline Fischtziur-Barber** - February 13, 2020 at 01:32 AM

MW

*I have just discovered this wonderful tribute to Jim and his great family. May the family find comfort in knowing our Heavenly Father loves them and one day they will be together again*

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**Meta Kay Ward** - February 21, 2020 at 07:52 AM

DK

“ *My heart remains heavy after learning of Jim's passing. Fond memories will keep warm. I will miss his big hugs, light hearted conversations and his effervescent smile. The comforting thought is he is with Judy again. My thoughts and prayers are with family and friends. Faith will sustain.*

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**Drewe Knight** - February 13, 2020 at 08:28 AM



“ Jim has been in my life since I was 5 years old...he married my older Sister Judy when I was 10....i was one of the youngest of my 13 bro and sisters so I was shy by nature, not use to being listen to from older folks... but Jim always found time to notice me and as he gave me his big Love Hugs and kiss he never failed to say hello Beautiful...That made me feel so special... I thought the Funeral today was Wonderful, loved all the many story's of his life, I had never heard before....What a Legacy he was... The many first responders from all over East Texas was a sight to see..Someone said the procession was a mile and half long, It was a blessing that the Rain had stopped when the Funeral was over and time to proceed to the Cemetery and see all the ceremony there also...Jim was Loved, honored and respected by all who knew him... I will miss him but, I know he is with Judy again, so that makes me Happy...Janice Ward Davis

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**Janice Ward Davis** - February 13, 2020 at 12:13 AM



“ The Rusk County Groundwater Conservation District grieves the loss of Mr. White. We are thankful for his service to Rusk County as a Board Director of the District. We also know his community service touched many East Texans. White Family, you are in our prayers.

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**Robert Thornton** - February 12, 2020 at 09:43 AM



“ Multicolor Bright Sympathy Floor Basket was purchased for the family of Fire Chief Jim White.



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February 11, 2020 at 04:30 PM

GT

“ Gay Tyra lit a candle in memory of Fire Chief Jim White



gay tyra - February 11, 2020 at 03:50 PM



“ 178 files added to the album LifeTributes



McWhorter Funeral Home - February 11, 2020 at 03:39 PM

BK

“ F. Jim, Jim, Chief and many other names for Jim White, but the one that I hold in highest regard is that of FRIEND. I always looked forward to my hug and conversations with him. He was a great listener and confidant. I will miss my dear friend F. Jim White. I love you, my dear friend.

Ben Kennedy

Ben Kennedy - February 11, 2020 at 03:32 PM

CK

“ It is with unspeakable sorrow that I commit these words to print to express my deepest condolences to the children, their spouses, grandchildren, sister and my fellow cousins of Fred James (Jim/Jimmy) White, Jr. . Jimmy is my first cousin; his mother and my father were sister and brother.

*Jimmy, along with Charlotte and Phillip, are the oldest of our generation of cousins. Everyone loved Jimmy. We younger kids hero worshiped him. He was a star athlete in high school and he became a volunteer fireman at age 16. We all wanted to be around him and be with him.*

*Jimmy was always huge in height, strong in stature and gentle in spirit. I always felt good and protected in his presence. He exuded a charisma that would serve him throughout his life. His faith was not a five letter word; it was a way of life.*

*I remember late in Jimmy's high school career, he spent about half of one summer with us in LaMarque. Mom was full time teaching but off that summer; Dad was in medical school. Mom did some intensive language skills tutoring with him. He graduated from Gilmer High School and then went on to graduate with a baccalaureate degree from East Texas State University in Industrial Arts and Education.*

*I have been repeatedly told from multiple sources that he was a teacher's teacher, a coach's coach and a fireman's fireman.*

*He married Judy, the love of his life, and they visited us in Pasadena shortly after their wedding. Sometimes you just know when a relationship is going to last; I felt that with them. They were two very honorable, honest, hardworking, stable and reverent souls; what's more, they were truly in love.*

*Judy bore them three children, two girls and a boy. I remember with fondness and a smile as my Auntie Bernice, their grandmother,*

*would regale me with their exploits and stories ... peppering them with the comments that her grand babies were the smartest, grandest and best grand babies in the world.*

*The last time I saw Jimmy was at a Knight family reunion. I ping ponged between visiting with relatives and tending to Dad's needs. As usual, cousins and their children congregated around Jimmy. I did manage to corral him for about fifteen minutes where we very briefly caught up on each other's lives before he was tugged in a different direction.*

*I will be forever thankful for the fact that he broke loose as Dad and I were leaving. He made a particular point to thank Dad for Mom and for their inspiration and the time they invested in him. He hugged Dad, we shook hands and we shared our "I love you's" before he was pulled in a different direction.*

*I am a better man and person for having Jimmy White as my cousin, hero and role model. We all are!!! My sister (Drewe), her husband (Earl), their son (Madison) and I hold his children, their families, his relatives, his friends and his fire fighting family in our hearts, thoughts and prayers.*

*Rest in peace, Jimmy, and thank you for being my cousin, a great influence in my life and an all round good guy!!! I miss you already!!!*

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**Charles Knight** - February 11, 2020 at 10:59 AM

BB

“ • *Just learned of the passing of Chief Jim White, this truly GREAT Public Servant!*

*Obviously, he both answered & embraced, was honored by & honorably upheld, his God-given calling "To Serve & Protect", throughout his Divinely appointed time here in this part of the "Buckle of the Bible Belt" that's known as the Piney Woods of East Texas!*

*It's my poignant honor to convey our heartfelt condolences & profound appreciation to ALL of the late great Chief White's "nearest & dearest". You are all in our thoughts & prayers "for such a time as this..."*

*On behalf of ALL of us who endeavor to carry on his legacy and continue to serve here at the East Texas Council of Governments, we ESPECIALLY offer our sympathies & appreciation from the Public Safety Division.*

*Well done, good and faithful servant!*

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**Beverly A Brooks** - February 11, 2020 at 10:33 AM

SM

“ *Mr. White was one of my favorite teachers when I attended West Rusk. Michelle and Becky I am so sorry for your loss, I hate to hear of his passing. My thoughts and prayers are with you in this difficult time.*

*Stephanie King-Moore*

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**Stephanie Moore** - February 11, 2020 at 10:09 AM



“ *Bountiful European Dish Garden was purchased for the family of Fire Chief Jim White.*



February 10, 2020 at 10:56 PM



“ *Worked with Jim at Texas A&M Annual Fire School for 40 years. He spent his later years keeping us straight. Have always been friends with him. I will miss Jim's presence. RIP*

**Joyce B Crawford** - February 10, 2020 at 09:32 PM



“ *Becky Adams lit a candle in memory of Fire Chief Jim White*



**Becky Adams** - February 10, 2020 at 08:40 PM



“ *Blue & White Sympathy Basket was purchased for the family of Fire Chief Jim White.*



February 10, 2020 at 07:19 PM



“ *Floor Plant for Sympathy was purchased for the family of Fire Chief Jim White.*



February 10, 2020 at 05:54 PM



“ *Mel and Debbie Novak purchased the Peace, Prayers & Blessings - Blue and White for the family of Fire Chief Jim White.*



**Mel and Debbie Novak** - February 10, 2020 at 05:32 PM



“ *Blue & White Sympathy Floor Basket was purchased for the family of Fire Chief Jim White.*



February 10, 2020 at 05:20 PM



“ *Our prayers and thoughts are with your family. He was a dedicated "FIRST RESPONDER" in every way!*

*Mike and Darlene Dailey, New London, Texas.*

**Mike Dailey** - February 10, 2020 at 04:48 PM

GG

“ I enjoyed working with Jim White at West Rusk for many years. My first memory is him assuring me that Amanda, who was not in school yet, couldn't hurt the computers and to let her play on them. You will be missed!

Gwen Gilliam - February 10, 2020 at 04:47 PM

RW

“ Robert & Susan Wall purchased the Blue & White Sympathy Floor Basket for the family of Fire Chief Jim White.



Robert & Susan Wall - February 10, 2020 at 04:46 PM



“ Deb Vondrasek lit a candle in memory of Fire Chief Jim White



Deb Vondrasek - February 10, 2020 at 04:26 PM

HU

“ Henderson-Rusk County Rescue Unit purchased the Red, White & Blue Sympathy Floor Basket for the family of Fire Chief Jim White.



Henderson-Rusk County Rescue Unit - February 10, 2020 at 03:38 PM

BG

“ *Uncle Jim always made me feel welcome and loved, regardless of the occasion or crowd involved. I will surely miss his voice, his smile, and his hugs.*

*Brittany (Davis) Gowin*

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**Brittany Gowin** - February 10, 2020 at 02:31 PM



“ *Blue & White Sympathy Floor Basket was purchased for the family of Fire Chief Jim White.*



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February 10, 2020 at 10:17 AM

TA

“ *Texas Firemens Auxiliary purchased the Red & White Sympathy Floor Basket for the family of Fire Chief Jim White.*



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**Texas Firemens Auxiliary** - February 10, 2020 at 09:14 AM

 Scotty Curry

“ *I had Coach White in shop and drafting when I was at WR from 84-86. Fast forward to my adult years and he was an instructor at the Texas A&M annual fire school. He will be missed.*

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**Scotty Curry** - February 10, 2020 at 08:46 AM

CS

“ I was greatly saddened to hear about Him. He was always such a nice person and I never talked with him that he didn't brag on his kids and his grands. A man who is loved by family is a man blessed so he will always be known for that!! May the Lord give you all comfort and peace.

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**Cindi Sartors** - February 10, 2020 at 01:36 AM

KR

“ Only got to know Jim a short time serving on the Rusk County Ground Water Conservation Board. We represented Pct.1 of Rusk Co.An outstanding person, teacher and friend. Jim will be greatly missed. Our prayers will be with you. Ken Ragle & family

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**Ken Ragle** - February 10, 2020 at 12:46 AM



“ Floor Plant for Sympathy was purchased for the family of Fire Chief Jim White.



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February 10, 2020 at 12:29 AM

AR

“ ArleneDavis lit a candle in memory of Fire Chief Jim White



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**ArleneDavis** - February 09, 2020 at 07:54 PM

TF

“ Marilyn and I always enjoy our visit with Jim and Judy, it was like visiting with family. We are sorry for the loss to all who loved him. He will be missed by all those he served throughout his life.  
Tim and Marilyn Fulgham

Timothy Fulgham - February 09, 2020 at 06:33 PM

KP

“ Jim was so good to me and so supportive after my husband died. He was such a sweet and good friend. I will miss him. Prayers for his family. Karen Pickard



Karen Pickard - February 09, 2020 at 06:02 PM

DD

“ Will always remember him as a great man, father, coach, and teacher.



David Dotson - February 09, 2020 at 03:50 PM



“ Garden Accent Stone - "Wherever a Beautiful Soul..." was purchased for the family of Fire Chief Jim White.



February 09, 2020 at 03:49 PM

CM

“ *My condolences to the family.*

Clifton Palmer McLendon - February 09, 2020 at 03:11 PM

JE

“ *Jerry And Tamara Elliott lit a candle in memory of Fire Chief Jim White*



Jerry and Tamara Elliott - February 09, 2020 at 02:32 PM

SS

“ *Susan Stevens lit a candle in memory of Fire Chief Jim White*



Susan Stevens - February 09, 2020 at 12:47 PM

BL

“ *So many memories of Chief White, but more of just Jim. He will be missed by so many of us here in Overton. We would visit for awhile when he came and gave me my fire permits. Olds friends just catching up. My son and grandson thought the world of you Dad. Heaven has got another angle. RIP my friend,*



Barbara Lewis - February 09, 2020 at 12:18 PM



“ *Healing Tears - All White* was purchased for the family of Fire Chief Jim White.



February 09, 2020 at 12:08 PM



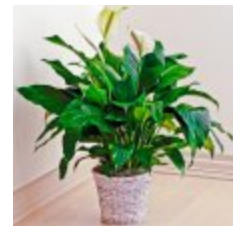
“ *Florist Choice Bouquet* was purchased for the family of Fire Chief Jim White.



February 09, 2020 at 10:31 AM



“ *Floor Plant for Sympathy* was purchased for the family of Fire Chief Jim White.



February 09, 2020 at 10:27 AM



“ *Chief White will be truly missed. Prayers for his family. Mount Enterprise Fire Department*



**Mount Enterprise Fire Asst. Chief** - February 09, 2020 at 10:12 AM

PB

“ *Our prayers are with your family. Jim was a dear friend. Thoughts of him bring back pleasant memories of our wonderful days at Gilmer High School.*

*Paula Tefteller Burkett*

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**Paula Burkett** - February 08, 2020 at 10:24 PM

TS

“ *Teresa Savoy lit a candle in memory of Fire Chief Jim White*



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**Teresa Savoy** - February 08, 2020 at 09:54 PM

MS

“ *Mary Ann Spillman lit a candle in memory of Fire Chief Jim White*



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**Mary Ann Spillman** - February 08, 2020 at 09:48 PM

RJ

“ *Jim was a class mate and a great friend who be missed. Always enjoying to visit Jim at the fire station in Overton where he worked. Jim was loved by many people in Overton who would bring him food and leave it for him.*

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**robert e johnson** - February 08, 2020 at 09:43 PM



“ *Blue & White Sympathy Standing Spray was purchased for the family of Fire Chief Jim White.*



February 08, 2020 at 08:09 PM



“ *Dish Garden with Fresh Cut Flowers was purchased for the family of Fire Chief Jim White.*



February 08, 2020 at 06:47 PM



“ *Rio Grande Valley Fire and Fire Marshals Assoc. purchased the Blue & White Sympathy Standing Spray for the family of Fire Chief Jim White.*



**Rio Grande Valley Fire and Fire Marshals Assoc.** - February 08, 2020 at 06:37 PM