



## James Brooks

February 2, 2014

James "Doug" Brooks, 73, of Duluth, GA passed away on February 2, 2014. He was preceded in death by parents, James H. and Vera Brooks. He is survived by children, Angela Etheredge, Lawrenceville, GA, Jason Brooks, NY, NY; grandchildren, Mitch Wunderlich, Andrea Wunderlich, special close friend Amelia Miller, Smyrna, GA and several cousins. Mr. Brooks was born July 3, 1940 in Greenville, S.C. He lived in Duluth, GA since 1986. He was a 1957 graduate of Parker High School, Greenville, S.C. and a 1965 graduate of Furman University, Greenville, SC, where he received his Masters Degree; and he also attended Auburn University, Auburn, AL. He was an owner of J. Douglas Brooks Associates as a vocational expert witness. He was associated with Atlanta Unity Church. Funeral service will be held 6:00 pm, Thursday, February 6, 2014 in the Chapel of Flanigan Funeral Home with Mr. Jason Brooks delivering the eulogy. Interment and graveside service will be 1:00 pm, Friday, February 7, 2014 at Greenville Memorial Gardens, Greenville, S.C. The family will receive friends at the funeral home from 4:00 to 6:00 pm, Thursday, prior to the service. Flowers accepted or donations may be made to the Atlanta, Unity Church, 4146 Chamblee Dunwoody Rd., Atlanta, GA 30341.

# Tribute Wall



“ *James Brooks*

---

November 08, 2022 at 07:37 PM



“ *I have known Doug professionally as a vocational expert at my Social Security hearings. He has always been one of my favorite VEs not because he was easy or always answered no jobs, but because of his sense of professionalism, honor, and ethics. He was never intimidated by an overbearing judge and always answered as he saw the facts presented to him. He was a kind, considerate gentleman with a wicked sense of humor and would not hesitate after a hearing was over, to recommend a good source for assistance for a claimant.*

*Doug, you will be missed.*

*Shelley Davidson*

---

**Shelley Davidson** - February 08, 2014 at 12:00 AM



“ *Doug took me for a ride in his Porshe once. He took it up to about 90 mph in the right lane on I-285 and scared the living hell out of me. I held on for dear life. He laughed. I wasn't amused. But prior to that, he was helpful to me once when I was trying to craft a mission statement for my business. He made it very simple, and I think that was his brilliance - to make complex things simple.*

*My best to Jason and the family.*

---

**Paula Rhodes** - February 07, 2014 at 12:00 AM

JW

“ I knew Doug professionally from his work as a vocational expert. He was a true gentleman and professional. He was liked and respected by judges, attorneys and others who met him at Social Security hearings. He was glad to answer questions from claimants who asked about rehabilitation opportunities. He cared. He was so proud of his family and talked about them often. Auburn was close to his heart and he was so thrilled about thier football success. We miss him.

---

**Judge Rick Waitsman** - February 06, 2014 at 12:00 AM

CC

“ Doug and I were not close friends, but we had many friends in common. For years we saw each other several times each month. I looked up to Doug and I learned from his experience. Sometimes I do not realize how valuable an acquaintance is until it ends; and so it is with Doug. Thank you Doug, for sharing.

---

**Clayton C.** - February 06, 2014 at 12:00 AM

AL

“ I will miss seeing Dr. Brooks at my hearings. He and I discovered that we had a mutual friend that he mentored and he shared a name with my first husband and we had several good laughs about that. I hope that you, his family and friends will remember all the wonderful times with him.

---

**ALJ Suzanne Littlefield** - February 06, 2014 at 12:00 AM

JJ

“ I knew Doug for many years and always enjoyed his wit and wisdom. Never one to mince words, Doug always told it like he saw it. You never had to wonder what Doug was thinking because he was always plain spoken and direct. Doug enjoyed a good laugh as well, whether it be at himself or others around him, no one was spared as he did not suffer fools gladly. He will be missed by all who knew and loved him.

---

**Jethro Jones** - February 06, 2014 at 12:00 AM

NG

“ I was so sorry to hear of Doug's passing. He was the vocational expert in many of my SSDI hearings, and he always had a smile and a kind word to offer. He was also very good at his job! He will be missed.

*Nancy Glenn*

---

**Nancy Glenn** - February 06, 2014 at 12:00 AM

JS

“ I had the pleasure of working with Doug Brooks for nearly 15 years. He was a joy to work with. He was professional with his work and he had a wonderful sense of humor.

We had in common that we both had been members of the musicians union early in our lives. Doug had been a drummer. We had a wonderful time trading stories about some of the dives we wound up in trying to make a few dollars. We also had a lot of fun talking about some of the musicians we worked with and the difficulty of getting paid when you did that type of work. Just about every time we had hearings together we agreed that we were now better musicians in our own minds than we were when we were actually working in the field.

I will miss his professionalism, his wry wit and his musician anecdotes.

I will miss Doug Brooks

---

**Judge Spivey** - February 05, 2014 at 12:00 AM

SP

“ Doug was one of the nicest people I have ever met. I first came to know Doug about 15 years ago when he was a contracted counselor for Equifax. I was in an abusive marriage, and my boss suggested I go see Doug - he gave me the courage to take care of ME and get out of that marriage, and I will always be grateful to him. I also live at the Reserve at Sugarloaf, and one day he stopped me and said, "I know you. Where do you work?" And when I told him, it clicked and I remembered him! WE would see each other out walking our dogs - he was such a nice person. I will miss seeing him and Winston. My thoughts and prayers go out to the family during this difficult time. I will never forget what he did for me.

---

**Susan Paschal** - February 05, 2014 at 12:00 AM

CC

“ I worked with Doug for several years at Social Security (Atlanta North) when I was scheduling hearings. I knew that he was a dependable and well qualified vocation expert. I can recall times I was in a bind to get a vocational expert on short notice and Doug would return my calls promptly and accommodate my request when his schedule allowed. I always enjoyed talking with him, either on the phone or at the office. He will be greatly missed.

---

**Carol Chappell** - February 05, 2014 at 12:00 AM

JM

“ Thoughts and prayers to the family, especially Jason and Angi and of course special friend Amelia. I will share my thoughts at Doug's funeral tomorrow night.  
Suffice it to say that Dr. Brooks will be missed!  
Rick

---

**Judge McCully** - February 05, 2014 at 12:00 AM

DS

“ My wife and I will greatly miss Dr. Brooks. He always had a kind word for everyone at the hearing office. We often talked about college football and I can see his smile as he spoke of Auburn. Our thoughts are with your family for the loss of such a great man.

---

**Doug and Daphne Sullivan** - February 04, 2014 at 12:00 AM

JL

“ I had the pleasure of knowing Doug for the past twenty five years, not quite as long as my friend John Hogan, but long enough to appreciate Doug's professionalism, experience, wisdom and world class dry wit.

Doug was respected by all who knew and worked with him, the Administrative Law Judges("ALJ"), the support staff and by the attorneys and their clients. His opinions rendered at the hearings were always sound and valuable to all parties.

Doug and I shared the same hair impairment and he always harassed me for failing to completely shave my head. It was a joke he and I had between each other for several years.

Doug was never intimidated by the circumstances. Several years ago at a hearing when I represented a very mentally disabled young woman (low IQ), Doug was the VE. The woman's only past work was as an assistant dishwasher where she was placed by her high school special education program. The ALJ did everything at the hearing he could to not find her disabled. Into hour two, he finally turned to an obviously frustrated Doug and asked him to describe the work and if there were transferable skills the woman had from the work. Without hesitating, Doug's answer was blunt and to the point, "it's sheltered work for God's sakes, there are no transferable skills from being an assistant dishwasher." The hearing ended five minutes later.

---

**J. Greg Tharp, Attorney at Law** - February 04, 2014 at 12:00 AM

JM

“ You're going to be missed old Buddy. We lost touch for too long, but reconnecting at the reunion and over the internet was making up for some time. Watch out for the ones of left, we need someone looking down now and then.

---

**Jim McConnell** - February 04, 2014 at 12:00 AM

HI

“ Doug was one of the "good guys". Jenny and I spent many hours with Doug having spirited discussions and many laughs. He was an important part of our lives even though we kind of lost touch over the last several years. He will be missed

---

**Harold Itkin** - February 04, 2014 at 12:00 AM

MG

“ I will miss you Doug at those SSA hearings. You were always a pleasure to work with, unwaveringly professional, but with a dry sense of humor which I appreciated.  
War Eagle

---

**Murray Gilman** - February 04, 2014 at 12:00 AM

CW

“ My sincere sympathy to Doug's family. Although I did not know him very well, I knew what an intelligent, strong, positive, and very moving person he was by how his influence on others shined through. Just wanted the family to know that I know how special he was. His influence even moved me in times when he was alive, praying while he was in the hospital and, also his death. May you have many good memories of this wonderful person! (Friend of Dawn and Amelia)

---

**Cindy Williams** - February 04, 2014 at 12:00 AM

JH

“ I had the pleasure of working with Doug for almost 30 years in Social Security hearings. He was always honest and well informed. We shared many good laughs over the years in the hallways between hearings. He made a very positive impact upon the lives of thousands through his work. I will miss him.

---

**John Hogan** - February 04, 2014 at 12:00 AM

JG

“ Although I haven't seen Doug for several years, I hired him to work at Auburn University. We enjoyed Doug and often shared good laughs together even after we both moved to Georgia. Sorry to hear of his passing.

---

**Jack and Jo Sink, Athens, GA** - February 03, 2014 at 12:00 AM