



James "Jim" John Rouse

June 28, 1940 - February 8, 2025

James "Jim" John Rouse was born June 28, 1940 and died at his home February 8, 2025, from complications of Parkinson's Disease.

Jim was born in Libertyville, IL to Harry M. Rouse and Constance Virginia Rouse (Rollins). He attended Mississippi State University. While at State he met his future wife Julia Ann Bennett of Laurel, MS and earned a degree in Industrial Business. Upon graduation he served 2 years as a second LT in the army and 6 years in the National Guard. Jim joined Humble Oil and Refining out of Mississippi State which later became ExxonMobil. In 2004 after 42 years of service Jim retired from ExxonMobil as a Corporate Vice President in the Washington DC office.

Jim loved MSU and was committed to giving back. In 2012 Jim received the National Alumnus of the year award and in 2016 received an Honorary Doctorate Degree. Over the years, he created an endowed professorship for the business school, funded a 9,000 sq ft weight room in the Holliman Athletic Center, donated a 1929 Model-A-Roadster used for campus events and was the lead donor for the Famous Maroon Band's artificial turf marching field.

Jim loved traveling with his family and attending MSU, Texas A&M and Texans football games. He also enjoyed time spent in Horseshoe Bay, Texas boating, swimming and fishing with his grandchildren.

Jim's generosity and optimism impacted countless people. He always had a positive attitude and was loved by all who met him.

He is preceded in death by his parents, his wife Julia Bennett Rouse, brother Richard Rouse and son in law Bill Fuller. He is survived by daughters Lisa (Jeff) Taylor of Cumming GA, and Connie Fuller of Zionsville, IN.

Grandchildren Chris Taylor, Claire Taylor, Connie Taylor, Kathleen Fuller, Scott (Jordan) Fuller, Brian Fuller, 3 Great Grandsons and many nieces and nephews.

In lieu of flowers please consider a donation to The Parkinson's Foundation at www.parkinson.org

Services will be planned at a later date.

Tribute Wall

DL

“ Jim was one of the kindest persons I knew as a client. I was his financial planner for many years when he was with Exxon. To his relatives who survive him- I cannot express enough my greatest sympathy. I aspire to be as kind a human being as he was.

David Luellen - April 29, 2025 at 07:24 PM

JC

“ I knew Jim through Mississippi State. He and his wife Julia funded a Professorship that I currently hold. Although I didn't have a chance to get to know Jim very well, he was also friendly and supportive in all our interactions. Obviously, his support of my work was deeply appreciated and I am sorry to learn of his passing.

Jim Chrisman - March 18, 2025 at 05:50 PM

DM

“ Jim was my boss when he headed up the Exxon DC office. I feel extremely fortunate to have known he and Julie. I've never met a more positive and encouraging person. His leadership was felt by all. Jim was the only head of the office that took the time to walk around each morning and greet everyone. He personally set my path forward and was a great example. One of the fondest memories which provided good natured laughter was the almost daily stories Jim shared about his family and career. He always had a story! After his retirement, the stories lived on. He will be missed.

Darlene Mills

darlene mills - February 24, 2025 at 08:25 AM

MR

“ Jim was my dear cousin and a wonderful, generous man. We didn't see each other often, since we lived far apart, but every time I saw him it was such a treat. In the 2010s we started having cousins' reunions at his lake house. For several years he and Julie were the most gracious hosts and we had a blast. He will be greatly missed.

Mary Rugen-Ishmael - February 17, 2025 at 12:33 PM

DL

“ I knew Jim via membership in Colonneh Club -- a men's social organization in Houston, TX. I joined Colonneh Club in April 2010 and Jim had been a member since he joined in 2005. Jim was very dedicated to Colonneh but support of Mississippi State was always the most important. Those of us who are members during Jim's time with us will always remember him as the true gentleman he was.

Daniel Lippe - February 17, 2025 at 09:18 AM

SK

“ Even in his final years, Jim was still positively impacting the lives of others. My Dad (Ronnie Klee) made several new friends at Celebration Village, but he was especially fond of Jim. I read what one of his ExxonMobile associate's had to say about Jim being such a good listener. Well, that explains why Ronnie and Jim became fast friends...for every big talker there needs to be a patient listener. And Jim was that to my Dad. May they both rest in peace.

Stephen Klee - February 16, 2025 at 03:19 PM

JB

“ Jim and I were both graduates from MSU and had the privilege of working together at ExxonMobil. Jim was always uplifting and ready to take on any challenge, a great leader, one who was admired by others. He and Julie were a great couple.

Jim and Jean Bowen

Jim Bowen - February 12, 2025 at 06:22 PM

DC

“ First and foremost, my deepest sympathies to Jim's family and friends. Losing a family member is tough in the base case and even tougher when it's a person that has the character of a Jim Rouse. I know I will be saddened by his loss for many years to come and all I did was work for the man for a portion of my career at Exxon Mobil.

The guy was special. For being a Bulldog and bleeding maroon he was a gentle and kind guy plus listened to what you had to say when having those traits, were not always popular, in a leadership position with a large corporation. Jim, from my perspective, pulled it off better than most that I knew over my 33-year career. He inspired me to work hard, keep my eye on the target and stay physically fit along the journey. Still today those are traits I try to emulate having learned a lot from Jim.

To his daughters please know, without a doubt, he had a tremendous love and admiration for the two of you and took every opportunity he had to share those feeling with anyone that would listen. It was always fun to hear the stories as he puffed out his chest while he told them.

Lastly, I would be remiss if I didn't also share my sympathies regarding your mom's passing. I knew she wasn't well as I had spoken with your dad however did not know of her passing. She was a beautiful lady and she and you Dad seemed to share the perfect love for each other.

dave clements - February 12, 2025 at 05:01 PM

AM

“ I was blessed to have been one of Jim's ATO fraternity brothers at MSU. Those were the days when Jim was courting his dear Julie. Jim was one of the most dynamic leaders I've ever known and served as a role model for me and others. Until he could no longer do so, Jim and I stayed in touch. I'm saddened by Jim's passing, but thankful for his friendship.

Archie McKinnis - February 12, 2025 at 10:26 AM

TB

“ God bless Jim Rouse. He was one of the finest bosses I had at Exxon. A genuinely good person. RIP, Jim.

Terry Bowie - February 12, 2025 at 10:18 AM

BM

“ Jim and Julie were the "perfect" couple. Their love for each other and Connie and Lisa was evident. Am thankful for the privilege of knowing them and their friendship. So many happy memories. May the family find peace in knowing they are together again. Prayers for all.

Barbara Mooney - February 11, 2025 at 02:00 PM