



James "Pop" Russell

July 21, 1938 - January 22, 2025

James "Pop" Russell, age 86, of Statham, GA passed away on Wednesday, January 22, 2025. He was preceded in death by his wife of sixty-six years, Barbara Jean Crane Russell; parents, Cecil Russell and Lorene Allen; and father-in-law, and mother-in-law, O'Dell and Nannie Parker Crane. Mr. Russell is survived by children, Jimmy Ray and Debbie Russell of Statham, GA, Sherry and Brad Aufmann of Indianapolis, IN; grandchildren, Jennifer and Russ Cate of Noblesville, IN, Christopher and Brooke Russell of Dahlonega, GA, Ashley and Peter Sieg of Westfield, IN; great grandchildren, Emma, Nora, Ridge, Evan, Canon, Benjamin, Rowan, Henry, Ezra; brother, Terry Russell of Gadsden, AL; and niece, Sharon Esty of Gadsden, AL. Mr. Russell was born on July 21, 1938 in Arab, AL and he was a veteran of the Air Force for four years. He attended Grassy Creek High School in Alabama, and retired from Ford Motor Company after thirty years of service. He was a member of U A W Local, and of Statham First Baptist Church in Statham. Pop enjoyed spending time with his family, fishing, and doing crossword puzzles. He was an avid Braves fan and avid Georgia Bulldogs fan. Funeral Services will be held on Sunday, January 26, 2025 at 11:00 a.m. in the Chapel of Flanigan Funeral Home with Rev. Barry Parker officiating with the Eulogy given by Christopher Russell. Interment will follow at Broadlawn Memorial Gardens in Buford. The family will receive friends at the funeral home on Sunday, January 26 from 9:30 a.m. until time for the funeral at 11:00 a.m.

Previous Events

Visitation

JAN **26**. 9:30 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Flanigan Funeral Home
4400 South Lee Street
Buford, GA 30518

Funeral Service

JAN **26**. 11:00 AM.

Chapel of Flanigan Funeral Home

Interment

JAN **26** (ET)

Broadlawn Memorial Gardens
5979 New Bethany Rd
Buford, GA 30518

Tribute Wall

MW

“ Jim Russell was quite a man.

Having the pleasure of knowing him for 60(?) years was a gift.

Growing up only a mile from them, having Barb and my mom as best friends, with Jim and my dad working together for years, and having Jim Ray and Sherry as friends has been a blessing.

“Big Jim” as Barb called him back then- was a man who said exactly what he meant, and said it whenever he pleased. He was a dedicated husband, father, and role model to us all. We all should aspire to his level of integrity and devotion.

I remember well dozens of instances where his advise (sometimes requested 😊 - but always accurate) helped me make better choices. I will always cherish the lessons learned from him.

Later in life, when I would visit with my kids- they relished in his presence and called him “Pa Jim”. Those visits were priceless.

Today, as we say- not “Goodbye”, but rather- “See you soon, and give Barb a kiss for us” let’s just thank God for having him this long to enrich our lives. He was a blessing to everyone he touched.

Jim- We love you and miss you. Thank you for blessing our lives.

Mike

Michael Walker - January 25, 2025 at 09:41 PM

PS

“Pop” was always viewed as a blessing from God in that he was an additional grandpa for me through my marriage to his granddaughter Ashley. Although our paths didn't cross until much later in his life. I have many fond memories of just the two of us sitting together in his home for hours on end simply talking about life and his favorite childhood memories. At other times, we would just sit quietly together enjoying each other's company while simply watching Braves baseball on the TV.

He was a fascinating and incredible man but was NEVER eager to talk about himself. One would have to really invest the time into convincing him how much you wanted to get to know him. Fortunately, he would eventually open up. The more he shared about himself, the more you would want to get to know him and how he became to be the great man he was. He had what was something most would consider as a harsh upbringing. Justifiably, most any other individual in his shoes would have grown up to be an angry or bitter person had they been through the same; but not Pop, he became the opposite! He gave much credit to becoming the man he was and his successes in life to his grandma Blumer and his brother Terry. He was very fond of them both and spoke highly of each of them to the very end.

“Pop” had a sense of humor and even convinced, “more like tricked”, me into thinking his childhood poverty was to the point of only having toilet paper 1-2 times a year, and that was when the Sears catalog came in the mail! He shared many memories of how much he and his beloved wife, “Grandma Barb”, struggled in their early years together in having to overcome their families' generational poverty in order to make something of themselves. I truly believe it was because of these struggles they endured together, and by the grace of God, they were able to break through this impoverished upbringing and raise a middle class family that has since multiplied and positively improved the lives of so many in their family's subsequent generations. We all owe him & grandma Barb our gratitude for overcoming these struggles.

He was a humble man. He was very low maintenance and down to earth. He never complained, not even when we went for his doctors appointments or chemotherapy sessions together. He would always light up for others with his boisterous voice and of course his friendly/loving smile, as clearly demonstrated in the picture(s) of "Pop" on this page. He was always cognoscente of those less fortunate around him, even as he battled cancer for years towards the end of his life.

"Pop" and grandma Barb raised two incredible children in Sherry & Jimmy Ray, both of whom I have come to love. They would each meet wonderful spouses and have loving children and many loving grandchildren. He was always so...so kind and loving to Ashley and I's children. To this day, every time I see a deer, I think of him and his home in the woods in Georgia. I am confident in saying that I think I speak for everyone reading this message and those in his family, we will miss him dearly. Please take solace though in knowing that he is rejoicing in heaven with our beloved "Grandma" Barb. Lastly, personally, I will be sure to order a strawberry milkshake the next time I go to Dairy Queen in remembrance of "Pop" as this was a given choice of his every time when we would go together.

-With all of our love forever & until each of our paths cross again,

-Peter, Ashley, & "the boys"



Peter Sieg - January 24, 2025 at 01:10 AM

FL

“ Pops was a sweet, loving kind and gentle soul . From the first day i met him he welcomed me with open arms. He never ever complained.. im really gonna miss my Micheal Jackson and i was his Sunshine. Many prayers for his sweet and loving family. Gonna miss coming to see u all. Continued prayers.. pop is now with his sweetheart in heaven

Felicia Lewis - January 23, 2025 at 06:33 PM