



James Harold Forrester

November 9, 1928 - January 25, 2015

James Harold Forrester, age 86, was a man of true principle. He dedicated his life to hard work and integrity. Harold was born November 9, 1928 in Woodstock, AL and passed away January 25, 2015 in Albuquerque, NM. His parents were Annie Lucille Mitchell-Forrester and Farris James Forrester; his brothers were Calvin and Donald and his sister was Evelyn Forrester Morrow. Harold's family moved to Albuquerque in the 1940s due to his father's tuberculosis. Harold graduated from Albuquerque High School in 1946. He and Gwendolyn Gish-Forrester married in 1948. Harold always said marrying Gwen was "the best decision of his life." He is survived by his wife, Gwendolyn; his son, Jim Forrester and wife Beth Forrester; his daughter, Janet Copenhaver and husband Steven Copenhaver; grandchildren, Julie Copenhaver, Aaron Forrester and wife Sheryl Forrester, Scott Forrester and fiancée Julia Jarrard, Michelle Guilford and husband Spencer Guilford and Leslie Foltz; his great-grandchildren, Alexandria, Ava and Olivia Forrester and Shalyn and Kyan Caudill. Harold began his career as a service tech in the automotive-electronic industry and also worked as a fuel-truck driver. He diligently worked, while married, to obtain his bachelor's and master's degrees. He became an elementary school teacher for APS. His dream in life was to become an FBI agent. He served as an agent in the mid 1960s serving in: Minneapolis, Sioux Falls and Cincinnati. After his service, he returned to Albuquerque to serve as an elementary school principal at APS for 30 years. Many of his students, as adults in later years, would identify him in restaurants

and tell him stories of how he changed their lives for the best. Harold enjoyed helping others on their journey. He was a devoted husband of 66 years. He loved his wife, children, country and God. Gospel music was a passion in his life. He enjoyed attending Sagebrush Church every Saturday and loved family gatherings, where he was able to see his kids, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. You could always find Harold around a blazing large fireplace, humming a tune or a beloved hymn. His shoes will never be filled. However, we will always strive to walk in his footsteps. A Funeral Service will be held on Friday, January 30, 2015 at 10:00 a.m. at FRENCH – Westside. A Visitation will be held one hour prior to the service. A Reception will follow the service. There will be a private interment at Sunset Memorial Park Cemetery.

FRENCH – Westside

9300 Golf Course Road NW

Albuquerque, NM 87114

Cemetery Details

Sunset Memorial Park

924 Menaul Blvd NE
Albuquerque, NM 87107
(505) 345-3536
info@sunset-memorial.com
<https://www.sunset-memorial.com/>

Previous Events

Visitation

JAN 30. 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM (MT)

FRENCH Funerals - Cremations (Golf Course)
9300 Golf Course Rd NW
Albuquerque, NM 87114
(505) 897-0300
<https://www.FrenchFunerals.com>

Funeral Service

JAN 30. 10:00 AM (MT)

FRENCH Funerals - Cremations (Golf Course)
9300 Golf Course Rd NW
Albuquerque, NM 87114
(505) 897-0300
<https://www.FrenchFunerals.com>

Tribute Wall

RG

“ Dear Mrs. Forrester, Janet and Jim,
We were sorry to hear of Mr. Forrester's passing. Our family has many sweet memories of being with you all on Conita Real.. We thought of Harold as a Teddy Bear and well accomplished guy. Jeff mentioned that it was great that he lived in the Forrester home for a number of years. Janet, I remember hearing you practice "Beautiful Dreamer" on your piano in that house and still love the song. Jim, you will always be my first "unofficial boyfriend." (-:
On behalf of the Lattanza Family we wish to send our deepest sympathys.
Sincerely,

Becca Lattanza Groves

Rebecca Lattanza Groves - February 09, 2015 at 06:15 PM

SU

“ I am the youngest of three girls, who all had Mr. Forrester as our Principal at Apache. We moved to a different area in town, when I was in 2nd grade and I attended Mitchell...

My senior year I went to Mitchell to ask if I could help in classrooms for a CEC course I was taking. To my surprise, there he was in the office! He looked at me and said, "Susie?" He recognized me immediately after so many years.

That's the kind of Principal he was. He knew the students and made a point to always make you feel special, even if you were in trouble.

As a parent, I have always measured my children's Principals by his example and I have to admit... they are very large shoes to fill. He was perfect!

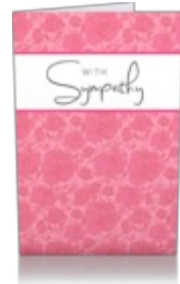
He will always hold a special place in my heart.

Susie (Steckbauer)

Susie - February 05, 2015 at 08:01 AM

DS

“ Daniel S. purchased a sympathy card for the family of James Harold Forrester.



Daniel S. - February 04, 2015 at 12:23 PM

DG

“Hi Gwen, Janet, and Jim! I recently learned of your husband and father's death. I would like to share my deepest condolences. You are all in my thoughts and prayers! Dickie Gallegos

Diego Gallegos - February 01, 2015 at 10:05 PM

RC

“Roger C. purchased a sympathy card for the family of James Harold Forrester.



Roger C. - February 01, 2015 at 01:14 PM

RY

“Harold was a solid role made during my youth at Riverside Baptist church. His faith was strong and his actions demonstrated his care and consideration for others. You can observe these same positive traits perpetuated by his children. My parents cherished their friendship with Harold and Gwen. Harold touched many lives, he will be missed.

Best Regards from the York family----with love, Richard York

Richard York - January 31, 2015 at 12:05 PM

BW

“ *Mr. Forrester was the Principal of Apache when my two children were there - what a great guy! The children, parents, teachers, and staff all loved him. I had just finished my Master's in Counseling at UNM and he recommended me for two positions! I went on to have a 30 year career in APS as a counselor. My best to his family . . .*
Bridget Warner

Bridget Warner - January 30, 2015 at 03:17 PM



“ *Simply Lily was purchased for the family of James Harold Forrester.*



January 29, 2015 at 06:05 PM

AL

“ *Mr. Forrester was my beloved principal from 1971 to 1976 at Apache ES. I remember him telling us he was our Pal and that's why it's spelled "princi - pal" and I remember how great he always smelled! I passed him in the hallway one time on my way back from the nurse or something, and I just had to stop, turn, and proclaim, "Mr. Forrester, you sure do smell good!" He turned, smiled, and said, "Why thank you, young lady!"*
Old Spice has been my favorite male scent ever since!
He was a nice man and a terrific principal, emphasis on the "pal."
My thoughts are with his family.
Ann Steckbauer Lathrop

Ann Stecckbauer Lathrop - January 29, 2015 at 05:54 PM

DM

“ I am so sorry to hear of Harold's passing. He was always such a joy to talk to when he came into the office. I loved his stories and his positive attitude. I will miss him deeply. My thoughts and prayers go out to the entire Forrester family. May God bless you.

Deanna Mathews

Deanna Mathews - January 29, 2015 at 01:30 PM

PJ

“ Mrs. Forrester and family,
I was so sorry to read about Mr. Forrester in the paper this morning. His picture is just as I remember him.
I was the School Nurse at Apache in 1976-1978. (my first 2 years of a 38 year career with APS) What a lucky person I was to have worked with Mr. Forrester. I can remember LIKE YESTERDAY his counsel to me as I shared with him the surprise that we were expecting our first baby. What a dear sweet man.
I remember also my first preregistration in the Spring for Kindergarteners. Mr. F told the parents to take a deep breath cause this was going to take some time.....and there was no place more important to be than here registering their children for their first year of elementary school. (you could feel everyone just relax) He was just about perfect in my opinion.
My sympathy to you all in the loss of this wonderful man.
Patty Schoonover Jones

Patty Jones - January 29, 2015 at 01:15 PM



“ *Simply Lily was purchased for the family of James Harold Forrester.*



January 29, 2015 at 10:57 AM



“ *John C. purchased a sympathy card for the family of James Harold Forrester.*



John C. - January 28, 2015 at 05:16 PM



“ *Gwen, We will always remember Harold with the deepest fondness. He has been a staple in my and has made an indelible impression on my daughter's life. His nickname for her will always be a part of her life. He will be missed.*

Cynthia & Ciara "Rosie" Del Frate

Cynthia Del Frate - January 28, 2015 at 03:49 PM

LP

“ *Laura & Randy Grimes, Lori Ringer, Tandy & Michael Price purchased the Eternal Memories for the family of James Harold Forrester.*



Laura & Randy Grimes, Lori Ringer, Tandy & Michael Price -
January 28, 2015 at 02:54 PM

NC

“ *Mr. Forrester you will be missed greatly. I will miss seeing you and mrs.Forrester together walking the neighborhood or driving to dinner at furry cafeteria. You have been such a wonderful friend and neighbor you always had a smile on your face and always gave great advice. Love and miss you Natalie Cotinola-Bustillos*

Natalie Cotinola-Bustillos - January 28, 2015 at 01:10 PM

KL

“ *Ken and Muriel Lamkin purchased the Blue & White Sympathy Floor Basket for the family of James Harold Forrester.*



Ken and Muriel Lamkin - January 28, 2015 at 12:56 PM

LB

“ Mrs. Forrester, we are so sadden to hear about Mr. Forrester. We're shocked to hear the sad news.

We will surely miss him in the neighborhood. Both of you have always been so kind and caring and always there for me and my family. I'll miss seeing Harold at Wal-mart and hearing my named called out if I didn't see him. Saw Harold like a week or two ago and he Thank me for taking you Christmas food and cookies. Such a wonderful man. Gwen if you need me for anything just give me a call. Mr. Forrester this is not a good bye this is till we meet again..our Deepest Condolences. With all our Love, Loretta, Rick and Patrick. God Bless..

Loretta Baca - January 28, 2015 at 11:39 AM

JK

“ Dear Gwen:

Charlie and I read Harold's obituary with great sadness this morning. Do you remember seeing us with Jenni and Zach a million years ago in Durango? We remember it fondly and how wonderful Harold was chatting with both our kids - they were pretty young at the time. (Jenni is a Speech Therapist for Denver Public Schools and has 2 boys, ages 8 and 11; Zach is a PA with a cardiologist in Boulder and has a 2 month old daughter.)

Harold was always one of the principals I wished I could clone: smart, caring, genuine, and always concerned first and foremost about what would be in the best interests of his students. I always admired him both personally and professionally and truly enjoyed working with him.

Please know that you and your family are in our thoughts and prayers and that we send our most sincere sympathy to all of you.

Janet & Charlie Kahn

Janet Kahn - January 28, 2015 at 10:55 AM

AG

“ *My heart is heavy with this news, I will always cherish the childhood memories of you outside watering the lawn or washing your car always turning around to wave and say hello! You were a wonderful neighbor and always looked out for us. My prayers for comfort and peace to Gwen and family.*

Amy Garley - January 28, 2015 at 09:52 AM

 Betty
McMath

“ *So shocked to open the paper this morning and see Harold's name there! Harold was my first ever choir director and I played piano for him also. I learned so much about church music from him as a brand new Christian back in the 1950's. Harold and Gwen became some of our very best friends and Charles and I will miss seeing him at Anniversary and Birthday gatherings. Love and comfort to you, Gwen, Jim and Janet.
Will be at the service on Friday, God willing.*

Betty McMath - January 28, 2015 at 09:12 AM

JP

“ *J. Harold as we all new him was the finest man I have ever known. He served as Principal at Apache Elementary School for sixteen years. He knew every student by their first name and their parents as well. He was always concerned about what was best for the students and staff of the school. I consider myself blessed to have been his friend.*

John Wayne Prentice - January 27, 2015 at 05:10 PM

BD

“ *On behalf of the French Family of Companies, we express our deepest condolences.*

Buck Dyck - January 27, 2015 at 01:27 PM