



# James O. Clemons

MAR 27, 1923 - NOV 11, 2018



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FLORAL HAVEN

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## James O. Clemons

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James was born to Harl and Edith Clemons on March 27, 1923 in Marshalltown, IA. He was raised with his brother, Richard, in New Providence, Iowa. They were a family of farmers, raising corn, beans, hogs and cattle. He attended New Providence, IA schools. After High School graduation, his interest in aircraft mechanics took him to California to attend at Aero ITI to learn how to repair almost anything that was in the air at that time. He was in San Francisco looking for work on December 7th, 1941 when the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor. In 1942 his job in Sacramento was working on and building the B-24's that he would be flying in during WWII. He received "Greetings" from the government in late 1942, and instead of waiting volunteered to go early in place of a friend whose wife had just had a baby. James was properly inducted February 13th, 1943. As part of the 15th Army Air Force 484th Bomber Group, he and his crew arrived in Cerignola Italy and Torretta Field in September 1944. From their new home, they and their escorts, The Tuskegee Airmen, flew 35 combat missions and many goodwill missions delivering supplies to liberated countries. Battles and campaigns his crew participated in: Rome-Arno, Southern France, Po Valley, Air Combat in the Balkans, North Apennines, Central Europe, and Rhineland Campaigns. James received the following decorations and citations: Awarded 7 Bronze Stars for the Rome-Arno, Southern France, Po Valley, Air Combat Balkans, North Apennines, Central Europe, and Rhineland Campaigns. DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS, Air Medal with 3 Oak Leaf Cluster, Good Conduct Medal, and is entitled to wear the European-African-Middle Eastern Theatre Campaign Ribbon, and One Overseas Bar. After his separation from the military in July 1945, he returned home to Iowa. 1948 was his best year. He married his bride of nearly 65 years, Gertrude Below. From that marriage two sons were brought into the world. Donald James and Jon Richard. In 1963 Jim picked up his family and moved to Oklahoma when the job market in Iowa failed. He worked as an



## Obituary

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auto mechanic. A few years later he went to work for the United States Post Office as a letter carrier. Jim retired from the post office. His activities during downtime were very community driven. He helped the Catoosa, Ok quarterback club build the school's new football field and track. He was actively involved as a member of the Rolling Hills Volunteer Fire Department as a firefighter and Fire Marshall. He had a big part in getting the Rolling Hills Senior Center started along with the Senior Meals and Meals on Wheels for the area. As a Catoosa Sertoma Club member he was Sertoman of the Year for his service to mankind and worked diligently with the Catoosa High School Serteens. He's a member of the Catoosa Masonic Lodge and has been a Mason for almost 60 years. Jim has had a lifetime of service and volunteering. James was preceded in death by his parents, wife Trudy, and brother Richard Clemons. Jim is survived by sons Don Clemons of Catoosa, OK and Jon Clemons and his wife Anita of Claremore, OK; Grandson, Judson Clemons and wife Rachael of Claremore, OK, and Great-Grandchildren Isaac James Clemons and Adalynn Marie Clemons. Visitation will be Thursday November 15th from 4:00pm to 8:00pm at Floral Haven. Family will be present from 6:00pm to 7:00pm. Service will be held at 12:30pm, Friday November 16th at Floral Haven Rose Chapel. In lieu of flowers, the family asks that donations be made to Grace Hospice of Oklahoma LLC in Tulsa.



## Tribute Wall

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AG

**Amanda Westendick, Rn Grace** posted:

It was a privilege to have cared for Mr. Clemons for the time, although short, I was allotted. His life, as shared by son Don, has made a lasting impression and he along with his family will always be carried in my heart. Thank you for the honor and the opportunity. May he find the peace he so justly deserves. Don – be proud and secure in the knowledge you provided the best of care your father could have ever wished for. Your efforts are to be commended.

November 16 at 7:02 AM

JR

**Jennifer Reynolds** posted:

So sorry to hear of his passing. He will truly be missed. Our thoughts and prayers are with you all.

November 16 at 3:05 AM

TG

**Tom, Willann And Julie Goree** posted:

Jim and Trudy were good friends and neighbors to us for many years. We will miss Jim as we have missed Trudy. Don and Jon, your family is in our thoughts and prayers.

November 15 at 3:14 PM

MM

**Michelle Metcalf** posted:

Jim Clemons was a man of character and dedication. His involvement in Sertoma inspired me to join the organization and sponsor the Serteen Club at Catoosa High School. He was so faithful to serve the Catoosa community for decades. He had a keen wit and infectious smile! I will always remember his strong devotion to his country, community, and his family.

November 14 at 8:09 AM

DC

**Desiree Clemons** posted:

I am proud to call Jim Clemons my Uncle. He was my father's brother, and we grew up hearing my father say regularly, "I want to talk to my brother" and listening while they talked and visited regularly. Uncle Jim came to my father's funeral and was such a comfort and a father figure for us after our Dad passed. He was a gentleman, a man of his word who loved his fellow man, as evident by his life time of service to his community. To the world he was a decorated WWII veteran – to our family he was a loving Uncle. He always made us feel protected and loved and he will be dearly missed by us all. Godspeed Uncle Jim- tell Aunt Trudy hi from us. We love you.

November 14 at 4:56 AM



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**Amber** posted:

My Uncle Jim will be in my heart forever. He was a gentlemen, always kind, with a mischievous twinkle in his eye and a joke on his lips, followed quickly by a hearty laugh. He was interesting and interested. He is the last of his generation that existed in my world and I will miss him and I mourn his passing. I am only comforted by the fact that he is now reunited with those who loved him and pasted before him.

November 14 at 3:55 AM



# **Memories only last if you share them**

Join us in honoring James by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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