



James David Nunnally

January 15, 1945 - January 6, 2025

James David Nunnally, 79, of Ripley, MS, departed this life on Monday, January 6, 2025, at Diversicare of Ripley. Born January 15, 1945, in Dumas, MS to James Bartlett (J. B.) and Virginia Joyce (Anderson) Nunnally, James attended Dumas School and graduated South Tippah High School in 1963. He continued his education at Northeast Mississippi Junior College where he managed the Tiger Basketball team. He continued his education at the University of Mississippi, earning a bachelor's and then a master's degree in education.

James married Betty Jo Michael of Prentiss County, MS on April 15, 1968. He taught history at Walnut High School and Old Salem School (Ashland, MS) while his wife, Jo, taught at Pine Grove High School.

James was elected to the Mississippi State Legislature in 1972 and served as the Representative for Tippah and Benton Counties for 16 years. During that time, he advocated for improved education, healthcare, industry, and transportation in Northeast Mississippi. He also helped numerous individuals from his home and neighboring counties obtain driver's licenses, birth certificates, and other official paperwork, often obtaining them from state agencies and driving the documents back from Jackson himself. James was appointed to serve on the Southern Regional Education Board, representing the State of Mississippi in the furtherance of public education.

After serving his district, James returned to teaching until he was presented with the opportunity to serve his community again, being asked to assume leadership of North Benton County Health Care, Inc., a community health center in Ashland. Under his leadership, the clinic system became solvent and expanded to Walnut and Ripley. With the help of faithful key employees, it rapidly expanded from 2000 to 2022 to Prentiss, Alcorn, Tishomingo, Union, and Lafayette Counties, providing discounted healthcare services and prescriptions to over 18,000 individuals.

Like his father before him, James served as an elder at the Ripley church of Christ for many years. James was a faithful member of the Union church of Christ in his later years, where his grandfather began preaching in 1891.

James is survived by his wife of 56 years, Betty Jo (Michael) Nunnally of Ripley; his son, Miles David Nunnally (Christina) of Ripley, one grandson, James David Nunnally II of Oxford; three sisters, Betty Principi of Woodbridge, Virginia, Mary Grace Fulwood (Randel) of Byhalia, and Ginger Simpson (Bob) of Ripley; one brother, Ronnie Nunnally of Dumas, and a host of nieces and nephews. As all in life, James was blessed with many friends, but he was especially grateful for those who were friends to the end.

He is preceded in death by his parents and one brother, Francis Guyton Nunnally.

The family would like to thank the staff at Diversicare of Ripley and Legacy Hospice for their care. Also thank you to special friends who often came to call during his illness: Terry Mason, Terry Moore, Greg Richardson, Blair Childers, Harold & Margaret Garrison, and Gary Harrington.

Pallbearers will be: Bob Simpson, Terry Chapman, Chris Fulwood, Mike Grist, Terry Mason, Terry Moore

Officiating will be: Patrick Chapman and Donnie Debord

Previous Events

Visitation

JAN 8. 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

McBride Funeral Home, Inc.
206 N. Commerce St
Ripley, MS 38663
(662) 837-8101
mcbriideripley@gmail.com
<https://www.mcbridefuneralhome.com>

Visitation

JAN 9. 12:00 PM - 2:00 PM.

Ripley Church of Christ

Service

JAN 9. 2:00 PM.

Ripley Church of Christ
1300 Hall Drive
Ripley , MS

Tribute Wall

DR

“ James was one of my teachers as I was growing up in Chester County Tennessee fine gentlemen Class of 73



Dennis Record - January 27 at 05:58 PM

JB

“ I will always cherish the time Mr. Nunnally let me go to Jackson and serve as a page while he was in office. He was a very fine Christian man. May God comfort you all.

Joy Lynn Cook Brown

Joy Lynn Cook Brown - January 15, 2025 at 04:06 PM



“ Sending our love to the Nunnally family . Kenneth Lence family

Mary Lence - January 09, 2025 at 12:36 PM



“ I was always amazed at James's knowledge of Tippah county history. He was a fine Christian and a friend. Jo and family, my prayers are with you . Mary Jo Pitner Lence

Mary Lence - January 09, 2025 at 12:29 PM

TR

“ It deeply saddens me to not be able to pay my respects to Mr. Nunnally and his family. Mr. Nunnally and his family hired me straight out of nursing school and I worked for them for ten years. Rest in peace Mr. Nunnally. Crystal and Lindsay...please know I'm there in spirit with you during this difficult time.



Tonia Robertson - January 07, 2025 at 10:18 PM

TG

“ Terrye Grisham lit a candle in memory of James David Nunnally



Terrye Grisham - January 07, 2025 at 05:13 PM

CJ

“ I'm so saddened to hear about Mr Nunnally passing. I have fond memories when I worked at north benton medical center as a janitor(ashland, walnut and Ripley) I'm gonna miss my Christmas cards I received each year from him and Jo even after I retired from there back in late 90s til Christmas 2024. Prayers 🙏 for his whole family!



Christie Johnson - January 07, 2025 at 04:23 PM

MS

“ Please know I am praying for your comfort and peace for this time. Mr. Nunnally was one of my favorite teachers when he taught at Walnut. I'll never forget how some of the students would try to switch names with each other and he would always look to me to tell him if it was right or not. LOL

Missy Hall Shelton - January 07, 2025 at 02:33 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of James David Nunnally.



January 07, 2025 at 11:46 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of James David Nunnally.

January 07, 2025 at 11:46 AM



“ Dear Jo and Miles, I want you to know that I am praying for you as I remember my time getting to know you along with James. He was one of my close friends from my early days lobbying the legislature. Miles, you were really young then, so I was glad to meet you at Ed Perry's funeral and then later for business. I know you both will miss him and Christina and Jim as well. God bless you all.

Al Sage - January 06, 2025 at 10:22 PM

CP

“ We are so sorry to hear about your family’s loss. We are praying for all of you and hoping for His peace for your family through this difficult time. - Curt and Amy Palmer, Lauralei, Steven and Bradley.

Curt and Amy Palmer - January 06, 2025 at 10:17 PM

LP

“ Sending love to you all from Wisconsin during this difficult time. My family and I are praying that you would be filled with Christ's perfect peace. With love, Lauralei.

lauralei palmer - January 06, 2025 at 09:58 PM

CA

“ Dear Mrs Jo and Miles and Christina and Jim: My heart is full of prayers for you all during the loss of James. We all had many good times together, memories, and laughs together. I enjoyed most the time I was able to spend when we decorated James and Jo’s beautiful home years ago. We all had a wonder time together. I pray God’s comfort and blessings upon you all.
I love you.

Chris Allen
116 Sunnyside Lane
Columbia, TN

Chris Allen - January 06, 2025 at 09:50 PM

RP

“ Robert Pugh purchased the Simply Elegant Spat hiphyllum for the family of James David Nunnally.



Robert Pugh - January 06, 2025 at 02:39 PM

RP

“ *My Deepest Sympathies to the James D. Nunnally Family, I am so saddend to hear about Mr. James Nunnally's death. He was a great benfactor and a true friend. He was always my first "go to" board member during my past years as the director of the MS CHC Association, when I needed honest and beneficial advise. He will always be fondly remembered Sincere condolences and pray that God's blessings will bring strenght during your grief. Robert M. Pugh*



Robert M. Pugh - January 06, 2025 at 02:29 PM