



Dr. James W. Van Blaricum III

May 4, 1934 - December 16, 2015

PRATT - James Van Blaricum, age 81, passed away on Wednesday December 16, 2015 in his home in Pratt, Kansas.

Born May 4, 1934 in Dodge City, Kansas, James was known by many names to many different people – depending on when and where you knew him. In the man answering to Johnny, Jim, James, Van, Doc, Dad or Daddy, what was consistent was a man that had an intense desire to serve his family, friends and community.

Johnny grew up in Minneola, Kansas, the son of Elsie and (Gordon) Dean Van Blaricum. He learned his love for music from his talented mother, and his love for the outdoors, dentistry and community service from his father. Those that really know him say his ornery streak may have come from the namesake grandfather.

He attended McPherson College and continued to enjoy singing, performing and being a Yell Leader for the school. While in McPherson he met his future wife, Mary Ann Aeschliman, who was studying at Kansas State. Married in 1958, Jim and Mary Ann moved to Kansas City where he attended the University of Missouri Kansas City and earned his Doctorate of Dental Science (DDS) degree in 1961.

Van and his young family moved to Pratt, Kansas, in 1961. He quickly became settled in the community, building his dental practice and becoming involved in organizations such as the Jaycees, Rotary, the Miss Kansas and Miss America Pageants, the city council, PCC, Community Theater and local musical productions. He continually took up causes of passion for the community, his most recent being the creation of the Vernon Filley Art Museum. His love of the outdoors also continued and he was an active conservationist and sportsman who loved hunting, fishing, shooting and generally anything outdoors. Doc was a man who was leaned on, trusted and respected as a care giver. He pushed himself to be the best in his field, constantly worked to improve his skills and was proud to have served as the president of the Kansas Dental Association. He also worked tirelessly to ensure that he was available for his patients – at any time of day. His family remembers countless emergency calls late at night or over the weekend to help a person in need. He loved what he did and enjoyed working with and getting to know his patients.

James will be missed by many, none more than his loving family including his wife of 57 years, their three children, Amy, Margaret, and John, and their combined family that

includes eight grandchildren and a sister, Connie Smedley. In lieu of flowers, the family asks that contributions be made in his name to the Vernon Filley Art Museum in care of Larrison Mortuary, 300 Country Club Road, Pratt, KS 67124. Condolences may be left at www.larrisonmortuary.com.

A memorial service to honor his life will be held at 10 a.m. on Monday, December 21st, 2015 at the First United Methodist Church in Pratt. Lunch will be served following the service.

Comments



“ Mary Ann and all the family, we are sorry to hear that Doc Van has left us. He was a gentleman, a leader, and a giver. I got to work fairly closely with him when he was on the Board at the College and he was always fair and committed to excellence. You are in our thoughts and prayers.--Betty and Verl Stevens, Manhattan, Kansas.

Betty Stevens - December 19, 2015 at 10:36 PM



“ We send our sympathies to the family of Dr. Van...I was just reminiscing here in Arkansas about what a great dentist he was, and how he was also such a good artist and outdoorsman...his memories will live on, as will all his contributions to the community are his legacy...Joyce and Bob Hartmann, Choctaw, AR

Joyce Hartmann - December 19, 2015 at 10:16 PM



“ Mary Ann, Brenda and I want you to know how sad we are to hear of Jim's passing. I always considered Van to be a good friend and colleague. I have many fond memories of our times together whether it be social or professional occasion. He set a standard in our profession that was emulated by all. My memories of various hunting trips continues to bring out warm feelings and great fellowship. He will be missed by all, and I pray his soul now rests, where there is no pain or grief.
Most sincerely, Brenda and Konrad Rock

Konrad Rock - December 19, 2015 at 02:43 PM



“ Dr Van was not only our dentist but a good friend to our family. Even though we only lived in Pratt for a short time he was someone who always made us feel welcome and at home there. My family send our sincerest sympathies and prayers for all the family of Dr VanBlaricum. Tamara, Natalie & Carolyn (The Lindsey's)

Tamara Lindsey Works - December 19, 2015 at 08:07 AM



“ Dr. Van was my dentist for years and also my two children until he retired. He will be missed by many.
Vickie Lukens

Vickie - December 18, 2015 at 03:59 PM



“ whenever I had a dental emergency Dr. James always worked me in. I would see him in Hutchinson at times and out an about other places and he never failed to recognize me and speak and ask how I was. He will be missed.
Clyde Phelps

clyde phelps - December 18, 2015 at 10:43 AM



“ I am so sorry for the Loss of your Husband,Father. I know what you are going through.
Mary Ann,Meg, John, Amy I remember you all well and what Van did for me.May God
Bless and comfort you.Millie Walsh

Millie Walsh - December 18, 2015 at 08:22 AM



“ My heart hurts for the four of you and your families. Dr. Van filled so many roles in the lives of his friends, his community, and, most certainly, his family. I particularly appreciated his support of the Pratt schools and its teachers. He really was a Renaissance Man living right there in Pratt, Kansas! We'll be thinking of you and sending our prayers that you will find comfort in knowing how much your dad and husband was appreciated.

Terry and Donna Gurss
Fairview, Texas

Donna Gurss - December 18, 2015 at 06:53 AM



“ This man, was oh so wonderful, always knew how to put a smile on our faces. So many memories that I will be able to hold dear. One of my favorites had to be finding out he watched the big bang theory. Oh we laughed for hours singing "soft kitty, pretty kitty, little ball of fur kitty" I was so greatfull for getting to know this man, and the time I got to spend with him. To see him return home was a wonderful feeling knowing being home was right where he wanted to be. I'll never forget his sense of humor and that great smile of his. Thank you for being apart of my life, and many others, thank you for helping me learn and grow even if you didn't know you were doing it. You left a great impact in so many lifes.

-Paige

Paige Freund - December 17, 2015 at 06:42 PM



“ Pratt has again lost a wonderful person. I sang in the Methodist church choir and I can close my eyes and still hear his beautiful tenor voice singing many solos. Think of his wonderful family.

Dorothy Furgason - December 18, 2015 at 11:59 AM