



## Mr. J. C. Williamson

August 28, 1941 - October 15, 2020

J. C. Williamson was born on August 28, 1941 but his mother said it was registered on the 30th when the doctor turned it in. He was the third child of four born to Vera May Sisson Williamson and Baz Prior

Williamson of Shaw Mississippi. They moved to Greenville Mississippi where his father was a carpenter and his mother worked in the local Five and Dime. The family picked cotton in season to make extra

money and the children were cared for by black nannies. J. C. learned strong moral training when his mother made him take back the yoyo he had stolen from the store and apologize to her manager. She taught him not to tell a lie when he told her the beautiful collie dog he had roped and led home had been his for a "long time." He took the dog back too.

The family moved to Jackson Mississippi where he played in the park near his junior high school and learned where free cokes and donuts could be obtained on overnight campouts. He ran a bicycle paper route, sold newspapers on the terminal corner on Saturday nights, attended Boys Club Breakfasts on Sunday morning, rode his bicycle five miles to pitch and catch little league and camped on Strong River each summer.

He met his lifelong friend Robert Childress in high school at Pearl Mississippi and they met Robert's future wife at her bus stop and followed her home. Robert and Diane have been married 61 years.

J. C. stated smoking at this time and thus he smoked for 60+ years.

J. C. Williamson joined the U. S. Army when h was 17 by his mother's signature. He had asked for a 25 cent raise from his bother-in-law in his AC Business but was rewarded with only a nickel. He joined the bus riders unloading at Fort Benning Georgia in July heat to the exasperated screams of the Drill Instructor, "What are they sending me now for recruits; Cub Scouts?' J. C. was 4'11", a 24- inch waist and weighed 117pounds! Of course, he was not even full grown!

Upon joining the Army, J. C. had to come up with an actual name instead of initials. He named himself Jace Cord Williamson and so he was from then on unless you asked him his name, then he was Jose Jemaney Sanchez Rodrigues Jesus Diablo! His wry wit and entertaining runs of stories we will always vividly remember.

Jace graduated Fort Benning and made life-long friends Lee Lollar and Danny Perry and served 2 years on Okinawa Japan. Being in the missile field he was always assigned to Air Force Bases. He was selected Soldier of the Month and runner-up for Soldier of the Year Pacific theatre. He made Sergeant by the time he was 19.

Jace came home to Jackson on leave, fished with David Earl Byrd on the Reservoir and married Mavis Norsworthy. They were assigned to Pacific, Missouri and then to Neidenbach Germany where they enjoyed military life for 6 years of snow and sightseeing.

After his military career Jace taught himself sheet metal layout work and quickly opened his own AC business Williamson AC. He worked in the field 40 years and rose to the heights of the industry in Sales and Awards. He founded a training system and operated a business in three states. He helped raise his second wife's son Jim and daughter Suzanne before she departed, as he called it. He coached boys soccer, served as Deacon of Cokes Chapel in Sharpsburg Georgia and mentored many students. He was a role model for his family including Ray Wheeler and Rita Fay Wheeler, his sister Helen's children.

Jace met Joyce Hileman in 2013 and moved to Baldwin County to manage her businesses. They toured Germany 4 times together. Once taking Joyce's father, Manley Kulman to see the U. S. Military Cemetery in Luxembourg where General George Patton is buried. Once they took Joyce's daughter Stephanie for Christmas.

They cruised the Greek Isles and flew to Israel with Marilyn Hickey and Joyce's sister Nancy Perry in 2016. Jace liked to tell people that he was baptized in the River Jordan, the same river where his Lord and Savior Jesus Christ was himself baptized. He continued working as his sales skills were much in demand but on his 79th Birthday, August 28, 2020 he became ill and had open heart surgery for the second time in his life. He fought hard to live. He was a strong sturdy man who lived 48 days in the hospital. He went home to Glory on October 15, 2020.

Jace is preceded in death by his parents, his three siblings, Billy Ruth, A. C. , and Helen Marie, nephew Tony Williamson, niece Sandra Williamson, cousin Dot Schexnader. He is survived by Ray Wheeler of Euless Texas and Rita Faye Wheeler of Picayune Mississippi, nephew and niece, Chase Williamson and 4 others and fiancée Joyce Hileman and her daughter Stephanie.

He will be greatly missed. We sorrow not as those who have no hope. We will see Jace again.

A memorial service will be held Wednesday, October 21, 2020 at 2 p.m. at the Loxley Church of God. A visitation will be held one hour prior to the service beginning at 1:00 p.m.

# Previous Events

## Memorial Service

OCT **21**. 2:00 PM (CT)

Loxley Church of God  
5220 S Hickory St  
Loxley, AL 36551

# Tribute Wall

JH

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Joyce Ann Hileman - February 04, 2021 at 04:23 PM

RW

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Rita Wheeler - October 21, 2020 at 02:59 PM

RW

“ We love you uncle JC. You will be greatly missed.



Rita Wheeler - October 21, 2020 at 02:57 PM

RW

“ My uncle Jace was one of a kind. He was loved by everyone he met. He had an adventurous spirit. Always full of jokes and laughter. He loved his family, but his favorite was Casey (his dog) .. he took Casey everywhere he went. His favorite saying was “ it’s okay to reach for the stars, as long as you keep your feet on the ground”. And he did just that. Thank you all for the prayers and kind words.

Rita Wheeler - October 21, 2020 at 01:29 PM

BM

“ To the family of Jace, Know that my thoughts and prayers are with you at this time. I worked with Jace for about 10 years here in Atlanta and I thought the world of him. He will truly be missed by many.

*Bob Minter*

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**Bob Minter** - October 21, 2020 at 08:19 AM

RW

*Thank you so much mr Bob.*

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**Rita Wheeler** - October 21, 2020 at 01:24 PM

BM

“ Hi Joyce. My name is Bill McMillen and I live in Atlanta. Jace and I met professionally in the 90's and shared a true passion for the HVAC Industry.

*Jace and I worked together at the same company, in Atlanta, where we became good friends.*

*The last two years, we talked often over the phone and always shared our love for God and the United States of America.*

*I am deeply saddened for our loss. May God Bless you. Sincerely, Bill McM*

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**Bill McMillen** - October 20, 2020 at 02:55 PM

RW

*Hello mr Bill. I am rita, Jace's niece. Thank you so much for the kind words.. he will be truly missed*

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**Rita Wheeler** - October 21, 2020 at 01:23 PM