



Mr. James W. Daniels

June 13, 1936 - September 7, 2016

James W. Daniels, “Jim”, died in the evening of September 7, 2016 ending a jam-packed, whirlwind, generous life. He is survived by his beloved wife, Ellie, his children, Jami and Neill, two grandchildren, his adored nieces and their families, his sister and her family, treasured cousins, and one grand-dog.

Jim moved to Asheville with his father in his teens and attended Lee Edwards High School and Asheville Biltmore College, which would become UNC-Asheville. He served in the Air Force during the Korean conflict. After service, he returned home to help his parents with what was at the time, a small secretarial service. After his father’s death, Jim parlayed that company into The Daniels Group, a communications business that has supported many and carved out a key place in Asheville’s business landscape. He was a clever and fearless businessman.

A champion of the city of Asheville, he was integral to the revitalization of our mountain town. His successes are many, but of few of his favorite and most storied accomplishments were the founding of Bele Chere and Mountain GreenWorks, the shaping of the Downtown Association, years of service to the Chamber of Commerce and the Tourism and Development Authority and various community boards. Jim was active politically and served on the Board of Transportation under the Hunt administration.

Well known for his sometimes biting humor and wit, he had a charm and magnetism that created friends wherever he went. He loved his family, his friends, his business, and this town. He will be missed terribly, but his legacy will remain.

In lieu of flowers, please consider a memorial donation to the Central United Methodist Church Foundation, or to UNC-Asheville.

A memorial service will be held at Central United Methodist Church on Tuesday, September 13, 2016 at 11:00am with Dr. Rob Blackburn officiating. A reception will follow in the fellowship hall.

Previous Events

Memorial Service

SEP **13**. 11:00 AM (ET)

Central United Methodist Church
27 Church Street
Asheville, NC 28801

Tribute Wall



“ *Morris Funeral & Cremation Care created a Tribute Video in memory of Mr. James W. Daniels*



Morris Funeral Home - September 12, 2016 at 06:10 PM



“ *Mr. James W. Daniels*

October 07, 2023 at 11:15 AM



“ *Ellie, Jami, and Neil, I am so sorry for your loss. Jim was one of a kind. I remember his direct way of talk. You knew where you stood, for sure. I think of the story of the lost visitor who came to your house and asked if it was the governor's western residence, and Jim replying, "Not yet." Prayers and thoughts for all of you. Duane James*

Duane James - September 14, 2016 at 07:00 PM



“ *Ellie! Chuck and I send our condolences to you, Neil, and Jami on behalf of all the Campbell family.*

Helen Campbell - September 13, 2016 at 09:24 AM

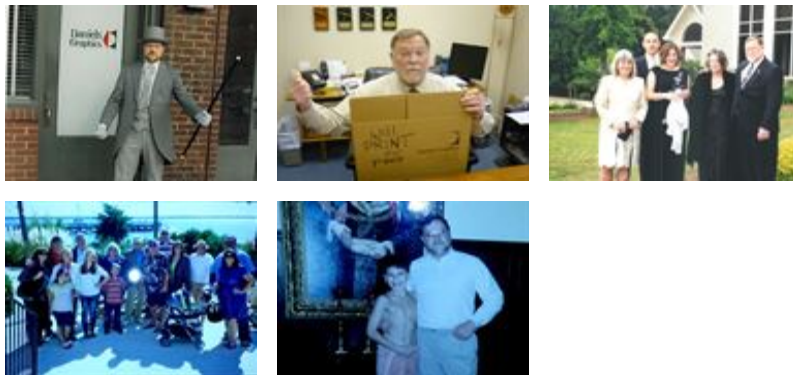
BV

“Ellie, Jami and Neill --- we knew Jim as Mr. D, the head honcho. Of all the bosses I've had (and I've had many!) I will remember Jim with the greatest fondness. He was shrewd but fair. He was demanding but compassionate. He was "the Man", but he treated all of his employees with respect and decency. He knew the big picture and he knew details, but I think his greatest gift was his ability to share joy and laughter. Upon meeting someone he often said, "you've never met me but you might know my brother Jack." Marge and I will miss him, and our warmest thoughts go out to each of you.
Kind regards, Bob and Marge Vollmerhausen

Bob Vollmerhauseen - September 12, 2016 at 06:48 PM



“57 files added to the album Life Tributes



Morris Funeral Home - September 12, 2016 at 05:57 PM

DA

“Our deepest condolences. Our thoughts and prayers are with your family during this difficult time.
Gordon, Lane, Carey and Dawn
OneWhoServes, Inc.

Dawn - September 12, 2016 at 03:36 PM



“ *Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the family of Mr. James W. Daniels.*



September 12, 2016 at 12:55 PM



“ *PICA & PICA Foundation purchased the Fairest of All for the family of Mr. James W. Daniels.*



PICA & PICA Foundation - September 12, 2016 at 10:33 AM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Mr. James W. Daniels.*



September 12, 2016 at 09:01 AM

MB

“ *Jami,*

My deepest condolences on the passing of your Dad. As we all have read the many wonderful attributes he brought to the business community, it is amplified all the more in his family. Carry on that wonderful smile, I am sure he is proud.

*My thoughts and prayers,
Mike Browne*

MR BROWNE - September 11, 2016 at 08:09 PM

TB

“ *Jim was rightly known for his consistent goodwill and good humor, and those qualities made him especially effective at winning others over to some of those good ideas he specialized in generating.*

Tom Byers - September 11, 2016 at 06:53 PM

DR

“ *Ellie, Jamie and Neal:
I learned of Jim's passing with great regret. He, and you Ellie, were dear friends and neighbors and the world is a lesser place without him.*

He was my mentor, and a steadfast friend who together worked with me to make ideas like HandMade in America and the Institute at Biltmore a reality, without him it would have been more difficult, and not nearly as much fun.

I can honestly say that knowing him made me a better person, I share you grief, and please know that you all are in my thoughts.

*Dan Keith Ray
West Palm Beach, FL*

Dan Keith Ray - September 11, 2016 at 02:40 PM

JS

“ *Paul and I were very saddened to read of Jim's passing. Jim's smile and great sense of humor will be missed! Ellie, we send you and your family our thoughts and prayers.
Fondly, Judy and Paul Spivey*

Judy and Paul Spivey - September 11, 2016 at 12:48 PM

GC

“ *Dear Ellie and Jamie, although I am leaving town today and will not be there in person, my heart is with you both. Jim was a wonderful husband and dad, and I know it is hard.
Love, Gay Coleman*

Gay Coleman - September 11, 2016 at 08:49 AM

CP

“ Jim was a leader in the very first Asheville Jaycee meeting I attended in 1963. Since then he never stopped trying to making things better in his community...Asheville Chamber, Bele Chere and many other organizations.

Being in the communications, we did business together and became friends; and "friends for a very long time". Jim was a true innovator in his industry. He will be missed in many, many ways.

Respectfully

Charlie Price

Charlie Price - September 10, 2016 at 05:25 PM

GS

“ *Ellie and Jami:*

Ellie, your husband was one of my best friends and we served the community in many areas together. The article in the paper was well done and he deserved everything they gave him credit for. Asheville, Buncombe County and Western North Carolina are better places to live due to his efforts.

Jami, your dad was a very special person and friend. I know he loved you a lot and always wanted the best for you. We both will miss him but he is in a better place now and not suffering.

If I can do anything for either of you, please let me know.

Your friend,

*Glenn W. Wilcox, Sr.
828-253-1003*

Glenn W. Wilcox, Sr. - September 10, 2016 at 01:33 PM

KP

“ Ross, Halen, Kiley, Cj and myself we're so lucky to be able to visit and stay with Jim and Ellie just a little over a month ago. We had such an amazing time with them and got to sit and really have great conversation with Mr. Jim before we left. He shared with us so many interesting stories that we had never even heard before. When Ross and I left to drive home, we were so thankful for our great visit with both him and Ellie. My kids loved talking to Mr Jim and he was always family to us! What an amazing life he had, and we will never forget his big kind heart, and ability to captivate you with his stories!
Kristen and Ross Petras

Kristen and Ross Petras - September 10, 2016 at 12:32 PM

TG

“ Jami and Neal - your dad was always so welcoming to me. We both have extension 111 at work and always had a laugh about that. I never knew my grandfather WJ, but your Dad would always tell me a story about WJ when I came to see him. I miss your Dad's contagious laugh already. Family Business forum will not be the same without him. You were blessed to have him as long as you did. You and your mom are in my thoughts and prayers.

Tate Groome - September 09, 2016 at 12:48 PM

DH

“ Ellie, Jami and Neal. I am thinking of you folks. Heaven is a much livelier place now that Jim is there.

Don Harris

Don Harris - September 09, 2016 at 09:14 AM