



## Jim Forbes

December 20, 1943 - January 11, 2025

Jim Forbes was born on December 20, 1943 in Ardmore, OK to Harry and Louise Forbes. He got his Heavenly promotion surrounded by loved ones on January 11, 2025 at the local hospital after a brief illness at the age of 81.

A born athlete, Jim loved sports from an early age and excelled at whatever he tried. At Ardmore High School, he was an All-American in football, track and wrestling. He went to Southeastern Oklahoma State University on a football scholarship, graduating with degrees in education and history. He set several state records while at SOSU, some of which remain unsurpassed today, nearly sixty years later.

After graduation, he accepted a position teaching and coaching at Sulphur High School while attending East Central University at night studying for his Master's. He spent fifteen years at Sulphur High School - teaching, coaching and as vice principal.

Life happened and Jimmy Jack moved away, traveling the country working for a seismographic company, ultimately settling in Palms Springs, California, where he stayed for several years until his heart told him to return to his roots, and again, Sulphur beckoned to him. He loved Sulphur and the people there reciprocated that love. He accepted a position teaching, this time in alternative education, which was a great fit for him. It was important to him to make a

positive difference and he absolutely did. There are countless testimonials from former pupils expressing their gratitude and admiration of his commitment. It was also during this time that he put together the SHS Girls Track program. A particular source of pride for him, he talked with genuine excitement about the Sulphur girls qualifying for state this year.

At the age of 60 Jimmy Jack met and married the love of his life, Shelia. They spent the following 21 years together, only regretting they hadn't met sooner. They were unequivocally devoted to one another and it was evident in his eyes at the mention of her name. They traveled extensively, sharing adventures and laughing the entire time. If there's anything the man had mastered, it was having a good time and he shared the fun.

Jim was a native Ardmoretite and proud Tiger but a Sulphur Bulldog at heart. He took so much pride in his town, his friendships and the impact he had on the students he taught there. It was truly home to him.

Jim was preceded in death by his parents; his youngest daughter, Christina Roth; sister Sherrie Sue Clark; nephews Brandon Harris and David Hargis.

He leaves behind to cherish his memories: his beloved wife, Shelia; daughter Stephanie Jordan, Jaye Foster and Betsy Clark; stepsons Jimmy Cargal and Greg Cargal & wife Daniella; sister and brother-in-law Mary Lee & Alan Harris; grandchildren Dave Jordan, Brinton Foster. Ande Foster, Natalie Fister and Isabella Cargal; sister-in-law Glenda Pabalate & husband Harold and nieces Amy Thompson & husband Jim. Ashley Burke and husband Brian and Cindy Garcia.

Pallbearers will be Dave Jordan, Brinton Foster, Mason Thompson, Dylan Thompson, Jim Thompson and Ben Burke.

Honorary pallbearers include Carl Melson, Jay Carter, Kenny Klaes, Dan

Gordon, Tom Kennedy, Alan Harris, A.J. Gordon and Harold Pabalate.

Visitation will be held January 16, 2025 from 5:00 7:00 p.m. at Crossway Church chapel in Sulphur, OK. Services to celebrate the life of Jimmy Jack will be held January 17, 2025 at 11 a.m. at Crossway Church sanctuary with Rev. Bill Leveridge officiating. Interment will follow at Rosehill Cemetery in Ardmore, OK. A casual event, we welcome any and all to join us as we honor him; there will be an opportunity to share if you have a story - we hope you do. The family is forever grateful for the outpouring of love from the community and for the outstanding care provided by Dr Lynn, Brenda Winters and the fabulous team at Arbuckle Memorial Hospital. We thank you all. In lieu of flowers the family requests donations to be made to Sulphur Public Schools c/o Alternative Education.

Services held under the direction of Dearman Funeral Home.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

JAN 16. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM.

Crossway Church Chapel

## Service

JAN 17. 11:00 AM.

Crossway Church Sanctuary

# Tribute Wall

SB

“ *Sheila Batterton lit a candle in memory of Jim Forbes*



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**Sheila Batterton** - January 16, 2025 at 11:46 PM

“ I do not have an adequate vocabulary for what this man meant to me so I'm just going to tell a story. I was a freshman in Highschool. I was at best a C average student and had zero athletic ability what so ever. So I decided to play golf... it's easy right? But to play golf at the ti.e you had to do off season with cross country at the beginning of the year. So the first day I met Coach Forbes he made us run around the golf course. I was dumb and ran as hard as I could. I " beat " several girls. The fast girls! They were smart. They knew that you don't run your fastest the first day because the coach will push you harder. That day Coach said, " your not playing golf. Your with me. You just beat two of the fastest girls in school". I assured him that I sucked but he refused to believe it. Back then I thought I must have fooled him. But the joke was on me. I was super slow. He knew it. But he saw something in me. What I'm still not sure, but he believed in me. I never placed but I could run forever. When he didn't have someone for an event he would put me there. People... he made me run hurdles once! Did I place? Absolutely not!!! Did my chins bleed? Yes! I couldn't do a chin up to save my life... so he made me try everyday. Finally one time my sr. Year I got my chin over that bar. He was so proud! Four years with this man making me cry, puke and laugh! I had fun with him, detention with him and at times hated him. But he was always there for me. Literally always. As many ( and I mean MANY ) of us did at Sulpbur High I failed sr English so that meanst summer school. It was a hard year due to family issues. I was already living on my own and I was so sick of struggling in school I just said " screw summer school. I'll get my GED later". Ha! 8:30 am there is someone pounding on my door. I jump up in nothing but boxers and a tank top. Guess who's at my door? Yep... Coach Forbes, the summer school teacher. I liv3d in the country. I was not a quick trip.He used some choice words explaining to me that I needed to get to class. I tried to explain that I was tired, sick of struggling and that I planned to just get my GED. He literally laughed out loud at my sob story and told me that was the dumbest thing he had ever heard. I tried again and said " Coach I'm not exactly dressed for class". He then let me know ( not laughing anymore ) that I have five minutes to get dressed, get in

*my car and drive to school or he was going to throw me over his shoulder as is and drag me to school half dressed. I believed him! So I got dressed, went to summer school and got my diploma. A few years later I went to work for his sweet wife Shelia and he set me straight more than once again. We kept in touch off and on over the years and he never stopped making sure I had my head on straight. Then a few years ago he called me with the craziest idea I ever heard. After having written several books and novels already he decided to publish a childrena book and wanted me to do the illustrations. I laughed and told him that I hadn't tried to draw anything serious in over twenty years. He once again put me in my place and told me to "pick up that pencil again". So... I did what Coach told me to do. I drew the pictures for his book "The Magic Saddle", it was published and it was one of the greatest honors of my life. I really don't have words to describe what it meant for him to ask me much less that we were able to share this together. I had several amazing teachers in school that mean alot to me in their own ways. Four that are unbelievably special to me and this guy is one of them. I literally would not have graduated highschool if not for him. I wouldn't have learned that I actually did have some athletic ability. I would have never been and officer if it wasn't for him. He would put me in my place but he NEVER failed to tell me how proud he was of me when I did good. The last time I talked to him was about 8 months ago and he gave me one of those epic pep talks again like only he could do. Gosh he will be missed. He was small in stature but he was a giant in so many ways. I don't know that I ever met another human that lived life the way he did. He truly broke the mold.*

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**Sheila Batterton** - January 16, 2025 at 11:27 PM

TM

“ Jim was my buddy! We always had something to talk about. From teaching to oilfield. Such a great guy to visit with. We would laugh at some of the goofiest stuff. Never a dull moment. Him and Shelia became my close friends and what a treasure that is!!!

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**Terri Myers** - January 14, 2025 at 09:37 PM

GP

“ Jim was my brother-in-law. He was quite a character, and was readily welcomed into our family. I am thankful to him for living and taking care of my sister Shelia.



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**Glenda Pabalate** - January 14, 2025 at 06:38 PM

VL

“ Jimmy Jack was an asset to Sulphur Public Schools. He had the unique ability to form friendships with students and maintain the friendships throughout the years. I was blessed to go to Mexico City with him and his family. What a tour guide he was! He will be greatly missed.

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**Vickie Laster** - January 14, 2025 at 03:22 PM