



## James Howard Young

June 3, 1944 - May 16, 2026

James Howard Young June 3, 1944 – May 16, 2026

James Young passed away peacefully on Saturday, May 16, 2026, surrounded by the love of the family he cherished so deeply. A devoted husband, loving father, proud Papa, and faithful friend, James leaves behind a legacy built on kindness, quiet strength, and unconditional love.

Born on June 3, 1944, to the late Howard and Mary Young, James moved to Arab, Alabama during his high school years where he met the love of his life, Nelta. What began as a young romance grew into a beautiful marriage lasting nearly 63 years after they were married on June 14, 1963. Together, they built a life centered around family, faith, hard work, and caring for others.

James was a gentle and steady presence in the lives of those who knew him. He led his family with humility, patience, and a servant's heart, always putting the people he loved before himself. He found happiness in the simple things — early mornings in the garden, peaceful days spent fishing, and every moment shared with his children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren.

Nothing meant more to James than family. Being “Papa” was one of his greatest joys, and his love for his family could be felt in every hug, every conversation, and every quiet act of support through the years. He had a way of making those around him feel safe, loved, and cared for without ever

needing recognition for it.

Those who knew James will remember his warm heart, his generosity, and the calm strength he carried throughout his life. His absence leaves an immeasurable void, but the love he gave so freely will continue to live on in the family he treasured.

James is survived by his beloved wife, Nelta Young; his 2 children, 5 grandchildren and 5 great-grandchildren; Kim Kelley (Brett), and Scott Young (Brenda); his grandchildren, Kyle Young (Chelsea, Camdyn and Landon), Kaden Young (Sydney and Parker), Kayli Young, Clint Kelley (Alada and Carter), and Andy Kelley (Harper and Cooper).

He was preceded in death by his parents, Howard and Mary Young, and his sisters, Mary Beth and Sandra Gail.

James will be deeply missed, lovingly remembered, and forever held close in the hearts of all who were blessed to know and love him. A graveside Memorial Service will be May 31, 2026 at Arab Memorial Cemetery. Following the graveside service a Celebration of Life service will be at his residence.

# Previous Events

## Graveside Memorial Service

MAY 31. 2:00 PM (CT)

Arab Memorial Cemetery  
565 South Main Street  
Arab, AL 35016

*Following the graveside memorial service a Celebration of Life will be at the family residence*

# Tribute Wall

LB

“ AHS Football SR 62 season 61 James Young at center of offensive line Linn Brannon at left guard , Joe Saylor, at right guard, We made the running easy for Roger Gibson

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**LINN BRANNON** - May 28 at 03:31 PM

LB

“ Returned to Arab in 1965 from the USAF. James had the prettiest 1964 red Chevy super sport. He had married the prettiest girl in the high school class of 1962. Traded him out of the Chevy. Larry Bowman

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**Larry Bowman** - May 21 at 11:40 AM

VJ

“ Went to school with James at Arab. Great man as I knew him when I worked at Arab Lumber part time. He would come in and we would talk about the old days. He never left with you always feeling better. Good man! Prayers for you all!

Virgle Merritt, Jr. - May 19 at 07:36 AM



“ James and been friends for many years! James was always so kind and sweet! He will be missed by everyone! Praying 🙏 for his amazing family!



Jeanette Sterling Key - May 19 at 07:12 AM

JP

“ James was a good friend for many many years may he rest in peace.

jack pucket - May 18 at 09:52 PM

JS

I remember a kind gentle James Howard at Arab High as well as an excellent football player. Also, Nelta and I were band members during those days to make it even better.

My heart goes out to you and your family, Nelta. ❤️❤️🙏

Janice Saylor Sayman - May 18 at 10:19 PM