



## James O. Friend

April 6, 1929 - August 18, 2017

James Otis Friend, age 88 of Bolivar, Mo went to be with his heavenly father at his home, surrounded by his family and friends, Friday, August 18, 2017.

He was born to Ulah (Hart) and Preston Friend on April 6, 1929 in Longrun, Mo.

James served his country in the United States Army from 1951 to 1965, earning the rank of Sergeant First Class E-7 in the 176th Armored Artillery BN-1X Corps. He was a Korean War Veteran from 1951-1952 and United States Army Reserves from 1953-1965.

He drove for Trailways and Greyhound Bus lines for 32 years and safely drove over 2 million miles.

On March 25, 1965, he was united in marriage to Alma Loeta Dunham Myers. Together they began ministering in Ozark County. Then in Springfield, Neosho and Hartville. In 1976 they moved to Bolivar to pastor and minister at churches in Bolivar and surrounding communities.

James began volunteering as a CMH Hospice Chaplain in February 2008. His care and compassion for others was shown through volunteerism, which ranged from sitting with patients during their final hours to visiting widows to

grocery shopping for surviving loved ones. He logged hundreds of bedside visits in addition thousands of miles in travel. He was also considered a social worker for families, coordinating needed information regarding death and burial benefits from the Veterans Administration to acting as counselor for families. James had the Heart of a Servant. In addition James served as the Chaplin for the local American Veterans Honor Guard.

James was honored for his service on March 2, 2010 by the Missouri House of Representative. He was awarded the Lieutenant Governor Peter Kinder's Senior Service Award on February 6, 2011. James was a recipient of the Lillian Hutcheson Award in 2015.

In October 2015 James suffered a stroke and had to retire his services to mankind. At that time he became the recipient of love and care from his family, CMH Home Health and Hospice. The family of James would like to thank CMH Hospice for the devoted love and care that they provided since January 2017.

James was preceded in death by his parents, son, Billy Myers, four brothers, Quentin, Earlin, David and Samuel Friend, 3 sisters, Lucy Sherrill, Lorene Hooton and Eunice Green, grandson, Nicholas Owens and son in law, Troy Richardson.

Surviving is his wife, Loeta Friend, three daughters, Beverly Richardson of Greenfield, Mo., Libby (Mike) Farrell of Lafe, Ar., Melissa (John) Fenton of Nolanville, Tx., two sons, Tim Friend and Phillip(Lisa)Friend of Springfield, Mo., Nine grandchildren, Dustin (Sarah) Beasley, Jami Marie (Henry) Domenico, Brady Herbert, Tony Fenton, Krista Fenton, Amber (Anthony) Tipton, Kelsey (Sam) MacLennan, Nicholas (Maresa) Smith and Courtney Smith, 16 great grandchildren.

Also two sisters in law, Anna Sparkman and Vera Mitchell. Nephews, Conley

Howard and Larry Friend, and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.

A visitation will be held on Wednesday, August 23, 2017 from 6-8pm at Butler Funeral Home, Bolivar, Mo.

Memorial Funeral Service will be held on Thursday, August 24, 2017 at 12:00pm at Butler Funeral Home with Chaplin Rick Friend and Chaplin Randy Watkins officiating. Musical Soloist's will be Brad Wommack singing Beulah Land and Chantel Carter singing How Great Thou Art Pallbearers will be sons in law and grandsons. Honorary Pallbearers will be Larry Martin, Bill Moore, Dr. Donald Jump and Velbert Walker, Trailways Bus Drivers and CMH Hospice.

The casket will be closed at the time of the service. Burial will follow at 2:00pm at the Missouri Veterans Cemetery, Springfield, Mo.

Memorials contributions may be made in James's name to CMH Hospice 315 East Broadway, Bolivar, Mo. 65613.

# Cemetery Details

## Missouri Veterans Cemetery

5201 S. Southwood  
Springfield, MO 65804

# Previous Events

## Visitation

**AUG 23.** 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Butler Funeral Home - Bolivar  
407 E. Broadway  
Bolivar, MO 65613  
(417) 326-5233  
<https://butlerfuneralhome.com/>

## Funeral Service

**AUG 24.** 12:00 PM (CT)

Butler Funeral Home - Bolivar  
407 E. Broadway  
Bolivar, MO 65613  
(417) 326-5233  
<https://butlerfuneralhome.com/>

# Tribute Wall



“ *James O. Friend*

---

October 05, 2023 at 05:18 AM



“ *James O. Friend*

---

January 26, 2023 at 04:15 PM



“ *To the Friend family,*

*Our association with Jim and Loeta was through CMH and Fairview Church. My husband John sang at Fairview church on occasion which was where we met them. Jim always had time to sit and talk with us when John came out to CMH to have a meal with me. He was a special Godly man and we will miss him.*

*We pray that God will hold his family in his arms and give them comfort.*

*Carolyn Spiegel*

---

**Carolyn Spiegel** - August 26, 2017 at 11:13 PM

HS

“ Dear Friend Family,



*I met Chaplain Friend shortly after I retired from the USAF in February 2006. James was at every service/memorial for all veterans in the area and attended every Veterans Day celebration as a Color Guard with the American Veterans Post in Flemington. My Mom, LaurNell (Blackburn) Strack lived at Butterfield, then later at Parkview prior to her passing almost 7 years ago. I knew James & Loeta were sharing their love of Christ with the residents when I'd see their van in the parking lot. James always shared a smile & kind word to everyone he met. My Mom enjoyed his visits & encouragement throughout the years, especially in the last 3 weeks of her life.*

*A quote veterans' live by: "I AM A VETERAN MY OATH OF ENLISTMENT DOESN'T HAVE AN EXPIRATION DATE". I THANK & SALUTE JAMES for his ministry & service to others!*

*James will be missed by all who knew him & is Celebrating in Heaven - Until we meet again.*

*My Prayers & Thoughts are with all of you.*

*Helen Ann Strack*

---

**Helen Ann Strack** - August 26, 2017 at 10:45 AM

D6

“ DAV Bolivar Memorial Chapter# 66 purchased the America the Beautiful for the family of James O. Friend.



---

**DAV Bolivar Memorial Chapter# 66** - August 23, 2017 at 12:27 PM

JW

“ He was a good man and good friend, sorry to see him go. James Whitman

---

**James Whitman** - August 23, 2017 at 10:23 AM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of James O. Friend.



---

August 22, 2017 at 07:34 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of James O. Friend.



---

August 22, 2017 at 01:05 PM

CR

“ Beverly and Tim, I am so sorry to hear about your loss. Love you guys! Cheryl Russell (Johnson)

Cheryl Russell - August 22, 2017 at 11:57 AM

EP

“ 1 file added to the album New Album Name



EVELYN PAINTER - August 22, 2017 at 10:34 AM

EP

REST IN PEACE

EVELYN PAINTER - August 22, 2017 at 10:36 AM

EP

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



EVELYN PAINTER - August 22, 2017 at 10:10 AM

EP

OUR TRUE FRIEND XO

EVELYN PAINTER - August 22, 2017 at 10:36 AM

EP

“ *EVELYN PAINTER lit a candle in memory of James O. Friend*



---

**EVELYN PAINTER** - August 22, 2017 at 10:01 AM

BH

“ *James has been my late husband and my pastor for many years. We have enjoyed his friendship and had many meals together. I watched his kids grow up and, him enjoy the marriage the kids had and most of all the grandkids..James was true God's Preacher and my Pastor that will be greatly missed. My husband and James are now rejoicing in heaven again together, Love to the Family of Jimmy. Beverly Hood*

---

**Beverly Hood** - August 22, 2017 at 04:56 AM

CS

“ *Charles Steiger purchased the Sacred Duty Spray for the family of James O. Friend.*



---

**Charles Steiger** - August 21, 2017 at 02:32 PM

NE

“ James served in Korea with my dad. About 10-12 years ago, they reconnected..visiting in each others homes, sharing meals and memories. Dad recalls a time when in Korea that he got gasoline splashed in his eyes. James led dad to a nearby creek and helped him wash his eyes. He sends his sincere sympathy to Mrs. Friend and the entire family.

Nancy (Beal) Elms - August 20, 2017 at 09:05 PM

CM

Yes, our father (Doyle Beal) says he will never forget his good friend, "Jim"!

Connie (Beal) Miller - August 21, 2017 at 09:03 PM

JF

“ John and Fred Friend families purchased the Writ ten in the Stars for the family of James O. Friend.



John and Fred Friend families - August 20, 2017 at 10:24 AM

GB

“ Gail Boulware-Lord lit a candle in memory of James O. Friend



Gail Boulware-Lord - August 20, 2017 at 09:17 AM

AF

“ Audra Flett lit a candle in memory of James O. Friend



Audra Flett - August 20, 2017 at 08:57 AM



“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Jennifer Buck - August 20, 2017 at 08:01 AM

DG

“ 3 files added to the tribute wall



Debra Gilden - August 19, 2017 at 11:40 PM

AM

“ Alta Millard lit a candle in memory of James O. Friend



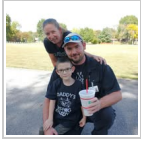
Alta Millard - August 19, 2017 at 09:18 PM

AM

*Chaplin Friend was a wonderful person.  
I was in the Honor Guard several years ago AM Vets Post 114 in  
Flemington, MO  
A very compassionate person!*

---

**Alta Millard** - August 19, 2017 at 09:19 PM



“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



**Jennifer Buck** - August 19, 2017 at 09:27 AM