



Judge James A. "Jim" Nidiffer

April 2, 1954 - September 7, 2020

Judge James Arthur "Jim" Nidiffer, 66, Johnson City, passed away Monday, September 7, 2020, following a brief illness of ALS.

A native of Elizabethton, Jim was born April 2, 1954 to the late Arthur and Sylvesta Cornett Nidiffer.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his son, James Garrison Nidiffer and several nephews and nieces.

Jim is survived by his wife, Carrie Ellis Nidiffer, of the home; step-daughter, Addison Jones, of the home; sisters, Lou Nidiffer and Carolyn Bowers, Johnson City; mother-in-law, Joyce Turner, Jonesborough; sisters-in-law, Julie Manley (Tommy), Amy Brown (Chad), and Laura Jones (Travis) all of Jonesborough; aunt, Peggy West, Kingsport; several nieces, nephews, cousins; special care giver and cousin, Cindy Crawford of Kingsport, who faithfully attended to Jim during his illness; fur baby, Lillie, that he loved so very much and was by his side constantly.

After graduating from Elizabethton High School, Jim received his undergraduate degree from East Tennessee State University and his Juris Doctor degree from the University of Memphis, Cecil C. Humphreys School of Law. He was admitted to the Tennessee Bar in 1979. Jim started his career in 1980 with Attorney, Bernard H. Cantor and Associates, where he continued to practice law until he started his private firm where he practiced until 2006. From 2000-2006, Jim was an Associate City Judge, Johnson City Municipal Court. In 2006, Jim was elected Judge for Washington County General Sessions Court, and in 2014 was re-elected for a term that would have expired in 2022. He held that elected position until February, when he stepped down from the bench to concentrate on treatment for his illness. Jim also served as a judge for Washington County Juvenile Court.

Jim had received many awards and was involved in many associations. He received the Frank G. Clement Community Service Award, Heroes in the Fight Community Supporter Award, Heroes in the Fight Award, 2007, the National Alliance for the Mentally Ill Model Project Award, and 2010, the Moral Combat Hero Award. He also was involved with Civil War reenactments.

Every Memorial Day and Veterans Day, Jim made it his mission to ensure flags were

placed at the homes of veterans from the area. He loved riding his motorcycle, taking care of his yard, and spending time with his family, friends, and co-workers.

Jim was of the Baptist faith. At the end of this journey Jim was ready to go and be with his beloved son, Garrison, in Heaven, telling Carrie that he would wait on her to join him in God's heavenly home.

During his illness, Jim received many cards and letters to encourage him on his ALS journey. Jim was often discouraged, but was uplifted from the many thoughtful and kind words he received. Every card or letter expressed how Judge Jim Nidiffer had encouraged them in their careers, a mentor to the young attorneys that were starting in their careers, and the reason that they were where they were because of him. They also expressed he had set a prime example of being fair and caring at the same time being a positive support in our community. His co-workers often visited Jim, talking through the window, due to the COVID-19 virus. These gestures helped Jim face each day with hope and courage.

A special thank you to his doctors, Dr. Keith Cook, Dr. Christopher Pendola, Dr. Joe Reid, and Dr. Dean McLaughlin for their compassion shown to Jim during his illness. David Verble (ventilator care), Bob Feick, Ballad Hospice, Hospice nurse, Darian Cobble, and caregiver, Sarah Caldwell.

At Jim's request, a private service will be held at the Washington County Memory Gardens Mausoleum, with Dr. Kevin Morris, officiating. Special music will be provided by Jim's family, Heavenly Reflections.

Pallbearers will be Tommy Manley, Chad Brown, Garrison Brown, Travis Jones, Russell Kloosterman, and Doug Crawford.

Honorary Pallbearers will be LeRoy Tipton, the Honorable Robert Lincoln, the Honorable Don Arnold, Bob Feick, members of the Washington County Sheriff Department, Jonesborough and Johnson City Police Departments, and the Tennessee Highway Patrol. In-lieu-of flowers, please make contributions to Abounding Grace Baptist Church Building Fund, 1025 Depot St., Jonesborough, TN 37659, in memory of Judge James Nidiffer.

Memories and condolences may be shared at www.appfh.net

Appalachian Funeral Home & Cremation Services, Johnson City, is honored to serve the Nidiffer family. (928-6111)

Cemetery

Washington Co. Memory Gardens

TN,

Comments



“ Judge Nidiffer was such a good friend to the Hartsaw family, especially Ted Hartsaw. We will miss him. Love,



Norma Bridwell - September 14, 2020 at 01:24 PM



“ Jim was one if the finest menl ever met. He was highly intelligent, honorable and demonstrated his concern for others every day. He was also my dear friend. I will miss him every day.
Tim Maguigan

Tim Maguigan - September 14, 2020 at 11:26 AM



“ Judge Nidiffer was a very kind and caring man. He was a champion for my family when we were in need. The world has lost a truly wonderful man and he will be missed.
Cindy Bauer & family

Cindy Bauer - September 13, 2020 at 05:35 PM



“ Judge Nidiffer was such kind man. He cared about all he met. He especially loved helping children. I was so in awe of him. I pray for his family. My deepest sympathy.
Linda Tipton

LINDA TIPTON - September 11, 2020 at 09:04 PM



“ Honorable Judge Nidiffer was such a good man. I had known him since he was an attorney. He always had respect and such a kind heart. When my daughter and I saw him out at a shopping store one evening he talked to us for over an hour as though we were family and was so kind and considerate to my daughter and that meant a lot for he had been an attorney for me in a divorce case but no matter how much he had to be on my exes side as his lawyer he still had the most pleasant words to say. He will always and forever be respected and missed because of the person he was and the kind heart he had prayers to all his family.



loria hathaway - September 11, 2020 at 07:12 PM



“ I was raised two blocks from James on Cat Island Elizabethton, he was always friendly and my wife's Attorney after she suffered a stroke. He was a pleasure to be around and to talk to. Will miss Him. but Heaven is Blessed to have him. Steve Bradshaw

Steve Bradshaw - September 11, 2020 at 10:53 AM



“ roger winters is following this tribute.

roger winters - September 11, 2020 at 10:30 AM



“ I attended undergraduate school with Jim (1973-76). We were in many classes together. Jim was very smart and a very good person. May God send comfort to his family.

Hugh Buckles



Hugh Buckles - September 11, 2020 at 10:29 AM



“ Suzan Mitchell lit a candle in memory of Judge James A. "Jim" Nidiffer



Suzan Mitchell - September 11, 2020 at 02:44 AM



“ You have fought the good fight and your battle is over. You are now in the arms of the Lord and with the rest of our family that have gone on before. I love and miss you Jim, but will be together again one day.

Sherry Hicks - September 10, 2020 at 09:08 PM



“ Rest In Peace Jim. I will always remember you. You were the greatest boss.

Lynnetta

Lynnetta Trivett - September 10, 2020 at 08:17 PM



“ Jim was such a kind man both while serving a Judge on the bench, and outside the courtroom. I hold fond memories of his kind words and considerate demeanor. I will never forget you!
I will look for you in heaven and we will sit and talk .

Belinda - September 10, 2020 at 05:46 PM



“ Working with Judge Nidiffer for five years was a honor. He always took care of the clerks and made sure we were treated with respect by all. He was fair, understanding and always asked how we, the clerks, were doing, and he really wanted to know. He always had time to share a story, words of wisdom, explain the law or a funny joke. He will be deeply missed. Praying for Carrie, Addison and the rest of his family in the days, weeks ahead.

Kara Lynn

Kara Lynn - September 10, 2020 at 05:24 PM



“ Prayer for comfort to family and friends! R.I.P Judge Nidiffer



Debbie - September 10, 2020 at 03:56 PM



“ So very sorry to hear of Jim’s passing. He was such a kind and compassionate person. I was happy to have worked with Jim as both an attorney and Judge. He will be greatly missed.
Lillian M Babb

Lillian Babb - September 10, 2020 at 03:33 PM



“ Family is more than blood. Family is being there whenever you need them - seeing them every day of the week and learning everyone's quirks. Jim was that family to not only myself but for everyone who has known him and have worked with him. I personally knew Jim for over 15 years and a lot of us 20 years and more. There is a hole left in our hearts that will never be filled. He always knew we were all right here when he needed us. Through good times, bad times, advice, laughter, tears, etc. Jim is our family now and always. I'll miss you judgeeee

Hope Grindstaff - September 10, 2020 at 01:57 PM



“ Angel Blackwell lit a candle in memory of Judge James A. "Jim" Nidiffer



Angel Blackwell - September 10, 2020 at 11:08 AM



“ Judge Jim Nidiffer was a solid friend for many years. He was my personal attorney before he was elected Judge. We knew each other through some hard times, and some good times. He was a great teacher of life, and he taught it so well. Good-bye friend. I'll meet you by the River.

Jerry K Huskins - September 09, 2020 at 10:32 PM



“ I am very sorry for your loss. Jim Nidiffer was a great man. When on the bench as Session Court Judge. He handle cases with integrity and fairness. I never had to go before him. But had sat in his courtroom when hearing cases. Mr. Jim Nidiffer, thank you for your service to this community. Lord, I pray for your healing love to surround this entire family, to the people who knew him and to the people, who worked with this great man. Thank you and may the God above BLESS ALL OF YOU..... In Christ, Amen

Brian Doiron - September 09, 2020 at 08:29 PM



“ When I moved to Johnson city with my family in 2004, I had gone through a lot of hardship adjusting to a new state after facing a life threatening illness which ended my law enforcement career. I needed a calmer, less stressful environment other than working the gang infested streets of LA. I resided with my wife and then step daughter. About three or four years later, Jim moved into the house next door. I was impressed by his fairness in the courtroom, giving defendants a chance to change and rehabilitate before carrying out more punitive sentencing. Coming from crime ridden LA, I was amazed by his compassion. We had many conversations about the justice system in upper east Tn. I loved his love for his country and southern heritage in which he taught me many wonderful things. One day, Jim had asked if I have ever thought of adopting my step daughter whom he had loved very much. I said yes I'd looked into it but the courts handled things differently than I understood out west. He looked at me and knowing my disability said "I'm a Judge" and just smiled. Within a few weeks he had arranged for an attorney to help us "pro bono." The process took about a year where all fees were covered but the court costs. Never having any children of my own, Jim had given me the greatest gift I could have ever asked and hoped for. He gave me my daughter. To him I will always be grateful and he will be remembered as one of the greatest men I have ever known. With love and respect;
—Bob Feick

bob feick - September 09, 2020 at 05:48 PM



“ I had to go in front of The Honorable Judge James (Jim) Nidiffer. I have to be honest, as someone going in front of him for my mistake, Judge Nidiffer did not treat me like a criminal! He treated me with much care, concern and respect. It truly is a loss for the entire community and judicial system oh but such a beautiful day in Heaven! Angels are singing! He gained his wings. My heart, thoughts and prayers go out to his family, his colleagues, his brothers and sisters in law enforcement and anyone who knew him. He was TRULY ONE OF A KIND! Always fair, honestly caring about those of us going before him. Not looking at us in any way other than someone who may or may not have made a mistake. He gave us so much respect. Judge Nidiffer you will CERTAINLY BE VERY SADLY MISSED. This isn't "goodbye " it's "we'll meet again". RIP SIR! Much Love and Respect;
Sherry Ledford

Sherry Ledford - September 11, 2020 at 12:30 AM



“ Jim, missing you so much! The reality of you not being here is tearing me apart. I Love You!

Carrie Nidiffer - September 09, 2020 at 04:20 PM



“ Carrie, I am so sorry for the loss of your husband, you are in my thought and prayers

Linda Hughes - September 10, 2020 at 01:03 AM



“ Laura Graham lit a candle in memory of Judge James A. "Jim" Nidiffer



Laura Graham - September 09, 2020 at 04:18 PM



“ Jim Nidiffer was one of the finest men I've had the privilege to know. You always knew where you stood with him and he was always courteous and honest with you. He will be greatly missed.

Laura - September 09, 2020 at 04:19 PM



“ Sarah Rabb lit a candle in memory of Judge James A. "Jim" Nidiffer



Sarah Rabb - September 09, 2020 at 11:14 AM



“ Judge Nidiffer was a true gentleman and a treasure to call a friend. I have many fond memories of and with him. He will greatly be missed. My sincere condolences and prayers to his family.

Sarah Rabb - September 09, 2020 at 11:16 AM