



James Freels

March 3, 1950 - January 6, 2026

James J. Freels

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James Jefferson Freels, born March 3, 1950, passed away on January 6, 2026, at his residence surrounded by his loved ones. Visitation with family will be Friday, January 9 at 1pm with Memorial Service to follow at 2pm at Stringer Funeral Home in Hazlehurst.

He was a member of Boy Scout Troop 156, Eagle Scout and Order of the Arrow Brotherhood and his father, James, was his Scoutmaster.

Mr. Freels graduated from Crystal Springs High School in 1968 as Valedictorian and attended Mississippi State University in 1972 for Foreign Language and English and served as teacher's assistant. He was fluent in three languages.

He loved teaching and shared his knowledge at various locations which included French Camp Academy, Union Academy, Lincoln County Schools, Co-Lin as adjunct instructor and Sevenstar Christian School.

He loved to travel and one of his last pieces of advice was to "Reach out and grab as much of the world as you can now" and he did that in his many

travels. He was the uncle who came back home to share his travel stories or who would stop at a pay phone to call home to his mom to check in and let her know about his new adventure and that he was ok. He traveled to the Great Smoky Mountains, the Grand Canyon, San Bernardino Mountains, San Diego, Washington DC, Orlando, Toronto Canada, Tokyo Japan and Vienna Austria.

He is preceded in death by parents, James & Maxine Sykes Freels and brother, Charles "Kenny" Freels.

He is survived by son, Glen Raymond Fortson, and granddaughters, Kaili Rae Fortson, Ariella Faith Geraldine Fortson and Amara Lee Fortson; brothers, Roylynn Freels (Rita), David Freels and John (Kelli) Freels, and "darling" sister, Laura (Brad) Marler and sister-in-law, Micki Freels and a host of nieces and nephews.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Mississippi State University.

We recommend calling our local florist directly when ordering flowers:

Crystal Springs

Wright's Florist 601-892-2891

Clear Creek Flowers 601-892-0070

Hazlehurst

Five 54 Floral 601-894-5524

Previous Events

Visitation

JAN 9. 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM (CT)

Stringer Family Funeral Home - Hazlehurst
PO Box 884
28023 Hwy 28
Hazlehurst, MS 39083
(601) 894-1331
stringerfuneral@bellsouth.net

Memorial Service

JAN 9. 2:00 PM (CT)

Stringer Family Funeral Home - Hazlehurst
PO Box 884
28023 Hwy 28
Hazlehurst, MS 39083
(601) 894-1331
stringerfuneral@bellsouth.net

Tribute Wall

ML

“ My deepest condolences as well prayers to all his loved ones and friends . I was a student of his many years ago at FCA. I often wondered where he went after he left us. So happy to hear he travelled. As well enjoyed life along way. R.I.P. You are now seeing paradise!!! God Bless with prayers for all.

Minna Leonard - January 09 at 04:14 AM



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



January 08 at 02:12 PM

JU

“ Julie planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of James Freels.

Julie - January 08 at 02:12 PM

AS

“ James was a gifted teacher and a wonderful person. He will be greatly missed.

Anneke Stafford - January 07 at 01:57 PM

JC

“ James touched many students through his instruction and us as his colleagues. What a wonderful legacy--that James lives on this side of eternity through his many students and colleagues. May the Lord comfort family during this time of bereavement.

Jerry Causey - January 07 at 11:12 AM



“ James was truly one of the good guys.

Sara Simpson - January 06 at 09:18 PM

MA

I agree Sara

mark - January 06 at 09:19 PM

DW

“ I am praying for the family and friends of James Freels. I pray our Lord's love, comfort and strength for each of you.

Dan West - January 06 at 06:44 PM