



James Sledge, Jr.,

July 30, 1939 - April 27, 2014

JAMES LAMAR SLEDGE, JR. A€“ Crystal Springs, MS James L. (Jim) Sledge, Jr., 74, died on April 27, 2014, at University of Mississippi Medical Center in Jackson, MS. Visitation will be on Wednesday, April 30, from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at Stringer Family Funeral Home, Crystal Springs, MS, and the funeral service will be held on Thursday May 1, 2014, at 10:00 a.m. in Stringer Funeral Chapel. Interment will follow Thursday afternoon at 3:00 p.m. at Pinecrest Cemetery, DeKalb, MS. Jim Sledge was born on July 30, 1939, in Grenada, MS. He grew up in DeKalb, MS following his parents A€™ purchase of The Kemper County Messenger. He graduated from DeKalb High School in 1957, attended East Mississippi Junior College, and was a 1961 graduate of the Mississippi State University School of Forestry. During his high school and college years, he worked as a printer A€™s devil and pressman at The Messenger. Jim wrote a humor column for the newspaper for many years and, following his mother A€™s retirement, owned and published the paper until 2003. Following graduation from MSU, he spent one year as a high school science teacher in Forest Park, GA, then took a job with Rome Kraft (later Georgia Kraft), working out of Canton and Dallas, GA and Auburn, AL in forest management and wood procurement. In 1974, Jim went to work for Mead Corporation at their new mill in Stevenson, AL. His district originally included the town of Guntersville, AL where the family lived for the next eighteen years until he retired from Stevenson as Procurement Manager. In 1991, Jim was named head of the Mississippi Forestry Commission where he

served for fourteen years. He retired in 2005 with the distinction of having the longest tenure of any State Forester in Mississippi history. Jim served as chairman of the National Association of State Foresters (NASF) Forest Resource Management Committee for three years and was president of NASF in 2002-2003. In 2011, NASF named the forest management award "The Jim Sledge Current Achievement Award in Forest Resource Management" for a five-year period. He was instrumental in the Federal Healthy Forests Initiative and the U.S. Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003, as well as implementation of the Conservation Title programs in the 2002 Farm Bill. Jim received recognition from the American Tree Farm System for sustained excellence in support of the program, having served for a number of years on its National Operating Committee. Of the honors and awards he received over the years, he was particularly proud of being named 2003 Alumni Fellow for the College of Forest Resources by the Mississippi State University Alumni Association. Jim is survived by his wife of 53 years, Bettye Bounds Sledge; his daughter Jane Sledge Taylor of Byram, MS; his son James L. (Buddy) Sledge, III and partner John Chadwick of Atlanta; grandchildren James Cleveland (CJ) Jowers (Keretha) of Crystal Springs, Alexandra Jowers of Scooba, MS, and Jeffrey Tyler Jowers of DeKalb, MS; great-grandson Michael Jowers of Crystal Springs; sisters Rachel Sledge Dutton (Mike) of Dallas, GA and Rebecca Sledge Mitchell (Derick) of Montgomery, AL; mother-in-law Beth Boyd Bounds of Meridian, MS; sister-in-law Jane Bounds Thompson (Don) of Houston, TX; brother-in-law Albert Allen Bounds, Jr. (Brownie) of Atlanta; nine nieces and nephews, and sixteen great-nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by his parents, Lamar and Frances Sledge of DeKalb, MS. Friends wishing to make memorials may consider Mississippi Forestry Foundation, c/o MFA, 620 N. State St. Suite 201, Jackson, MS 39202; National Association of State Foresters Foundation, 444 North Capitol St NW, Suite 540, Washington, DC 20001; The Baptist Children's Village, P. O. Box 27, Clinton, MS 39060; or charities of your choice.,

Tribute Wall



“ *James Sledge, Jr.,*

January 28, 2023 at 04:45 PM



“ *Jim was a mentor to me when I became state forester. I will always remember his sage advice and sense of humor. My prayers are for Bettye and Jim's family, friends and colleagues.,*

Leah W. MacSwords - April 21, 2015 at 12:00 AM



“ *I am very sorry for your loss. We can look forward to the time when “no resident will say: ‘I am sick.’” (Isaiah 33ᛀ) And God will actually put an end to death when he will “swallow up death forever.” (Isaiah 25Ɍ),*

Emily - April 21, 2015 at 12:00 AM



“ *Bettye, Jane and Buddy. I hold a lot of beautiful, blessed, and cherished memories of Jim. It was an honor to work with him. Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family,*

Patsy Brown - April 21, 2015 at 12:00 AM