



James Virgil Keel

August 11, 1954 - March 21, 2026

Coleman Funeral Home of Oxford

James Virgil Keel, 71, passed away on March 21, 2026 at his residence in Water Valley, Mississippi.

A visitation will be held on Monday, March 30, 2026 from 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at Coleman Funeral Home of Oxford (601 Commerce Parkway Oxford, MS). A memorial service will be held immediately after on Monday, March 30, 2026 at 12:00 p.m. in the chapel of Coleman Funeral Home.

James was born on August 11, 1954 in Calhoun county, Mississippi to the late Charlie Arnold and Vera Katherine Raley Keel.

He was known far and wide for living life to the fullest. Whether he was backroad riding through the surrounding counties or dropping in to greet friends old and new, James made every journey an adventure. No Saturday night was complete without a visit to the VFW alongside his cherished best friend, Mr. Jeff Griffin, where music, camaraderie, and joy were always on the agenda.

Above all, James was a devoted father and grandfather. To his great-grandsons, he was simply “Pawpaw”—a title he wore with immense pride and

love. His family and friends will forever remember his warmth, his gentle humor, and the way he could bring a smile to anyone's face with a story for every occasion.

James Keel's kindness, humor, and the colorful tales he shared will echo in the hearts of all who knew and loved him. Though he has departed this earthly journey, his memory will ride on in every backroad, every shared laugh, and every story retold in his honor.

He is survived by his son, James Robert Keel of Water Valley, MS; his three granddaughters, Molly Weaver (Erik) of Water Valley, and Gracie Marie of Ponchatoula, LA; his granddaughter, Richie Keel of Batesville, MS; a host of other grandchildren; five great-grandchildren, Sawyer Appleton, Ryder Appleton, Ivy Reign Brown, Tyler Jennings Weaver, and Wrenley Elizabeth Weaver; his three brothers, Billy Keel (Cindy) of Calhoun City, MS, John Keel of Water Valley, and Charles Keel of Water Valley; and a host of nieces, nephews, and extended family members.

James is preceded in death by his daughter, Beth Keel; his grandson, Tyler Magee; his sister, Barbara Raley; and his parents, Charlie Arnold and Vera Katherine Raley Keel.

The staff at Coleman Funeral Home of Oxford is honored to serve the family during this challenging time. Condolences may be expressed online on his Tribute wall at www.colemanfuneralhomeox.com.

Previous Events

Visitation

MAR 30. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (CT)

Coleman Funeral Home of Oxford
601 Commerce Parkway
Oxford, MS 38655
(662) 234-3900
info@colemanfuneralhome.com
<https://www.colemanfuneralhome.com/>

Memorial Service

MAR 30. 12:00 PM (CT)

Coleman Funeral Home of Oxford
601 Commerce Parkway
Oxford, MS 38655
(662) 234-3900
info@colemanfuneralhome.com
<https://www.colemanfuneralhome.com/>

Tribute Wall



“ Coleman Funeral Home of Oxford created a Webcast in memory of James Virgil Keel



Coleman Funeral Home - March 30 at 10:08 AM



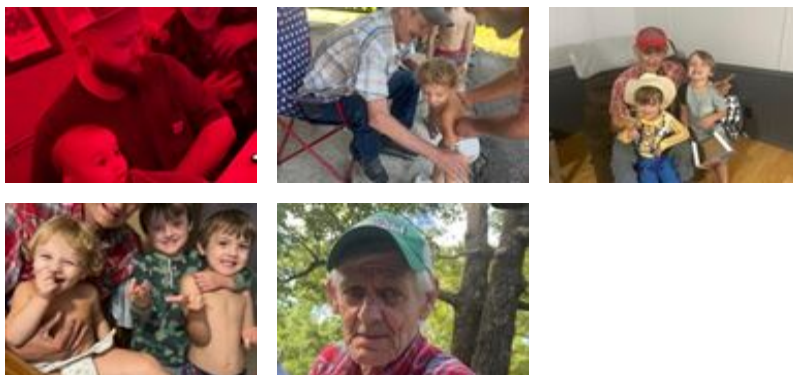
“ 1 file added to the album Life Tributes



Coleman Funeral Home - March 27 at 12:50 PM



“ 47 files added to the album Life Tributes



Coleman Funeral Home - March 26 at 02:06 PM

LH

“ Sorry to hear about James I knew him as realkill many weekends I used to see him when he came to listen to my band play rip o pal
Larry Hernandez

larry hernandez - March 26 at 12:28 PM

JT

“ Jennie Turner sent a virtual gift in memory of
James Keel



Jennie Turner - March 25 at 07:52 PM