

## James Howard Truitt Sr.

April 3, 1938 - April 20, 2026

### Introduction

James H. Truitt Sr., known to many as Jim, but to a lucky few, affectionately known as "Big Jim," was born on April 3, 1938, to John and Maude Truitt of Macon, Missouri. Jim lived a life defined by character, loyalty, and a deep love for the people around him.

### A Lifetime of Love and Family

The most significant chapter of Jim's life began on October 17, 1958, when he married Shirley Ann Gillaspie. Their 68-year marriage was a remarkable commitment of love and a foundation that stayed unshakable through nearly seven decades. Together, they built a life and a sprawling family tree that stands today as his greatest achievement.

Jim is survived by his beloved wife, Shirley; his son Steven D. Truitt and wife Bethany of Turner, Kansas; and his daughter Shelly L. Bentley and husband Scott of Parkville, Missouri. He leaves behind a magnificent legacy of 6 grandsons, 6 great-grandsons, 9 great-granddaughters, and 1 great-greatgranddaughter, along with numerous nieces and nephews who will carry his memory forward. He is also survived by his sister, Emma Lee Ullom of Gilbert, Arizona. Jim now joins those who went before him. He was preceded in death by his parents, John and Maude; his two brothers, Edward Truitt and Don Truitt, both of Independence, Missouri; and his two sons, James H. Truitt Jr. and Byron E. Truitt. Jim loved and honored his mother, Maude, deeply, and

he carried the miss of her passing with him throughout his life. We find comfort knowing they are all reunited today.

### A Life of Service and Strength

Jim's journey of leadership started early. At Turner High School, he was a standout athlete—an All-American basketball player who also excelled in football and track. That discipline followed him into the United States Navy, where he served with honor as a Boiler Technician, reaching the rank of BT2 (E-5). Whether he was maintaining a ship's engines or working twenty-plus years at Shore Tire Co., Jim understood the value of hard work. He was a proud member of the Teamsters Union, where he eventually earned a well-deserved retirement.

Jim believed in Christ and lived by the Ten Commandments. He believed in treating each person the way you want to be treated. He was a man of integrity who lived by the simple commands to be honest and never steal. He lived by these rules:

"Whatever you do, you need to be your own man." and

"If you want it, go out and earn it."

### Lakeside Adventures and Community

Jim's "family" extended far beyond bloodlines. He was a mentor to his children's friends, many of whom looked up to "Big Jim" for guidance. He was the kind of man who would sit down, crack a beer and truly listen. Some of our best memories are the trips to the surrounding lakes where five, sometimes ten families would venture out together. Those days were filled with fishing, water skiing, swimming, and exploring, always ending with everyone circled around a campfire. It was in those moments, often alongside lifelong friends and fishing buddies like Owen Sanders, that Jim's spirit of adventure and community was most evident.

### The Measure of a Man

The true measure of a man's wealth is not measured by his possessions, but by the content of his character. By that standard, Jim was one of the wealthiest men alive. He was rich in the respect of his peers and the deep roots he planted in this community.

Jim touched many lives with his willingness to help; you could always call on him, and he would always be there. He leaves us with the challenge to live as he did: with independence, kindness, and a heart that is always open to a friend in need.

We will miss you, Big Jim.

A visitation will be held from 5:00-7:00 PM Thursday, April 23, 2026 with Funeral Services at 2:00 PM Friday, April 24, 2026 at Maple Hill Funeral Home. Burial will follow at Maple Hill Cemetery. A full obituary will be updated once available.

# Cemetery Details

## Maple Hill Cemetery

2301 S 34th St  
Kansas City, KS 66106  
(913) 262-6610  
info@maplehillfuneralhome.com

# Previous Events

## Visitation

APR **23**. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Maple Hill Funeral Home  
3300 Shawnee Dr  
Kansas City, KS 66106  
(913) 831-3345  
info@maplehillfuneralhome.com  
<https://maplehillfuneralhome.com>

## Funeral Service

APR **24**. 2:00 PM (CT)

Maple Hill Funeral Home  
3300 Shawnee Dr  
Kansas City, KS 66106  
(913) 831-3345  
info@maplehillfuneralhome.com  
<https://maplehillfuneralhome.com>

# Tribute Wall



“ *Maple Hill Funeral Home and Cemetery created a Tribute Video in memory of James Howard Truitt Sr.*



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**Maple Hill Funeral Home and Cemetery** - April 23 at 01:06 PM

JL

“ *Prayers for Jim's family and friends. He went to school at Turner with my brother, Joe Zweimiller...they played football together.*

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**Johnnye Ann Lane** - May 05 at 09:10 PM

RH

“ *Rhett Hundley purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of James Howard Truitt Sr..*



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**Rhett Hundley** - April 23 at 09:42 PM

RH

“ *Rhett Hundley planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of James Howard Truitt Sr..*

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**Rhett Hundley** - April 23 at 09:42 PM

LP

“ Love you all - Payton purchased the Beautiful Dreams for the family of James Howard Truitt Sr..



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Love you all - Payton - April 23 at 06:54 PM

OS

“ On Call Care Services purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of James Howard Truitt Sr..



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On Call Care Services - April 23 at 01:23 PM

OS

“ On Call Care Services planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of James Howard Truitt Sr..

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On Call Care Services - April 23 at 01:23 PM



“ Heavenly Grace Spray was purchased for the family of James Howard Truitt Sr..



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April 22 at 09:48 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of James Howard Truitt Sr..

April 22 at 09:48 PM



“ Rick Van Den Driessche purchased the Country Basket Blooms for the family of James Howard Truitt Sr..



Rick Van Den Driessche - April 22 at 01:36 PM



“ Rick Van Den Driessche planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of James Howard Truitt Sr..

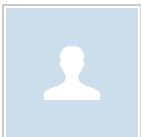
Rick Van Den Driessche - April 22 at 01:36 PM



“ Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of James Howard Truitt Sr..



April 22 at 10:33 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of James Howard Truitt Sr..

April 22 at 10:33 AM

LF

“ Lynn Flinn purchased the Tender Tribute for the family of James Howard Truitt Sr..



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Lynn Flinn - April 22 at 08:52 AM



“ Large Basket Garden was purchased for the family of James Howard Truitt Sr..



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April 22 at 08:25 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of James Howard Truitt Sr..

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April 22 at 08:25 AM



“ Serene Retreat was purchased for the family of James Howard Truitt Sr..



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April 22 at 08:18 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of James Howard Truitt Sr..

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April 22 at 08:18 AM

TH

“ *The Hufnagels purchased the Sweet Liberty for the family of James Howard Truitt Sr..*



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**The Hufnagels** - April 21 at 09:28 PM

TH

“ *The Langstons & Hallmans purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of James Howard Truitt Sr..*



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**The Langstons & Hallmans** - April 21 at 06:20 PM

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“ *The Langstons & Hallmans planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of James Howard Truitt Sr..*

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**The Langstons & Hallmans** - April 21 at 06:20 PM



“ *Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of James Howard Truitt Sr..*



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April 21 at 03:46 PM

RL

“ Jim was like an uncle to me, we worked together at ShoreTire until Jim went to work in the trucking industry. Spent a lot of time fishing, hunting and drinking beer over the years, he will be missed but forever remembered  
Ray Lee

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**Ray Lee** - April 21 at 03:33 PM

ST

Ray Lee, Dad enjoyed your friendship and the hunting trips.  
Thank you for the kind remembrance.  
Steven

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**Steve** - April 22 at 10:19 PM

JA

Sorry to hear about your grandfather. May the Holy Spirit the comfortor comfort you. Jan from Mishawaka

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**Jan** - April 24 at 03:07 AM

JA

Sorry to read about your grandfather. May the Holy Spirit the Comfortor comfort you.

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**Jan** - April 24 at 03:19 AM