



James A. Rich Jr.

March 5, 1926 - January 9, 2017

James Archie Rich, Jr. of 453 Pine Lake Road passed away Monday, January 9, 2017. Born March 5, 1926, he was the son of the late J. Arch Rich, Sr. and Dollie F. Rich.

James graduated from Schoolfield High School then joined the U.S. Army Air Corps, where he achieved the rank of Staff Sergeant and proudly served his country as a waist gunner in World War II as part of the 8th Air Force, 96th Bomb Group.

On October 25, 1947, he married Dollie Ann McCubbins, who predeceased him. Together, they had four children, all of whom survive him: James Rich III (Ginny), Debbie R. Smoak, Wade Rich (Brenda), and Laurie R. Taylor (Allen). He is also survived by eight grandchildren: Kellie Smoak Wyatt, Kimberly Rich, Paige Rich Moore, Ashley Rich, Lauren Rich Miller, Allen Rich, Carley Taylor, and Morgan Taylor, and nine great-grandchildren. In addition, he is survived by his sister-in-law Betty M. Galloway (Richard), numerous nieces and nephews, and his constant canine companion BJ.

During his life, James served as the first fire marshall for Pittsylvania County and the training director of the Danville Life Saving Crew. He was also a 1st Lieutenant in the National Guard, where he worked as a training officer. He was president and later regional governor of the Sertoma Club, where he

received the Distinguished Governor's Award. He served on the board of directors for the Faith Home and the Hatcher Center, and was the choir director for Forest Lawn Baptist Church, Calvary Baptist Church, Shermont Baptist Church, Vandola Baptist Church, and Kentuck Baptist Church. He was a faithful member of Woodlawn Baptist Church for 29 years, where he had been a deacon, chairman of deacons, chairman of the benevolent committee, Sunday school teacher, and Bible study leader.

James served on the board of directors for two local businesses, Danville Welding and Virginia Heating, and was president and CEO of Rich Industrial Supply, J.A. Welding Supply, and Home Oxygen and Medical Equipment.

Visitation will be Thursday, January 12th, from 6:00-8:00 PM at Wrenn-Yeatts Westover Chapel. At all other times, the family will receive visitors at 453 Pine Lake Road. The funeral will be Friday, January 13th, at 2:00 PM, at Woodlawn Baptist Church, conducted by Rev. Rick Markham and Rev. Seth Lackey. Interment will follow in Danville Memorial Gardens with Military Honors.

Memorials can be made to the National Museum of the Mighty Eighth Air Force at www.mightyeighth.org.

Wrenn-Yeatts Westover Chapel is serving the Rich family.

Previous Events

Funeral Service

JAN 13. 2:00 PM (ET)

Woodlawn Baptist Church
2500 Westover Dr
Danville, VA 24541

Burial

JAN 13 (ET)

Danville Memorial Gardens
510 Church Avenue
Danville, VA

Tribute Wall

JD

“ Laurie, so sorry for your loss. Prayers for you and your family.

Julie Grant Dean

Julie Grant Dean - January 15, 2017 at 07:12 PM

MA

“ Debbie so sorry for your loss, you and your family are in my thoughts and prayers. 💜



Mandy - January 13, 2017 at 10:19 PM

JC

“ I am so very sorry for your loss. All of you will be in my thoughts and prayers. May God grant you peace as you face the days ahead.



Janice (Nowlin) Cannella

Janice N. Cannella - January 12, 2017 at 11:13 AM

MN

“ Our heartfelt sympathies are with all of you upon the loss of your loved one. Prayers for comfort are with you . Cherish the memories of James and Dollie.



Larry and Mary Nell Hanks

mary nellhanks - January 11, 2017 at 07:27 PM

JH

“ James And Janice Holt lit a candle in memory of James A. Rich Jr.



James and Janice Holt - January 11, 2017 at 09:09 AM

RL

“ Laurie, Allen, Carly and Morgan- our most heartfelt condolences on the passing of your dad, f-l-l and Grandfather. Our thoughts and prayers for God's comfort and healing to your families from ours. R. D. ,Betty and Amanda Lollis.



Ronald Lollis - January 11, 2017 at 08:13 AM

LD

“ Lora Carden Davis lit a candle in memory of James A. Rich Jr.



Lora Carden Davis - January 11, 2017 at 07:57 AM

TH

“ Janet and I were so sorry to hear about the passing of your father. Just wanted you to know that we are praying for you and your family. If there is anything we can do, please don't hesitate to call.

Tim Hullender - January 11, 2017 at 12:35 AM

TH

“ *Tim Hullender sent a virtual gift in memory of James A. Rich Jr.*



Tim Hullender - January 11, 2017 at 12:32 AM

JS

“ *Jlm Stephens lit a candle in memory of James A. Rich Jr.*



Jlm Stephens - January 10, 2017 at 04:56 PM

JS

Have known James for a lot of years, a Christian, upstanding business man and a friend. Safe in the presence of his Savior.

Jlm Stephens - January 10, 2017 at 05:03 PM

SG

“ *Sharon Gunnell lit a candle in memory of James A. Rich Jr.*



Sharon Gunnell - January 10, 2017 at 02:10 PM

JS

“ *John & Teresa Sherrill lit a candle in memory of James A. Rich Jr.*



John & Teresa Sherrill - January 10, 2017 at 04:44 AM

JO

We are very sorry for your loss. Our thoughts & prayers are with the family at this difficult time. Deepest Sympathy, Love, John & Teresa Sherrill

John - January 10, 2017 at 04:54 AM

WB

“ *We are very sorry to here about the passing and going home of your Dad. Mr. Rich was a man full of life and enjoyed whatever he was involved in. We remember when he was choir director at Kentuck Church and how much enjoyed that and we enjoyed him. Our prayers are with you and the whole family.*

Wesley & Violet Barker - January 09, 2017 at 09:42 AM

DM

My sincere condolences to the Rich Family. I worked for this family during the time they owed Rich Industry Supply. James was the nicest person anymore could ever meet. I was very good at the time and didn't even know who he was and I called him the janitor, of course he went right along with it. Whatever I'd asked him to do, swipe the floor, etc. he was more than gracious. I would enjoy his company all the while working on something else. After finding out that he was the man that signed my paycheck every week, he still never changed. . My love ❤️ and prayers are with this entire family, you are so special! Mr Rich is at peace and at home with his Heavenly Father. God Bless You All....My Love. Darleen McBride

Darleen McBride - January 15, 2017 at 09:03 AM