



# Jim Vandiver

JUN 18, 2015



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## **Jim Vandiver**

JUN 18, 2015

**J**ames E. Vandiver, Jr., 77, a native Charlottean and resident of Huntersville for more than 40 years, was called home on June 18, 2015. Jim was the definition of a positive attitude, never worrying about anything and always having a GREAT day. A retired NASCAR driver, Jim enjoyed success as an independent driver and was the actual winner of the 1969 inaugural Talladega race, though he described his family as his greatest accomplishment. Jim is survived by, according to him, “the 4 greatest kids anybody could ever ask for” including son Emory Vandiver and wife CJ of Belmont, son Rhett Vandiver of Davidson, daughter Nicole Bryan and husband Callan of Davidson and daughter Shannon Vandiver of Cornelius. He is also survived by brother Tommie Vandiver, sister Lillian Hoopaugh and grandchildren Rhett Vandiver, Blake Vandiver, Marlo Vandiver, Cal Bryan, Lily Bryan and Will Bryan. Jim’s parents, James E. Vandiver, Sr. and Lillian Fesperman Vandiver, and his brother Milton Ray "Van" Vandiver went before him to glory.

The funeral will be held at 4 p.m. on Monday, June 22nd at Jim’s church of over 40 years, Huntersville United Methodist Church with a viewing at 3:30 p.m. Family and friends are invited to celebrate Jim’s life, as he requested, with a party afterwards at The Pearl Wedding and Events Center in Cornelius at 5:30 p.m. A private burial will be held at Northlake Memorial Gardens. Memorials may be made to Huntersville United Methodist Church.

James Funeral Home is serving the family. [www.jamesfuneralhomeLKN.com](http://www.jamesfuneralhomeLKN.com)



## Tribute Wall

**Jim Vandiver**

RC

**Rcq** posted:

Always enjoyed watching him race the dirt tracks in Gaston County

July 7 at 11:15 AM

AA

**Allen & Janice Anderson** posted:

Our sincere condolences to the Vandiver Family - especially to Lillian, our friend and neighbor for the past 12 years. While we know your family will miss Jim, his memories, stories and legacy will continue to be with us. Just reading about the Vandiver Racing Family is a testament to the "heart of a champion" that embodies the desire to win! May God bless your entire family during this time and know that our prayers are with you for peace, comfort and KNOWING we'll see Jim again!

June 22 at 9:39 AM

DP

**Deb & David Park** posted:

We are very sorry to learn of your loss and are grateful that you all have each other as family to support each other. Our thoughts and prayers are with you all. Deb & David Park 10th Ave. Townhomes

June 22 at 6:03 AM

HW

**Humpy Wheeler** posted:

I am very sorry to you Rhett because you were a potential great driver but keep trying in the management side of NASCAR.

June 21 at 3:15 PM



## Tribute Wall

Jim Vandiver

HW

**Humpy Wheeler** posted:

Jim was one heck of a driver back during the day when we really didn't know what we were doing. I say that because he was driving 200 mph NASCAR cars when the super speedway era first began against the likes of Buddy Baker, David Pearson, Bobby Isaac, Cale Yarbrough, etc. He was one of the front runners at my first track -- the Robinwood Speedway in Gastonia back in 1962. This was a very high banked dirt track -- 24 degrees in the corners -- and he was very competitive with Jim Dimeo, Harold Dunaway, Bill Monteith, Ervin Carpenter, Bryant Wallace and, of course, Jungle Boy Lane among many others. Brother Tommy as a good driver but a genius as a mechanic and his sister Lillian pioneered the track for many other women drivers to follow. Jimmy almost won Talladega in '69 (he may have!). He was also a fine fellow and a good friend to us all. If he had a really good race car he would be in or near the NASCAR Hall of Fame today. His years were good to him and I know he is resting peaceful today. I think of Jim Vandiver and what a fine race driver he was. At my old Robinwood Speedway in Gastonia -- the best high banked dirt quarter mile ever -- he ran hard against Jim Dimeo, Bryant Wallace, Ervin Carpenter, Jungle Boy, Bill Monteith and Preston Humphries, etc. When he ran NASCAR in the 200 mph days he probably won Talladega in 1969. Had he a better car in the next five years he could have won a dozen races...he was that good! His sister Lillian was quite a driver herself and set the course for Janet Guthrie and later Danica Patrick. He lived a good life and he is a person I am very proud of.

June 21 at 3:13 PM

BL

**Bill Long** posted:

So sorry to hear of Jim's passing, a true racer and all around nice guy. Godspeed old friend.

June 20 at 4:21 PM

DN

**Don Nugent** posted:

Sorry for your loss. Another piece of NASCAR's [at] gone. Class guy. RIP

June 20 at 3:32 PM

BM

**Bob Myers** posted:

I enjoyed the friendship of Jim as well as his sister, Lillian, during the many years that we were involved in NASCAR. I remember Jim as a very good driver and an all-American nice guy who was fun to be around. I am sorry for his loss. Our thoughts and prayers are with Lillian, Tommie and the entire family. Sincerely, Bob Myers  
Motorsports Writer, retired

June 20 at 7:11 AM



## Tribute Wall

Jim Vandiver

AS

**Al Smith** posted:

As a member of Jim's pit crew from 1973 to 1975, I remember well all the great times we had with Jim. He was a great driver and gentleman. He and Tommy ran really good cars on very little money and I'm sure with better funding the team would have always been a front runner. It was a privilege to be a team member those few years. Jim's race is over now. I pray the his soul rests in peace and that his family will find comfort in God's grace.

June 19 at 12:24 PM

KW

**Kimmit Wilhelm** posted:

I am so sorry to hear this.... I was actually at the ballfields in Mooresville tonight when i heard about it..... I am sending prayers to the family... God Bless and he will be missed in the little town of Huntersville, NC.... These prayers are also being sent from my parents, Brenda and Cooper Wilhelm.....

June 18 at 7:37 PM

TC

**Tony Crowe** posted:

So sorry for your loss. I will always remember my brother playing softball with Jim and Emory. Great memories and fun times.

June 18 at 6:08 PM

VJ

**Victoria James** posted:

Im sorry to hear this he will be missed dearly prayers are with the family threw this time of need...

June 18 at 5:37 PM

BA

**Byron Alexander** posted:

I enjoyed visiting with with Jim at his truck sales lot, and sharing racing stories. Also I liked him letting me know that he still had race driving skills and given the right equipment, would still win! Rest in peace.

June 18 at 4:41 PM



## Tribute Wall

**Jim Vandiver**

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SV

**Steve Vanhoy** posted:

Jim was a great person, and a loyal church member God bless to Jim's family

June 18 at 1:54 PM

JD

**John And Renee Dekemper** posted:

Blessing to Jim's family.

June 18 at 12:07 PM

HH

**Heather Hughes** posted:

We are so very sorry for your loss. Our thoughts and prayers are with you all. Hugs Shannon and Nicole!

June 18 at 11:31 AM



# Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Jim by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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