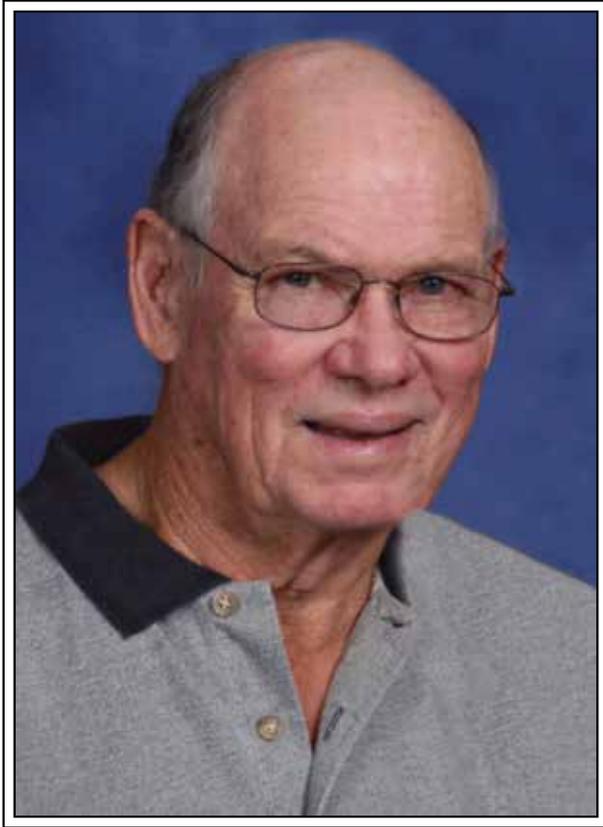


# James Milton Crabbe

May 5, 1940 - March 13, 2023



*“Trust in the Lord with all your heart  
and lean not on your own understanding;  
in all your ways acknowledge Him, and  
He will make your ways straight.”*

Proverbs 3:5,6



***James Milton Crabbe***, 82, died peacefully on Monday, March 13 in his home in Beaumont, Texas. (03/13/23 – Trinity)

James is survived by his sons, Corby and Clay; his daughter, Beth and son-in-law, Michael Augustine; grandson, Jamey; granddaughter, JoAnna; great-grandson, Brody; brothers, Charles and Lee; sisters, Marlene, Ruthie, Alice and Sharon; and many cousins. He is preceded in death by his parents, James Burton Crabbe and Marie King Crabbe.



James was born May 5, 1940, to father James Burton Crabbe and mother Marie King Crabbe in Beaumont, Texas. The family lived in the 800 block of Miller Street until August, 1942, and later moved to 2121 Forrest Street where James attended Junker Elementary School. There were many friends on Forrest and Caldwell Streets. Bicycles were the transportation for kids in those days.

*Baby James with Mother and Charlie*

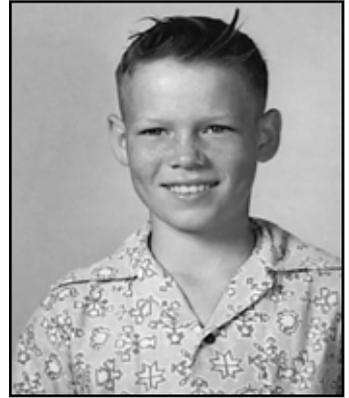
James biked as far as Magnolia Park, Gulf Street Fair Grounds, downtown Beaumont and the Neches River with friends. His dad taught him sports, hunting and fishing and his mother provided a wonderful home life and started his early Christian education at the Sabine Tabernacle. He practiced his faith throughout his life.



*James, Dad, Cousin Bobby,  
and Brother Charlie*



*James with brother and sisters*



*James with Grandma King  
and Aunt Catherine*

James and his siblings spent many memorable weeks with their grandparents Robert and Rosa King in Lake Charles, Louisiana, where he learned to pick figs, pears, and berries, dig potatoes and shuck corn. From his grandparents, and also Aunt Catherine, James learned to milk cows, gather eggs, and feed chickens, turkeys and guineas.



He also got to learn fishing in the bayou from cousin Bobby and played with other local cousins and friends.

At the age of 9, James and his brother Charles travelled by bus across town to watch the AA Professional Beaumont Exporter baseball team play. The return trip at 10PM was an adventure because of having to transfer buses near downtown Beaumont.



James attended James Bowie Junior High where he met many new friends. His education matured as well as his athletic ability. The family moved from Forrest Street to 4595 Detroit in 1956 where James attended French High school, excelling in football and basketball in his junior and senior years and later would attend McNeese College on a football scholarship.



*Senior Prom*

James met the love of his life Lynda Gager at French High School.

They married in 1960 and spent their first 3 years in Georgia while

3 James served in the army at Fort Benning.

They had their first child Corby during this time. Beth came along shortly after would later give them two grandchildren; JoAnna and Jamey, and great grandson Brody. Second son, Clay, came a few years later.



*James and Baby Corby*



*Beth and Corby with Mom and Dad*



After college at McNeese, James started his first job with Shell Oil Company as an assistant engineer supervising the building of roads and facility locations in the oil fields of South Louisiana. The family moved around a lot, living in Slidell, Lafayette and Lake Charles. James travelled a lot for his job and while driving through an area always had his eyes open to find a nice piece of land to buy.



*Family Gathering at Dry Creek*

He found a dream in Dry Creek. The place had forty acres, a log home and barn built shortly after the civil war, 35 cows, a stocked pond and woods nearby for hunting. The family moved there in 1970 and started living the country life.



*The Farm*

They had a big garden, raised lots of animals including cows, horses, pigs, chickens, ducks and guineas. James quit his job at Shell because the travelling didn't allow enough time for the farm.



*Beth and Corby*



*Dad and Baby Clay*

He went to work at East Beauregard High School, teaching phys ed and history, and coaching high school baseball and junior high basketball for both boys and girls. His second son Clay was born on the farm in 1971. James remodeled the old log house, adding rooms for the kids in the attic, and installing air conditioning. He grew watermelons and hauled hay in the summers.



Those were wonderful years but the farm and school teaching wasn't going to put the kids through college so he began working offshore on oil rigs and pipefitting in the refineries during the summers. Lynda was doing a masterful job of keeping the home together while going to McNeese to get her art degree.

The commutes were grueling and he needed to work more so the family moved to Port Neches in 1979. He worked in most of the refineries in the area, probably putting in more 7/12s than anyone ever, working his way from pipefitter to construction superintendent.



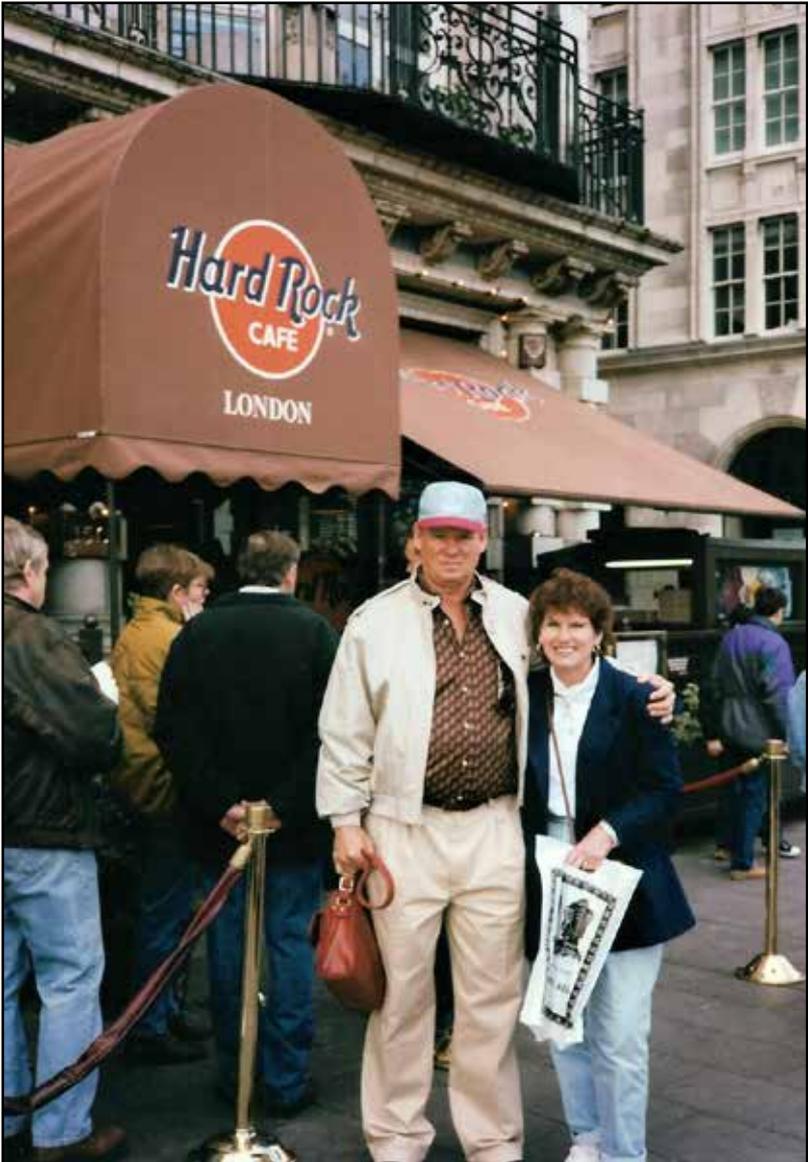
James and Lynda bought some acreage from her father on the outskirts of Beaumont and built a new home there in 1992. They designed the house and did much of the work.



James retired early and took a job on a friend's ranch, which gave him a chance to work as a cowboy – a lifelong dream. He bought a few cows for his small farm and also raised horses, goats and chickens. He built a big barn, outbuildings and fences and always grew a big garden. He had a nice pond but rarely went fishing – working was more fun.



James and Lynda enjoyed traveling after retirement. They went to England, Paris, Amsterdam, Switzerland, Austria and Banff, Canada. James had a great time and even laughed about having his pocket picked on both trips to Paris. James traveled to Mexico and Arizona with son Corby and enjoyed a trip to Montana with brother Charles and Corby. He especially enjoyed a horseback trip in Colorado with brother Charles, sister Sharon and Corby.



James Crabbe could have been or done anything he wanted to do, but he wasn't ambitious, and had his priorities in the right place – God, family, friends, country. He loved God and served him well over his life, as a Sunday school teacher and deacon and as a witness to all in his speech and conduct. He even sang in the choir (although not very well). He loved working almost as much as he did God and family. He worked many jobs to support his family including oil field assistant engineer, coach, teacher, offshore rig worker, pipefitter, construction supervisor and ranch manager. Working with his hands gave him joy. He built tables from old wood and crafts like angel wings for daughter Beth's craft business. He did remodeling and repairs in every house he lived in, built fences and barns, remodeled the old farmhouse in Dry Creek, put a new deck on his mother's beach house. He built a monster skateboard ramp for son Clay and insisted on helping Corby remodel his beach house after he became too weak to work much. While his son Corby and brother Lee caught flounder on the pier in Cameron, James preferred to spend his time catching mud minnows and cleaning fish for them – too little work in fishing.

James loved to help people. He regularly picked up hitchhikers. When he had extra money he would gladly give it to a stranger in need, once giving a \$100 tip to a down-on-her-luck waitress. He stopped off on the way home from church on a Wednesday night to help a farmer pull a calf. He risked his job to fill out a test for a black man who couldn't read and write.

He liked everyone he met and everyone liked him.



*Grandma Marie with Jamey and JoAnna*





## ESSENTIALS THAT HAVE TO BE IN LIFE TO BE REVIVED

### 1. VISION OF GOD —

NOT FOCUS ON WHAT OTHERS  
ARE DOING ARE CAN DO,  
ALLWAYS LOOK TO GOD,  
PUT HIM FIRST.

### 2. VISION OF SELF — see

YOURSELF AS GOD SEES YOU.

DON'T EVER SAY — LOOK  
WHAT'S WE'VE DONE.

GOD USES THE WEAK THINGS  
OF THE WORLD TO CONFOUND  
THE MIGHTY.

### Unclean Lips

1. Pride

2. Give Impression YOU ARE SOMETHING  
YOU NOT.

3. Put on show - I'm somebody

We need to keep a passion  
for God - do not let  
things replace Him.

I get to God to church  
not (I have to go to church)

God's word must be  
continually with us.

Get it fresh every day.

**Funeral Service**

Monday, March 20, 2023 2:00 p.m.

Calvary Baptist Church

Beaumont, Texas

Reverend John Griffin

**Pallbearers**

Jamey Augustine

Russell Meinscher

Donald Shakleford

Jim Reavis

Kendall Reavis

James McKeehan

**Interment**

Magnolia Cemetery

Beaumont, Texas

*Broussards*  
Established 1889

Please sign Mr. Crabbe's guest book and share your memories at  
[broussards1889.com](http://broussards1889.com)