



James J. Abercrombie

December 2, 1921 - January 10, 2010

James Joseph Abercrombie of Newnan died in Atlanta on Jan. 10 after a long illness. His wife of 64 years, Ruth Elizabeth Abercrombie, and son Jon Abercrombie, were at his side when he died Sunday morning. It was a good day to be released from the suffering that affected his life.

James Abercrombie, 88, will be remembered for his ability to love people. He met no strangers, never failed to thank people for even small kindnesses, and never turned down a request for help. He volunteered in a homeless shelter, helped build a house for a low-income family and helped the victims of flooding in middle Georgia. He built a large fire-pit and invited every neighbor, every friend and probably a few strangers over for his famous barbecued garlic chicken.

James was born to Sanford and Nannie Abercrombie, a farming family in Douglasville, Ga., on Dec. 2, 1921. He learned the hard work of dairy farming, completed high school and went to work.

James was the epitome of the “greatest generation.” He had just turned 20 when Pearl Harbor was attacked in 1941. He tried to enlist, but was turned down because of a hernia. He returned to work, saved money for the hernia operation and was finally accepted to the U.S. Navy. In the summer of 1943, he joined the crew of the U.S.S. Fair, a destroyer escort. For the next two years he was at sea, serving as a gunner’s mate.

Shortly before leaving Atlanta, James met Betty Ruth Morris at a church meeting in East Point. They saw each other twice. Their entire courtship was

by mail. He came home on leave and they married on Aug. 3, 1945. While on their honeymoon, the first atomic bomb was dropped in Japan and he was released from the Navy.

For the next 45 years he worked for Amarlite, an aluminum fabrication business in Atlanta. He retired from Amarlite, the only firm he ever worked for, and retired in Newnan. He started as a laborer, worked many years as a supervisor, and ended his career travelling around the country explaining how Amarlite's products worked. His work took him to Saudi Arabia where the company's aluminum products were used by the Saudi military. Colleagues recall that if conflict broke out in a meeting, it ended when he came into the room.

James could make almost anything with his hands and was an accomplished wood turner. He created aluminum serving trays, turned pens and pencils from exotic wood, built beds, caned chairs, cutting boards, and a pine-box racing track for the youth at his church.

Later in life, James suffered the debilitating effects of Alzheimer's Disease, but he continued to garden and found joy in the tireless companionship of his wife.

James was preceded in death by sisters Sarah Stephens, Mary Lunsford, Mildred Boutwell, Jessie Abercrombie and his brothers, Paul and Billy Abercrombie. James loved every member of his extended family of nephews, nieces and their children. He is survived by his wife, Ruth Elizabeth, his son Jonathan (Jon) Abercrombie, and daughter-in-law Frances Atkins Abercrombie.

Online condolences may be sent to the family at www.mckoon.com.

The visitation and the service to celebrate his life will be Jan. 14 at Grace Community Fellowship Church located at 75 Roscoe Rd. in Newnan. Visitation is at 10:00 a.m. followed by an 11:00 a.m. service and burial at Forest Lawn near the church. Grace Community Fellowship will host the family and friends for refreshments after the burial. Telephone the church at (770) 253-1213.

Donations in James Abercrombie's name can be made to Grace Community

Fellowship Church and the Alzheimer's Association at 1925 Century Blvd,
Suite 10, Atlanta, 30345.McKoon Funeral Home
38 Jackson St. Newnan Ga 30263.

Cemetery Details

Forest Lawn Memorial Park

656 Roscoe Road
Newnan, GA 30263

Previous Events

Visitation

JAN 14. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Grace Community Fellowship
75 Roscoe Road/P.O. Box 71068
Newnan, GA 30271

Service

JAN 14. 11:00 AM (ET)

Grace Community Fellowship
75 Roscoe Road/P.O. Box 71068
Newnan, GA 30271

Tribute Wall

EF

“ Betty Ruth...I apologize for not being at your husband's Celebration of Life service. I so wanted to see you in order to tell you how much you helped ME in dealing with my husband's illness. I did not know James, but I know in caring for him, you knew the importance of sharing the things you learned. I follow in your footsteps and know God put you in my path for a reason. How often I brought to mind the words spoken by another of our sisters..."He brought me to it...He'll take me through it."...and He did! And He'll take us all the way! Love, Ellie

Ellie Farrington - January 18, 2010 at 09:18 AM

CH

“ Betty, I am so glad I had the opportunity to know James and you. You both were always such a blessing. James is now released from his suffering, and you too will find comfort in our Lord during this sad time. I know your faith will see you through. You're in our thoughts and prayers. Love, Charlotte & Roger

Charlotte Harper - January 14, 2010 at 08:14 PM

DS

“ I wanted to tell the family that I am praying for them during these times. Uncle James was truly a good man that loved everyone. He was all ways there at the family gatherings and he was respected by everyone. I am sorry that I can not attend the services as I am recouperating from back surgery and riding long distances does not agree with me yet. I love all of you and give Aunt Betty my condoences. Love Dennis and Debbis Stephens (912)537-2197

Dennis Stephens - January 13, 2010 at 03:30 PM

SS

“ Dear Mrs. Betty, There are no words that I can say to ease your pain in the loss of our sweet Mr. James. There are so many things that I could say about you and Mr. James and the Blessing he was to me. I will always be grateful for all the things he did for me and the repairs that he did for me on my home. He told me he would be my second dad, and that was so special to me. I love you and I'm praying for you and I will always remember the wonderful times of Fellowship we had on Wednesday nights and Sundays nights after church. May God comfort you during this very difficult time and may you know there are lots of people praying for you. You and Mr. James were very dear to me and I will always love you. Love, Syble

Syble Storey - January 12, 2010 at 04:28 PM