



James DeWolf Higgins

January 5, 1946 - January 26, 2026

Mr. James DeWolf Higgins, 80, of Newnan, passed away on Sunday, January 26, 2026, at home. He was born on January 5, 1946, to the late George Monroe Higgins and Mary Jenkins Higgins. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his wife Kathryn A. Kelley, sister Elizabeth Higgins Bryan, brother Michael Vickroy Higgins, and sister Melody Higgins Blanpied.

James was born in Gallipolis, OH, and grew up in Terre Haute, IN, and then Augusta, GA. He was a 1964 graduate of the Academy of Richmond County. He went on to attend Augusta College and then graduate from Georgia Tech with bachelor's and master's degrees in electrical engineering. His career began at the Engineering Experiment Station (later Georgia Tech Research Institute), followed by some time with Peihl Corporation in commercial building construction. Later, he returned to Georgia Tech, where he completed a distinguished career at Georgia Tech Research Institute. Ever the engineer, he was always ready to start a project, build something, or engineer a solution. Outside of his profession, family was most important to him. He consistently was there to help and made a great effort to stay connected with family. As he approached retirement, he designed and built a home in Newnan where he lived for his final years.

A memorial service will be held on Friday, February 6, 2026, at 11:00 AM at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 576 Roscoe Road, in Newnan, with Rev. Hazel

Glover officiating. The family will receive friends at the church from 10:00 AM until service time. Interment will take place at Forest Lawn Memorial Park following the service.

Condolences may be expressed to the family online at www.mckoon.com.

Survivors include son, Joel Higgins of Newnan; grandchildren Jackson Higgins, Hannah Higgins, Harrison Higgins, and Garrison Higgins of Fayetteville; Step-son, Jeff Bailey, and wife Rebekah Stivers of Charlotte, NC; grandchild Emily Beavers and great-grandchild Radley Beavers of Blue Ridge, GA; grandchild Sarah Bailey and great-grandchildren Brendan Bailey and Nolan Bailey of Blue Ridge, GA; grandchildren Alex Bailey of Charlotte, NC, and Ashlyn Bailey of Wilmington, NC. and sister, Garen Higgins Livingston of Concord, NC.

McKoon Funeral Home & Crematory (770) 253-4580

Cemetery Details

Forest Lawn Memorial Park

656 Roscoe Road
Newnan, GA 30263

Previous Events

Visitation

FEB 6. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

St. Paul's Episcopal Church
576 Roscoe Road
Newnan, GA 30263

Funeral Service

FEB 6. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

St. Paul's Episcopal Church
576 Roscoe Road
Newnan, GA 30263

Tribute Wall

DD

“ 1 file added to the album *Jim the ultimate Engineer*



Doug Devine - February 08 at 05:36 PM

“ I first knew Jamie Higgins in Augusta, Georgia, in 1973. I never called him Jim or James—he was, and still is, just Jamie, my friend.

Jamie was a Georgia Tech electrical engineering graduate from the Class of 1968, and I graduated with the same degree from Clemson in 1973. Early in my career at Georgia Power, I called on his company for a new building they were constructing. As I explained the power system I was proposing, Jamie quickly realized it was overkill and showed me how we could design it far more efficiently. I'm sure the issue would eventually have been caught by senior engineers, but thanks to Jamie, I avoided a potentially embarrassing situation—and gained a lifelong friend.

Jamie and I also shared a deep passion for music. We spent many hours listening together, either at his home or in my apartment. He took me to clubs around Augusta that used sound systems he had designed, and I was always struck by the care he put into tailoring the sound for each space.

Jamie understood acoustics the way a maestro understands music. He taught me how to match a turntable, amplifier, tuner, and speakers for the best sound. Quadraphonic sound was popular then, but Jamie knew that getting it right required truly understanding sound waves. He understood that. I didn't—but I learned. I never bought stereo equipment without asking Jamie first.

That same gift for teaching carried into his engineering mentorship. He could take complex ideas—like per-unit calculations in power distribution—and make them understandable. He had a rare ability to make difficult problems feel manageable and fun!

Looking back, I see that Jamie gave me far more than professional advice. He gave me confidence, modeled integrity, and showed me the value of being generous with knowledge and patient with those still learning.

That spirit extended well beyond work. As a husband, father, grandfather, brother, and friend, Jamie lived with quiet commitment and care. He built things, solved problems, stayed close to his family, and even designed and built the home where he spent his final years.

Jamie Higgins represents the best of the engineering profession and the best of human character. His influence lives on through the people he helped along the way. I am one of them, and I will always be grateful.

Floyd Chancellor

William Floyd Chancellor - February 05 at 03:53 PM



“ *Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of James DeWolf Higgins.*



February 03 at 02:51 PM



“ *Garen, Chris, Phoenix planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of James DeWolf Higgins.*

Garen, Chris, Phoenix - February 03 at 02:51 PM



“ Vivid Recollections was purchased for the family of James DeWolf Higgins.



February 03 at 12:19 PM



“ Geraldine Dapul planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of James DeWolf Higgins.

Geraldine Dapul - February 03 at 12:19 PM



“ Homer and Lynn Cochran planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of James DeWolf Higgins.

Homer and Lynn Cochran - February 03 at 09:40 AM



“ Homer and Lynn Cochran purchased the Sentiments of Serenity Spray for the family of James DeWolf Higgins.



Homer and Lynn Cochran - February 03 at 09:40 AM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of James DeWolf Higgins.



February 03 at 08:51 AM



“ Peggy Stivers purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of James DeWolf Higgins.



Peggy Stivers - February 02 at 09:16 AM



“ Barry and Laurel Sharp planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of James DeWolf Higgins.

Barry and Laurel Sharp - February 01 at 03:02 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of James DeWolf Higgins.



February 01 at 03:02 PM

BS

“ We are very sorry to hear about Jim. I had the pleasure of working with Jim many years at GTRI. Jim hired me back to GTRI when I was working at Scientific-Atlanta. If it had not been for Jim, I would not have worked so many years at GTRI and retired. He was always kind and loyal. He had an intellectual curiosity that I have not seen in many people. He always wanted to know how things worked. He will be greatly missed. Barry and Laurel Sharp

Barry Sharp - February 01 at 02:56 PM

SR

“ Condolences :(I know alot of his ARC 64 classmates have more fond memories of Jamie than I do. And the picture shared by Doug Devine really expressed the brillant "teddy bear" Jamie was really reminded me of them.Thank you.

Sonny Reece - February 01 at 11:29 AM

JW

“ We are so incredibly sorry for the loss of Jamie, but pray he has found eternal peace in the hands of God, and is reunited with his beloved Katherine. Sending so much love- the Rogal/Wilson family

Julianne Wilson - January 31 at 12:42 PM



“ Ocean Breeze Spray was purchased for the family of James DeWolf Higgins.



January 31 at 11:29 AM

MT

“ Much love, The Bryans and Thompsons planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of James DeWolf Higgins.

Much love, The Bryans and Thompsons - January 31 at 11:29 AM

DD

“ 3 files added to the album *Jim the ultimate Engineer*



Doug Devine - January 30 at 02:45 PM