



## Jim Ashley Callahan

May 29, 1942 - August 25, 2023

Jim Ashley Callahan, of Raymond, passed away peacefully surrounded by family at Piedmont Newnan on August 25, 2023 due to complications of lung cancer. He was 81.

The proud U.S. Navy veteran (1959-63) served during the Cuban Missile Crisis on the aircraft carriers U.S.S. Randolph and the U.S.S. Forrestal. Jim was known for his kindness, Dad Joke humor and by animals as Raymond's Dr. Dolittle.

Born May 29, 1942 in Gadsden, Alabama, to his late parents, John and Lamartine Varnadoe Callahan, he grew up in East Point, Ga., where he went to Russell High School.

He is survived by his wife of 60 years, Sandra Benefield Callahan; two sons, Joseph Callahan (Leslie), Ocala, Fla.; and Michael Callahan (Kimberly), Senoia; five grandchildren: Tyler Callahan, Summerfield, Fla; Brianna Callahan Bennett (Austin Bennett), Belleview, Fla.; Austin Callahan (Caitlyn), Lady Lake, Fla.; Leah Callahan Thom (Grant Thom), Fairbanks, Alaska; and Rachel Callahan, Senoia; and four great-grandchildren: Aubri Bennett, Carson Bennett, Annabelle Bennett and Macie Callahan.

He is also survived by two brothers: David Callahan (Connie), of Tyrone; and

Robert Thomas Callahan (Chris), Sharpsburg. He was preceded in death by his older brother, Michael Lamar Callahan.

He is also survived by three brother-in-laws: Randy Benefield (Elise), Castle Pines, Colorado; Albert Benefield, Hapeville; and Tony Benefield, Hapeville. He is also survived by best friends David and Peggy Lambert, of Fayetteville, and many, many other close friends.

Jim attended Raymond Baptist Church, where he served as a deacon, for many years since the family moved to Raymond in late 1976.

The family wants the community to know that Jim was always checking on others, visiting people who were sick in the hospital or at home, and offering his help, without expecting anything in return. His back yard was an animal sanctuary. He had bird feeders and a fish pond that were visited by squirrels, birds, humming birds and occasional deer, opossum and armadillo. Jim was known for his Dad jokes. In recent years, when asked how he was doing, he would say: "If I had a tail, I would be wagging it."

The funeral service celebrating Jim's life is Saturday, September 2, 2023, at 11:00 AM in the chapel of McKoon Funeral Home, 38 Jackson Street, in Newnan. Burial will follow the service at Forest Lawn Memorial Park, in Newnan. The family will receive friends Friday from 4:00 PM until 6:00 PM at McKoon Funeral Home.

The family asks that visitors please check on the McKoon Funeral Home & Crematory website, or call the funeral home at (770) 253-4580, later in the week to verify times and dates of service, which are subject to change.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that donations be made in the name of Jim Callahan to the National Humane Society. Condolences can be expressed online at [www.mckoon.com](http://www.mckoon.com).

McKoon Funeral Home & Crematory 770-253-4580

# Cemetery Details

## Forest Lawn Memorial Park

656 Roscoe Road  
Newnan, GA 30263

# Previous Events

## Visitation

SEP 1. 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM (ET)

McKoon Funeral Home  
38 Jackson Street  
Newnan, GA 30263

## Funeral Service

SEP 2. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

McKoon Funeral Home Chapel  
38 Jackson Street  
Newnan, GA 30263

# Tribute Wall



“ *McKoon Funeral Home & Crematory created a Webcast in memory of Jim Ashley Callahan*



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**McKoon Funeral Home & Crematory** - September 02, 2023 at 12:58 PM

TA

“ *Tricia A. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Jim Ashley Callahan.*

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**Tricia A.** - September 01, 2023 at 10:13 AM

TA

“ *Rachel - We are so very sorry for your family's loss. You all are in our thoughts & prayers.*

*Daryl, Tricia, Taylor & Kendall Adams*

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**Tricia Adams** - September 01, 2023 at 10:02 AM

RW

“ *We were fortunate to meet Jim through Sandra's relatives the Benefield's. He was like a light house giving help to all who passed by. Gone too soon, he will be missed by many. We hope the family will know how he was so loved. Prayers! Roger & Sue Washburn*

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**Roger Washburn** - August 31, 2023 at 01:06 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Jim Ashley Callahan.*



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August 31, 2023 at 10:36 AM



“ *Sweet Jim treated me like a daughter from the very first time I met him 9 years ago! He is my Gemini twin & I'm gonna miss him more than words can say. I love you Gemini & will see you again one day.*  
*Leslie Callahan*

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**leslie callahan** - August 31, 2023 at 10:01 AM



“ *We are so sorry for your loss. Jim's kindness, thoughtfulness and sense of humor will be missed by all who knew him.*  
*George and Anna*

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**Anna Badillo** - August 29, 2023 at 07:31 PM



“ *Mike sorry to hear of your fathers death, my thoughts and prays are with you and Kim and family, Milly Hill*

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**MILDRED W HILL** - August 29, 2023 at 02:17 PM

JG

“ *Our deepest condolences, forever in our thoughts and prayers Joe and Diane Garcia*



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**Joe Garcia** - August 29, 2023 at 01:26 PM

RE

“ *My deepest condolences to the family and friends, you are in my thoughts and prayers.  
Regina*



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**regina** - August 29, 2023 at 11:36 AM

JT

“ *It is with our deepest condolences for your loss. Mike and I have worked together at AT&T for several years. Although I didn't know Jim, I know he is in heaven with our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Our thoughts and prayers go out to the Callahan Family during these times. Anything we can do, we are here for you.  
Respectfully, John and Brandee Thayer*

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**John Thayer** - August 29, 2023 at 04:07 AM

TF

“ *The Burris Family lit a candle in memory of Jim Ashley Callahan*



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**The Burris Family** - August 28, 2023 at 09:49 PM

SK

“ *Shonnah Kessler lit a candle in memory of Jim Ashley Callahan*



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**Shonnah Kessler** - August 28, 2023 at 09:47 PM

LF

“ *Lisa Fitzpatrick.....Loves lit a candle in memory of Jim Ashley Callahan*



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**Lisa Fitzpatrick.....Loves** - August 28, 2023 at 06:01 PM

JK

“ *Thank you so much for your service. As stated you never ask for anything but always gave everything, Everyone loves you so much! The entire community loves you so much! You will be greatly missed.*

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**John Kelly.** - August 28, 2023 at 05:26 PM

MH

“ Sandra, I am so sorry to learn of the loss of Jim. I know how devastating it is to lose your spouse. Lawson will soon have been deceased 10 yrs., and I miss him every day of my life. I remember meeting you and Jim when back in the day we were all members of Raymond Baptist Church. We shared some wonderful years back then, and I believe that most of those members are now deceased. My thoughts and prayers go out to you and all the family. May God wrap His loving arms around you and comfort you and help you to find peace, as only He can.

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Mary Elizabeth Hughie - August 28, 2023 at 03:44 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Jim Ashley Callahan.



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August 28, 2023 at 11:13 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Jim Ashley Callahan.

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August 28, 2023 at 11:13 AM