



James Leland Harkey

April 14, 1929 - October 7, 2025

James Leland Harkey, of Northport, Alabama, passed away peacefully on October 7, 2025, at the age of 96. He was born on April 14, 1929.

James was a deeply devoted follower of the Lord, a man whose life was defined by his love for his family, an incredible work ethic, and a signature, playful sense of humor. He was the family's resident joker, always ready to deal out a bit of good-natured teasing and "a hard time for fun." In his leisure, he was never without a King Edward Cigar and occasionally enjoyed an White Horse shot.

A dedicated patriot, James served his country with honor for a decade, from 1945 to 1955. His military career saw him serve in multiple branches, including the Army and the Air Force, and later with the Armed Forces of Institute of Pathology in Washington, D.C.

James was a master of his trade and truly loved to work. He retired initially from Post Welding, but his passion for his profession led him back to the field. Remarkably, at the age of 75, he returned to work full-time at R & D, finally retiring for the second time at the age of 85. James loved his family, but second only to them was his enjoyment of welding.

James is survived by his loving daughter Tanya Cory-Deavours and her husband Scott Deavours; his last remaining sister, Barbara Payne; four grandchildren, Nick Kersey, Hannah Bell (Luke Bell), Matthew Cory, and Jessie Cory; three great-grandchildren, Laura Kersey, Joshua Kersey, and Hunter Bell; and one great-great-grandchild, Ian Crawley.

The family extends special thanks to Forest Manor Rehab and Forest Manor Nursing Home for the compassionate care provided to James, as well as to all the special friends who were a cherished part of his long life.

A private Celebration of Life for close family will take place to honor James.