

James "Jim" Earl Branson

August 18, 1938 - January 5, 2026

James "Jim" Earl Branson, age 87 of Mattoon, IL passed away on Monday, January 5, 2026, at Odd Fellow-Rebekah Home.

A funeral service in his honor will be held at 11:00 AM, Tuesday, January 13, 2026, at Mitchell-Jerdan Funeral Home, 1200 Wabash Avenue, Mattoon, IL 61938. Reverend Dennis Strawn will officiate. A committal service will immediately follow at Dodge Grove Cemetery in Mattoon, IL. The visitation will be held from 9:00 am until the time of service at the funeral home.

Jim was born on August 18, 1938, to the late Vernon and Gladys (Cross) Branson. He married Sara E. Niemeier on September 12, 1964, in Mattoon, IL; she preceded him in death on September 4, 2018. He is survived by his two sons, Jeff Branson and wife Sherri of Mattoon, IL and Christopher Bartlett and wife Pam of Mattoon, IL; four grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by three brothers and two sisters.

Jim was a proud veteran of the United States Navy. He devoted his professional life to the automotive industry, where he retired as a general manager of car sales from several esteemed car dealerships. Prior to that Jim served in law enforcement for the Mattoon police department, and as an officer for Secretary of State Police.

Jim was a dedicated member of the First Baptist Church in Mattoon, IL. He had a strong sense of community and served on the election board. Friends could always count on him for daily outings at restaurants for meals and conversation. He enjoyed playing golf and was an avid fan of both the

Chicago Bears and the Fighting Illini. Jim was a seasoned traveler who never passed up an opportunity to explore new domestic locations. His love for dogs was profound, and their companionship brought him great comfort and happiness throughout the years.

Jim found his greatest joy in his family and will be profoundly missed by his children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Memorial donations in his honor may be made to Sarah Bush Lincoln Cancer Center, 1000 Health Center Drive, Mattoon, IL 61938

Please visit www.mitchell-jerdan.com or www.facebook.com/mitchelljerdanfuneralhome to light a virtual candle in his honor or share a memory with the family.

Previous Events

Visitation

JAN 13. 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

Mitchell-Jerdan Funeral Home Ltd.
1200 Wabash Ave
Mattoon, IL 61938
(217) 234-8828
contact@mitchelljerdan.com
<https://www.mitchell-jerdan.com/>

Service

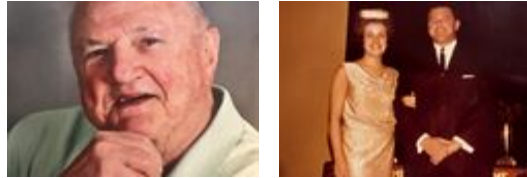
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Tribute Wall



“ 2 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



Mitchell-Jerdan Funeral Home - January 12 at 05:58 PM



“ Love, Doc, Colleen, Mitch and Joey purchased the *Full Of Love Bouquet* for the family of James "Jim" Earl Branson.



Love, Doc, Colleen, Mitch and Joey - January 12 at 10:09 AM



“ Love, Doc, Colleen, Mitch and Joey planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of James "Jim" Earl Branson.

Love, Doc, Colleen, Mitch and Joey - January 12 at 10:09 AM



“ Kathi Cobble lit a candle in memory of James "Jim" Earl Branson



kathi cobble - January 11 at 11:33 PM

LA

“ Love, Lisa and Ashley purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of James "Jim" Earl Branson.



Love, Lisa and Ashley - January 10 at 12:32 PM

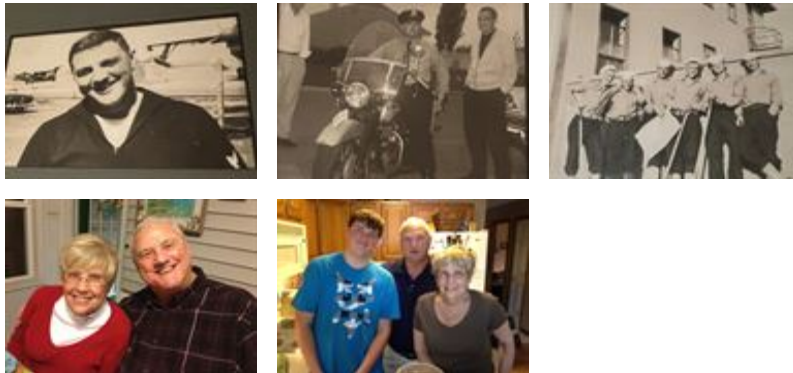
KH

“ Kathy H. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of James "Jim" Earl Branson.

Kathy H. - January 09 at 12:57 PM



“ 64 files added to the album Life Tributes



Mitchell-Jerdan Funeral Home - January 09 at 11:31 AM

DG

“ Jim was such a sweet man. Always so pleasant and caring. I knew Sara and Jim as patients for over 15 years. He will be missed. Prayers to the family!! Debbie Greenwood

debra greenwood - January 08 at 08:40 PM

LC

“ *Condolences to the family.*

Lori Click - January 08 at 08:14 AM

WB

“ *My sincere sympathy to all of Jim's family.*



Wanda Baker - January 07 at 11:01 PM

MJ

“ *Jeff, Pam and families.... So very sorry for your loss. Please know y'all are in our thoughts and prayers.*

Mike & Jackie Joines - January 07 at 02:58 PM



“ *Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of James "Jim" Earl Branson.*



January 07 at 09:13 AM

PS

“ *Proverbs 31 Women of Strength planted a Memorial Tree in honor of James "Jim" Earl Branson.*

Proverbs 31 Women of Strength - January 07 at 09:13 AM

LS

“ Love, Gay, Bubba, and Sonya purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of James "Jim" Earl Branson.



Love, Gay, Bubba, and Sonya - January 06 at 10:31 PM

LS

“ Love, Gay, Bubba, and Sonya planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of James "Jim" Earl Branson.

Love, Gay, Bubba, and Sonya - January 06 at 10:31 PM



“ Serene Retreat was purchased for the family of James "Jim" Earl Branson.



January 06 at 05:43 PM

SB

“ Shanna, Greg, Wes, and Bev planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of James "Jim" Earl Branson.

Shanna, Greg, Wes, and Bev - January 06 at 05:43 PM

MR

“ My sincere condolences to Jeff and the entire family. I knew Mr. Branson and had the upmost respect of him.. rest in peace

Marianne Rybicki - January 06 at 03:27 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of James "Jim" Earl Branson.*



January 06 at 02:32 PM



“ *On behalf of the Senteney family I want to extend our condolences and sympathy. I always remember Jim as an outstanding police officer and officer with the Secretary of State Police. He took pride in wearing a uniform and was an exceptional traffic officer. Sorry for his passing.*

Steve Senteney - January 06 at 02:24 PM



“ *My condolences to the family. I had the utmost respect for this man. He will be sadly missed.*

Steven Cox - January 06 at 01:39 PM