



## MR. JAMES HENRY PATTERSON

August 1, 1936 - February 25, 2026

Funeral services for Mr. James Henry Patterson will be held at 2 PM Monday, March 2, 2026, at John E. Stephens Chapel with Rev. Stuart Purvis and Rev. John E. Stephens officiating. Interment will be in North Bend Methodist Cemetery. Visitation will be 5 PM - 8 PM Sunday, March 1, 2026, at John E. Stephens Chapel.

James Henry "Pat" Patterson

Mr. James Henry "Pat" Patterson of Philadelphia passed away peacefully, leaving behind a legacy built on faith, hard work, humor, and deep love for his family. He was a kind man who never met a stranger, and he had a gift for making everyone feel like an old friend.

Born on August 1, 1936 in Winston County, Mississippi to Milton Woodard Patterson and Alma Simmons Patterson, James Henry was one of 5 children. He was raised in a time when horses and farming were a way of life. He often recalled receiving only an apple or an orange for Christmas during his childhood but he never allowed humble beginnings to limit his dreams.

As a young man, he traveled to Detroit, Michigan, where he sold ice cream from a bicycle and worked in a division of Ford Motor Company, faithfully sending half of every paycheck home to help his family. He promised his

mother he would finish high school and he did.

In April of 1956, he married the love of his life, just months after their December engagement. This April 21st, they would have celebrated 70 years of marriage, a testament to enduring love and commitment.

James Henry worked tirelessly throughout his life. He helped run service stations, bought and sold cars, managed a car lot, farmed cattle, and drove freight trucks from 1961 to 1983. He founded Patterson Logging and was known as one of the most natural salesmen you'd ever meet—witty, quick, and unforgettable. If you ever received a call answered by “James H. Patterson from Philadelphia,” you knew you were in for a conversation.

He built businesses from the ground up, washed cars for a dollar, sold ice for a quarter, financed vehicles when others wouldn't, and took risks that built opportunity not just for himself but for generations to come.

He was an avid storyteller, a lover of bluegrass festivals and the Neshoba County Fair, Vowell's plate lunches, and his treasured blue Ford tractor.

In later years, he enjoyed traveling across the country with his beloved from the Grand Canyon to Yellowstone, from Cocoa Beach to Colorado, often in an RV headed to Oak Grove, Louisiana. Even as health challenges came and went, his spirit remained strong. He loved his grandkids and cherished afternoons in his rocking chair.

James Henry attended North Calvary Baptist Church much of his life, serving as deacon and Training Union Director. To be closer to his home, he later became a member of Spring Creek Baptist Church, living a life rooted in faith and never wasting a second to remind his kids and grandkids to do the same. He was also known as a dedicated member to his community, serving more

than 33 years with the North Bend Fire Department, being the founder and President of the Board.

He is preceded in death by his parents, Milton Woodard Patterson and Alma Simmons Patterson, his sisters, Catherine Patterson Bracken and Mary Alice Robertson, his brother Tilton Patterson, his brother-in-laws, Tebo Daniels and Parnell Bracken, and his great grandson, Jesse James Wilcox.

He is survived by his beloved wife, Martha Fulton Patterson, his three incredible children and their spouses, Shelia (Ferrell) Alexander, Sherlon (Terri) Patterson, & Melanie (Tem McMullan) Spears, his sister, Christine Daniels, his sister-in-law, Jane Patterson, his brother-in-law, Junior Robertson, his 9 grandchildren (20 including spouses), 16 great-grandchildren, 1 great-great-grandchild, & a host of nieces and nephews.

He was proud of every single one of them and never failed to tell anyone that. Two centuries. Ten decades. Sixty-nine years of marriage. And a family legacy that will live on forever.

Pallbearers include Michael Griffin, Michael Alexander, Shane Patterson, Patrick Patterson, Dylan Spears, Ricky Patterson, Mike Robertson, Jesse Wilcox, & Jordan Davidson

Honorary pallbearers include Zane Griffin, Garrison Breedlove, Ollie Patterson, Cruz Graham, George Patterson, Connor Spears, Huxley Wilcox, Jackson Alexander, Mason Alexander, Thomas Kyte, Robert Kyte, James Edwin Kyte, & Richard Posey.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

MAR 1 (CT)

JOHN E. STEPHENS CHAPEL  
812 Pecan Avenue  
Philadelphia, MS 39350  
(601) 656-1515  
jestephenschapel@bellsouth.net  
<https://www.johnestephenschapel.com/>

## Funeral Service

MAR 2. 2:00 PM (CT)

JOHN E. STEPHENS CHAPEL  
812 Pecan Avenue  
Philadelphia, MS 39350  
(601) 656-1515  
jestephenschapel@bellsouth.net  
<https://www.johnestephenschapel.com/>

## CEMETERY

MAR 2.

NORTH BEND COMMUNITY CHURCH CEMETERY  
12301 ROAD 624  
Philadelphia, MS

# Tribute Wall

PS

“ Well, I'm kinfolk. My Daddy lived in Union and was also James H. Patterson, was also called Pat and bought pulp wood as far back as my memory goes. Funny thing, they favored one another as well. I was working at the shirt factory in Union back in the mid 70's and James Henry came to pick up a machine or something and I was floored how much he resembled my Daddy. I let him know and he told me who he was. There was a time James Henry and Daddy's land taxes got crossed at the courthouse. That was a hoot. I pray for the family's strength in these days ahead. His obituary shows a wonderful man and I KNOW he came from good stock. Knowing we will see our loved ones again is comforting.  
Your distance family,  
Patricia Patterson Smith

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**Pat Patterson Smith** - March 02 at 12:21 PM

MS

“ Marty, Connie and Hilda Stuart purchased the For ever Our Angel Bouquet for the family of MR. JAMES HENRY PATTERSON.



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**Marty, Connie and Hilda Stuart** - February 27 at 01:42 PM

SG

“ So sorry in the loss of a great man. My family are relatives on the Simmons side. What a lovely tribute and a wonderful legacy. We visited for a reunion at the lake house back in 2013. Praying for strength for all.



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**Sharon Simmons Green** - February 26 at 08:47 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of MR. JAMES HENRY PATTERSON.

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February 26 at 08:25 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of MR. JAMES HENRY PATTERSON.



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February 26 at 08:25 PM

LG

“ So sorry for your family's loss. Prayers for you all.

*Brad & Lisa Copeland Gray*

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**Lisa Gray** - February 26 at 04:47 PM