



Luther James Gaskell

May 25, 1928 - June 10, 2025

Luther James Gaskell, 97, of Derby, Kansas, passed away peacefully on Tuesday, June 10, 2025, at Derby Assisted Living. Born May 25, 1928, near Cameron, Missouri, to Garfield L. and Lorena (Owens) Gaskell, Jim's life was a testament to hard work, faith, and community involvement. He was preceded in death by his parents, four brothers, John Samuel, Paul Roy, David and Thomas Leonard, two sisters, Olive Amsbury and Iva June Lancaster, and his beloved wife, Lorraine M. Piper Gaskell.

Jim's early years were spent on farms in Missouri and Kansas. He graduated from Horton High School in 1946 and earned a degree in Agriculture from Kansas State University in 1950. He married Lorraine on August 13, 1950, in Overbrook, Kansas, and they settled on a farm east of Altamont, Kansas. His service to his country included a stint as a Guided Missile Repairman in the Armed Services from 1955 to 1957.

Following his military service, Jim dedicated over 37 years to the United States Department of Agriculture, Soil Conservation Service, working in Effingham, Altamont, and Chanute, Kansas. His 23 years as Resource Conservation and Development Coordinator in Southeastern Kansas showcased his dedication to his community. Even after his retirement in April 1994, Jim remained active, working part-time for the Public Wholesale Water Supply District #11 and the SEE-KAN Resource Conservation and Development Project, and even contributing his time to Penwell-Gabel Funeral Homes.

A devoted member of Westview Southern Baptist Church in Chanute since 1971, Jim served tirelessly as a trustee, deacon, chair of the 2003-2004 Church Building Committee, Sunday School teacher, choir member, and on numerous other committees. His faith was a cornerstone of his life. He was also an active member of the National Active and Retired Employees Association (NARFE), serving in various chapters. Jim's commitment extended to the Safari Museum in Chanute, where he served six years as a trustee, and to the Kansas State Soil Conservation Service Retirees Association, holding several officer positions, including editor of their newsletter. In his leisure time, he enjoyed woodworking, tending his yard, and photography.

He is survived by his children, Barbara Kay Parker and Daniel Kent; seven grandchildren; and eight great-grandchildren, along with many nieces and nephews.

Graveside services will be held at the Neosho County Memorial Park Cemetery on Monday, June 16, 2025, at 11:00 AM. Memorial contributions may be made in Jim's name to Westview Southern Baptist Church or the Safari Museum. Jim's legacy of service, faith, and dedication will be deeply missed by all who knew him.

He is now in Heaven with his Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Previous Events

Graveside Service

JUN **16**. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (CT)

Neosho County Memorial Park
21st Street
Chanute, KS

Tribute Wall

MG

“ *Am sure there was a great reunion in Heaven and feel certain Weldon was present! Weldon and Jim remained “best friends” their entire lives!*

Margaret sends her condolences from Boise, Idaho where I now live since Weldon passed.

Margaret Gullickson - June 12, 2025 at 06:02 AM