



James Casper Stone Jr.

December 22, 1940 - February 7, 2019

Darlington, South Carolina

James (Jim) Casper Stone, Jr., born in Darlington, South Carolina on December 22, 1940 to James Casper Stone and Ray Rhodes Stone, passed away peacefully, surrounded by his family, on Thursday, February 7, 2019. Chief, as he is respectfully and affectionately known, also holds the title of Coach, Church Servant, Husband, Daddy, Bo, Mr. Darlington and Friend to all.

As a child, he chased fire trucks and as a teen, he became a track star at his beloved alma mater, St. John's High School (Class of '59) and still holds a state record. He attended the University of South Carolina on an athletic scholarship. While studying, he heard his unit with the South Carolina National Guard called to duty; he shut the book and served during the Cuban Missile Crisis of which he later transferred to the Air Force Reserve to continue and fulfill his obligation to the United States Military.

At the end of his military career, he returned to Darlington and went to work, alongside his father, at the Coca-Cola Bottling Company. In 1962, he joined the Darlington Fire Department which evolved into a 50-year commitment to follow his dreams of being a firefighter, rising quickly through the ranks of Engineer, Captain and Assistant Chief and was the department's first recipient of the Fireman of the Year Award. In 1984, he was promoted as the City of Darlington's first full-time Fire Chief fulfilling and living his dream every day until his retirement in 2012.

Chief also served on Darlington County Council as Councilman, Vice-Chairman and Chairman, the Pee Dee Council of Government and Executive Board, was a founding member of the Darlington Youth Football League and served as a coach in the Dixie Youth Baseball program for many years. He served on the 911 Communications Study Committee and was influential in implementing the system for Darlington County. He was also involved with the American Legion Post 13, St. David's Masonic Lodge, Darlington Downtown Revitalization Association, Darlington Raceway's Ambassador Club and the Darlington Veteran's Memorial. Chief, a lifelong member of First Baptist Church, enjoyed serving on the property, personnel and stewardship committees over the years and was currently serving as a trustee.

Preceded in death by his parents and a sister, Carolyn Stone Godwin, and a son, James

C. (Jay) Stone, III, he is survived by his wife of 53 years, Dot Autry Stone and children and grandchildren who adored him, Angie (Ken) Godbold, Jacey Stone (Jeff Burr), and Jason (Jen) Stone; his grandson Stone Godbold, and three granddaughters, Raychel, Leah and Jenna Stone; his niece, Joanna (Tony) Hall and nephews Joey (Sheree) Godwin and Jim (Shannon) Godwin; special cousin, Libby West and numerous cousins, great-nieces and nephews.

Over the years, Chief received many awards and accolades; however, the most recent, 2018 Legionnaire of the Year for Post 13, was the most meaningful as he was recognized before he was hospitalized. Chief Stone will lie in state in the rotunda of the Darlington County Courthouse on Saturday, February 9, from 4pm – 8pm with his family joining him from 6pm-8pm for visitation. Funeral services will be at First Baptist Church on Sunday February 10, 2019 at 3pm with burial immediately following in Grove Hill Cemetery. Memorials are suggested to Darlington Veteran's Memorial, c/o Danny Weaver, PO Box 62, Darlington, SC 29540. Kistler-Hardee Funeral Home is in charge of the arrangements.

Tribute Wall

DJ

“ Thoughts and prayers for the family in the weeks to come. Chief Stone was a wonderful person and an inspiration to Darlington. May he Rest In Peace. Gone but never forgotten!



Darlene Jackson - February 24, 2019 at 12:17 AM

KL

“ Dot and family, please know that each of you are in our prayers. Stone as I called him was such a pleasure to be around. He always said we were cousins somewhere down the Rhodes clan. He will certainly be missed! I'm here for you if you need me. Take good care of yourself. Love and prayers. Kathy Lawhon

Kathy Lawhon - February 12, 2019 at 09:17 PM



“ When I think of Jimmy Stone, so many memories come to mind. I doubt there are many from Darlington who didn't know him. He was a very special man that lived his life as a true Christian, caring about and helping everyone he could. He really set a great example for all to admire and live up to. Dot, I have you and your family in my heart and prayers. This world lost a great man, but, GOD gained an Angel.

Olivia Baird - February 10, 2019 at 09:55 PM

VW

“ Chief u will be miss dearly especially from Joe's grill Virginia and Cathy. My condolences to dot and the stone family



Virginia Williams - February 10, 2019 at 08:19 PM

DS

Awwwww. Thank you Virginia and Kathy. He loved y'all.

Dot Stone - July 30, 2019 at 01:23 PM

RJ

“ Thank you For your service. Prayers to the family and family in red. Fly High



Rhonda Jones-Norton - February 10, 2019 at 05:02 PM

LC

“ Thank you for all your service to Darlington County. We will miss you ❤️ Our condolences to your family 🙏



Lynn & Danny Coleman - February 10, 2019 at 04:25 PM

AS

“ I will miss Jim in the Kiwanis. He was a great man. Fly High.

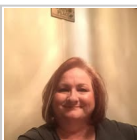


Angela Spencer - February 10, 2019 at 03:07 PM

DB

“ Jacey and Jeff, I am truly sorry for your loss. Words, actions, or time will never repair your broken heart. But in time you will find peace knowing that God need another angel in heaven. Your family will also hold a special place in my heart. Praying and thinking of you. - Love you, Danielle Brigman and Family

Danielle Brigman - February 10, 2019 at 01:14 PM



“ Patricia Gainey Rhodes lit a candle in memory of James Casper Stone Jr.



Patricia Gainey Rhodes - February 10, 2019 at 11:51 AM

GB

“ Having grown up next door to Jimmy Stone (that is what I called him) I would say I was the luckiest kid ever. He was the finest man I have ever known and was like a father to me. He was a true public servant, family man, and role model for many. I have fond memories of many hours spent in the company of he and his family. I will never forget all he did for me and did so unconditionally. The world needs more good men like Jimmy. He will be missed.

Greg Brigman - February 10, 2019 at 10:56 AM

OL

“ Praying for God’s comfort and grace for the Stone family and the Darlington community. Jim lives on in Heaven and here on earth through the many lives that he touched. 🙏

Oby Lyles - February 10, 2019 at 09:13 AM

AT

“ Ann Timmons lit a candle in memory of James Casper Stone Jr.



Ann Timmons - February 09, 2019 at 10:55 PM

PY

“ Pam Yates lit a candle in memory of James Casper Stone Jr.



Pam Yates - February 09, 2019 at 10:53 PM

TT

“ Tommy Thomas lit a candle in memory of James Casper Stone Jr.



Tommy Thomas - February 09, 2019 at 08:52 PM

SB

“ Susan Booker sent a virtual gift in memory of James Casper Stone Jr.



susan booker - February 09, 2019 at 07:57 PM

JW

“ I do not believe I have ever met a man that was more dedicated to family, friends, co-workers and his hometown than Jimmy Stone. I am a better man for knowing him.

Jimmy White

jim White - February 09, 2019 at 06:49 PM

NR

“ Nancy Rhodes sent a virtual gift in memory of James Casper Stone Jr.



Nancy Rhodes - February 09, 2019 at 03:07 PM

HW

“ Holly Wilson sent a virtual gift in memory of James Casper Stone Jr.



Holly Wilson - February 09, 2019 at 02:54 PM

HW

My heart aches for the family of this fine man, a true hero to so many, and loved and admired by countless family and friends. His legacy will live on in the hearts of everyone who had the pleasure of knowing him. Darlington has lost a treasure, and will never be the same! May comfort and peace be found in the memories that he shared with so many!!!

Holly Wilson - February 09, 2019 at 03:01 PM

JP

“ Chief Stone was one of the first people I met when I became the editor of the News & Press. He was always so kind, and so fun to talk to. I can hear him now calling me “Miss Pye” - he was always competitive in solving the “where is this in Darlington County” photos that I printed each week. He loved when he could be the first to guess... and of course, he was always correct!
I have so many fond memories of talking to him about the history of the city, and his dreams for its future.
Heaven gained a tall angel with a big, hearty laugh this week- and all of us here are so fortunate to have known him.
All my love and prayers to his sweet family.

Jana E. Pye - February 09, 2019 at 12:53 PM

DS

“ Debbie & Danny Singletary sent a virtual gift in memory of James Casper Stone Jr.



Debbie & Danny Singletary - February 09, 2019 at 12:39 PM

DS

May GOD send you all the PEACE that passes our understanding!

Debbie & Danny Singletary - February 09, 2019 at 12:40 PM

JG

“ Rest in Peace Mr. Jim

Justin Gattison



Jacqueline Gattison - February 09, 2019 at 11:22 AM

JG

“ My prayers to The Stone family the memories go yrs ago of Mr.Jim coaching my son an nephews to him giving my sister the nickname EARTHQUAKE,an when my sister son passed away Mr Jim came an offered assistance.To the countless days of him coaching my son calling him M&M an always having a pack of m&Ms to give him after the game Mr Jim was instrumental in the boys going on to play sports in hi school We thank him for his service of firechief as a service man,We thank Mrs Dot&the family for not thinking it was robbery to share him with Dgton in the many areas.He certainly will be missed. Justin his side kick for doing odd jobs for Me Jim sends his prayers as our entire Family sends prayers.Mrs Dot I certainly know how heavy ur heart is I list my husband 1yr an a few months ago it's still so fresh yet God is my strength,I(we) encourage you n the family that Prayers make Difference..REST ON CHIEF Jim Stone..the Gattison Family



Jacqueline Gattison - February 09, 2019 at 11:20 AM

CC

“ Dot I am so sorry for your loss. Jimmy was a good man always smiling every time I would see him. He served the City of Darlingron as fire chief for many decades. I always enjoyed interviewing Jimmy for TV . One morning I was interviewing Jimmy and he told me a “nice pair of shoes you have on”,I looked down and I had a brown and black show on. Jimmy said “I bet you have another pair like that just like those at home”. He will be missed. Our prays are with you at a time like this

cecil chandler - February 09, 2019 at 11:19 AM

GP

“ Gail Peavy lit a candle in memory of James Casper Stone Jr.



gail peavy - February 09, 2019 at 10:52 AM

DB

“ Dot and family, I was so saddened to hear about Jimmy's passing. My prayers and thoughts are with you all.



Des Standish Brown - February 09, 2019 at 10:29 AM

SD

“ Sybil Taylor Dixon lit a candle in memory of James Casper Stone Jr.



Sybil Taylor Dixon - February 09, 2019 at 09:58 AM

SI

“ Susan & Johnnie Iseman sent a virtual gift in memory of James Casper Stone Jr.



Susan & Johnnie Iseman - February 09, 2019 at 09:11 AM

MB

“ To Jim's family,
So sorry for your loss. You are in my thoughts and prayers as you walk this hard road.
Mary Lou Blackmon

Mary Lou Blackmon - February 09, 2019 at 09:07 AM

JP

“ Jeff and Paula Pegg purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of James Casper Stone Jr..



Jeff and Paula Pegg - February 09, 2019 at 09:07 AM

SB

“ Sonia Bailey lit a candle in memory of James Casper Stone Jr.



Sonia Bailey - February 09, 2019 at 08:50 AM

SB

Our chief will be missed..he and his family have been part of our family my whole life and our fire dept life and held a special place in Charles heart..more as 2nd daddy..will miss seeing him passing by either in his red truck or the red golf cart and the many Christmas' he came to our house to drop off "chief santa" gifts..he will be missed! Rest peaceful your work here is done but I'm sure that agenda will carry on in heaven! Much love to the family..love always! ❤️

Sonia Bailey - February 09, 2019 at 08:58 AM

BC

“ I will miss Mr. Stone tremendously! He was such a wonderful man and loved all of you dearly. At the sweet potato festival he made sure my little man got a fire hat and balloon and that iconic \$2 bill Jim was famous for. Dot, Jacey and family you all are in my prayers.

Brittany Collins - February 09, 2019 at 08:29 AM

PN

“ Penny Neal lit a candle in memory of James Casper Stone Jr.



Penny Neal - February 09, 2019 at 12:41 AM

EB

“ Eric Bradshaw lit a candle in memory of James Casper Stone Jr.



Eric Bradshaw - February 08, 2019 at 11:25 PM

SB

*“ I am so sorry for your loss .. Chief was a fine man and an amazing Firefighter .. May you all find Gods peace and comfort during this time .. Chief will definitely be missed by all!!
Suzy*



Suzanne Brown - February 08, 2019 at 10:41 PM

JL

“ Jane Lloyd lit a candle in memory of James Casper Stone Jr.



Jane Lloyd - February 08, 2019 at 10:29 PM

RS

“ Ron And Sherron Skipper lit a candle in memory of James Casper Stone Jr.



Ron and Sherron Skipper - February 08, 2019 at 10:26 PM

MB

“ Melissa Brock lit a candle in memory of James Casper Stone Jr.



Melissa Brock - February 08, 2019 at 10:24 PM

RS

“ Ron & Sherron sent a virtual gift in memory of James Casper Stone Jr.



Ron & Sherron - February 08, 2019 at 10:24 PM

CS

“ Chap E. Allison, Sr. lit a candle in memory of James Casper Stone Jr.



Chap E. Allison, Sr. - February 08, 2019 at 09:35 PM

MM

“ Marie Melton lit a candle in memory of James Casper Stone Jr.



marie melton - February 08, 2019 at 09:33 PM

TG

“ We are so sorry for your loss. Angie Godbold it is easy to see where you got all your sweetness and compassion from. Your dad was the perfect role model. You are in my prayers.

Tammy Gathings - February 08, 2019 at 09:26 PM



“ Tobie Reynolds lit a candle in memory of James Casper Stone Jr.



Tobie Reynolds - February 08, 2019 at 09:14 PM

CB

“ So sorry for your loss. I have many great memories of Jimmy. We will keep your family in our thoughts and prayers.

Chris Bryant - February 08, 2019 at 08:32 PM

BF

“ Byram Family lit a candle in memory of James Casper Stone Jr.



Byram Family - February 08, 2019 at 08:13 PM

AG

“ Angie Gainey lit a candle in memory of James Casper Stone Jr.



Angie Gainey - February 08, 2019 at 08:06 PM

JH

“ Chief was one of the Best .going to miss him .Chief was a second dad to me . ALWAYS had a great time at fire dept

Jason Hathcock - February 08, 2019 at 08:05 PM



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of James Casper Stone Jr..



February 08, 2019 at 08:00 PM



“ Angel Odom lit a candle in memory of James Casper Stone Jr.



Angel Odom - February 08, 2019 at 07:29 PM

CS

“ Chief Stone will be missed by everyone who knew him. Our thoughts and prayers are with you.



CD & Dora Strickland - February 08, 2019 at 07:22 PM

MA

“ Myra Anderson lit a candle in memory of James Casper Stone Jr.



Myra Anderson - February 08, 2019 at 07:20 PM

HG

“ With deepest sympathy to the Stone Family.



Howard Godbold - February 08, 2019 at 07:15 PM

SJ

“ You will be miss by many chief rest in peace



Sam allen hall jr - February 08, 2019 at 06:54 PM



“ Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of James Casper Stone Jr..



February 08, 2019 at 06:37 PM

DF

“ Delinda West (A Toyota friend) purchased the Country Basket Blooms for the family of James Casper Stone Jr..



Delinda West (A Toyota friend) - February 08, 2019 at 05:26 PM

SS

“ Sam A. Hall Sr. lit a candle in memory of James Casper Stone Jr.



Sam A. Hall Sr. - February 08, 2019 at 05:15 PM

JC

“ J. JaNet Bishop, Clerk To Council lit a candle in memory of James Casper Stone Jr.



J. JaNet Bishop, Clerk to Council - February 08, 2019 at 05:11 PM

GO

“ Grady L O'Neal lit a candle in memory of James Casper Stone Jr.



Grady L O'Neal - February 08, 2019 at 04:36 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of James Casper Stone Jr..



February 08, 2019 at 04:33 PM



“ Pretty Please was purchased for the family of James Casper Stone Jr..



February 08, 2019 at 04:18 PM

TD

“ TERESA FLOYD DICKERSON lit a candle in memory of James Casper Stone Jr.



TERESA FLOYD DICKERSON - February 08, 2019 at 03:56 PM

TD

YOU ARE IN THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS.
TERESA, BLAN, AND DYLAN DICKERSON

TERESA FLOYD DICKERSON - February 08, 2019 at 03:56 PM

AW

“ Anna Williams lit a candle in memory of James Casper Stone Jr.



Anna Williams - February 08, 2019 at 03:54 PM

AW

Prayers of love to the Stone Family. Rest well, Chief.

Anna Williams - February 08, 2019 at 03:55 PM

HS

“ Heyward & Tammy Shoemake sent a virtual gift in memory of James Casper Stone Jr.



Heyward & Tammy Shoemake - February 08, 2019 at 03:25 PM

BH

“ Brent & Tammy Hammer lit a candle in memory of James Casper Stone Jr.



Brent & Tammy Hammer - February 08, 2019 at 03:14 PM

JC

“ *Judy Calhoun sent a virtual gift in memory of James Casper Stone Jr.*



judy calhoun - February 08, 2019 at 03:05 PM

JC

I will miss seeing Jim and Dot at Shoney's in Florence and him teasing me all the time, my prayers and thoughts are with the family at this difficult time

judy calhoun - February 08, 2019 at 03:07 PM

FH

“ *Frankie Hall lit a candle in memory of James Casper Stone Jr.*



Frankie Hall - February 08, 2019 at 03:04 PM

FH

To all the Stone family, you all will be in my prayers today and the weeks to come. Chief Stone would always turn beside the fire station every morning when I was working and blow the horn . Sorry I won't get to see you all due to work but I will be thinking of you.

Frankie Hall - February 08, 2019 at 03:10 PM

JA

“ *Jimmy Stone and I went to school together, he and I was always cutting up with one another and since school still friends. The thing I will miss is what he always called me when he saw me, What you say Jay Bird. No matter where we were he saw me coming or bumped into each other it was always Jay Bird. I will miss him for sure although I live in Florence I saw him quite often at Hardees eating or some where in Darlington, especially at the Fire Station when I would stop in to see him. My prayer is that God will comfort the family with their loss. I know he loved his family and I also love Jimmy Stone. I am Jay Anderson, Class mate.*

Jay Anderson - February 08, 2019 at 02:54 PM

KL

Please know my thoughts and prayers are with each of you during this time. Stone lived a fulll happy life and so proud of his loving family. Love to each Of you! Pray fully Kathy Lawhon

Kathy Lawhon - February 08, 2019 at 03:51 PM

HC

Dot and family, I was so very sorry to learn of Jimmy's passing. I had seen or talked to him in many years, but I still have fond memories. Hugs and prayers to you. May God grant you comfort in the days ahead.

Hope Carter

Hope CARTER - February 09, 2019 at 05:24 PM