



## Mr. James Lyle

January 15, 1943 - June 5, 2023

Mr. James Joseph Lyle, age 80 of Commerce, GA died Monday, June 5, 2023 at Northeast Georgia Medical Center. James was born on January 15, 1943 in Monroe to the late William C. and Clemmie Lyle. He was a member of Maysville Baptist Church and served in the National Guard from 1964 – 1965.

James started his racing career in 1965 as a race car driver. That evolved with the building of engines where he started Lyle Speed and Automotive. James' love for cars started when he was a little boy and become an ongoing passion in his life. In 1980 James became involved with Elliott Racing when Bill Elliot was setting record speeds on the NASCAR circuit with engines that James helped prepare. In 2015 James was inducted into the Georgia Racing Hall of Fame as an engine builder.

The volunteer fire department was started in 1968 where James was a founding member. James became fire chief in 1994 to present day. He was instrumental in the designing of the Fire Training Center and the JCCI Inmate Fire Team.

James was also involved with the organization and placement of community service workers in Jackson County. He had a love for real estate, loved his community and obtained numerous properties throughout the years.

James is survived by his loving wife of 55 years, Linda Lee Stephens Lyle of Commerce; brother, Richard Lyle of Commerce; sister and brother-in-law, Lynda and Jackie Barrett of Commerce and a number of nieces and nephews.

Funeral services will be 2 PM, Thursday, June 8 at the Jackson County Agricultural Facility with Rev. Guy Baker and Rev. Jerry Baker officiating. Interment will follow in Sunrise Cemetery. The family will receive friends at the agricultural facility Thursday from 11 AM to 2 PM.

Little-Ward Funeral Home, Commerce is in charge of arrangements.

# Cemetery Details

## Sunrise Cemetery

Cemetery St.  
Maysville, GA 30558

# Previous Events

## Visitation

JUN 8. 11:00 AM - 2:00 PM (ET)

Jackson County Agricultural Facility  
1869 County Farm Rd.  
Jefferson, GA 30549

## Service

JUN 8. 2:00 PM (ET)

Jackson County Agricultural Facility  
1869 County Farm Rd.  
Jefferson, GA 30549

# Tribute Wall



“ *Mr. James Lyle*

October 09, 2023 at 05:17 AM



“ *Greetings, I'm Ernie Swindle, I met James who gave me a job and gave me a place to hang my hat when I had no one. I lived in Maysville for over a year before my one parent moved to Commerce. I stayed the night with James and his beautiful wife, knew his brother who drive the fastest mustang around. I had the chance to drive James truck which was black and had wide tires. He was a father figure in a boys life that would later join the Army. I stopped by later to his shop 21 at the time and he knew exactly who I was. Nothing changed much. We went to dinner and and I visited that evening. Again his kind wife was so nice. Both inquired about my life. I will never forget the kindness of James, he knew I slept in pile of blocks at his shop. I worked to buy my cloths and attend school. I pray for family and friends and think I've seen James a couple times. He didn't age mind or soul. Thank you Mrs. Lyles for being a friend, caring adult, and so kind. I will truly miss James in person but think of him weekly. God Bless!*

*Ernest Swindle*

*Retired Army*

*Contractor-BS, AAS*

*Married 38 years and going-Grandfather of 7*

*And turned out pretty good because of kind man and his wife!*

Ernest Swindle - August 29, 2023 at 06:11 PM

ES

*Mrs. Linda Lee Stephens Lyle ,  
I can only presume you remember me being I am the only abandoned  
pet Maysville, GA, although I was picked up at school in Texas, mom  
and aunt said we are taking a ride and put my bike on top of the car a  
station wagon, and I woke up in Maysville. My aunt owned a cafe  
called Hazels and she and her husband z Tommy lived there as well in  
a small double wide. I enrolled in school, walked thru town, and found  
James Lyle Automotive behind and old gas station with a bouncy  
device kids jump on. James was outside and introduced himself as well  
as myself intro. I was sweating pretty good and James bought me a  
coke. After a few hang outs he realized I was a kid taken from one  
state and family and dropped off in another. A few cloths on my back  
and a bike. James said I could earn some money working for him and  
that allowed me to buy my cloths, a jacket, and the shoes that kids  
there wore daily. I played sports at Maysville School and worked. If  
things were ugly at the aunts house and I was pretty much told get lost  
I went to my job location. After working for James a bit we finally met  
when I stayed the night with you two. That night after dinner James  
and a friend took me to a commerce football game and hung out. He  
showed me a very nice time. The next time I met you was when I  
stopped thru some 9-years later and a soldier stationed at Fort Knox,  
KY. I also called James a few times for advice and as his kind self  
would say, Ernie, you call me when you need or any time. I stayed at a  
hotel after visiting with you and Janes in a much nicer home. I think the  
first time I stayed the night you and James lived a trailer park? I could  
be wrong. I am truly sorry I missed James funeral. Yes, I'm 59.5 years  
old and look older than James who didn't age. But, I would have made  
it to his funeral and would have spoke to you. You two changed a kids  
life and help me stayed polarized on the right path. James was a  
wonderful father figure although a big kid himself. We did a lot of  
laughing together. His brother was very nice yet seem more serious as  
in jerk a knot in you if needed. Bless you ma'am, thank you so much.  
Should you ever want to talk my number 580.583.8473. I'm married  
and as aforementioned we have three adult children and 7-grand  
children. Thank you ma'am for being patient and so kind with me. Bless  
your heart, I wish you only the best in life and hope maybe someone  
runs the shop for James from the family? Regardless, that little building  
was where I spent most of my time other than middle school. I was in  
the eighth grade when my mother and aunt had a falling out and ended  
up in commerce at some low economy apartments behind a huge hill  
and the schools that aligned the top ridge line.*

*Thank you Mrs. Linda,  
With Gods Speed, I pray for your happiness and great life and  
celebration being married to the James Lyle!*

*Ernest D. Swindle*

7906 SW Forest Ave  
LAWTON, OK 73505  
Cell: 580-583-8473  
Spouse is: Julia Lynn Cobb Swindle

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**Ernest Swindle** - August 30, 2023 at 01:05 PM

KF

“ Dear Linda,  
It was a lovely service for James. We regret that we didn't get to speak to you personally to extend our sympathy. James will be missed; it was always a highlight of my day when you all stopped by my shop. We have many good memories. We will be remembering you in prayer as you adjust to this new road of life.  
May God bless you,  
Kent and Debbie Ford

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**Kent Ford** - June 13, 2023 at 07:58 PM

RW

“ James was a true mentor to me and was one of my dads best friends (Stanley Wilson) he taught me how to do things the correct way. I spent many many days and nights at his shop and even helped him and Linda with their first computers. He also built us many awesome Ford engines that we still have today. He and Linda were always welcoming of us and sear friends and will missed. He left behind a legacy that will never be forgotten.

Love y'all  
Randy Wilson

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**randy wilson** - June 09, 2023 at 09:51 AM

MB

“ He was always somebody to look up to. He was a truly a great fellow. I will miss him myself.



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**mark Brown** - June 08, 2023 at 09:39 PM

CC

“ James was a great person. He could be very humorous at times. He built Sam several motors through the years. I never minded going to James' shop. It was always spotless so much that you could eat off the floor. He was just as clean in his motor building. We have really lost a great man. Prayers for Linda and the rest of the family. You know he's in Heaven talking race talk with all his drivers.

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**Charlene Cochran** - June 08, 2023 at 02:08 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Mr. James Lyle.



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June 08, 2023 at 09:56 AM

PO

“ Our condolences from one Fire Family to another. We've heard him take control of lots of fires for Maysville Fire through the years.

Steven and Pam Ogletree(South Jackson VFD)



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**Pamela Ogletree** - June 07, 2023 at 01:50 PM

GM

“ A friend and classmate- CHS 1961. Moved away in 1961 - so it was rare to visit and mostly a “drop by” at shop when Joann and I were home visiting her parents. James was a true soul and friend - never wavered in his beliefs and deportment. Prayers for Family - RIP 🙏

George Montgomery - June 07, 2023 at 12:15 PM



“ Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Mr. James Lyle.



June 07, 2023 at 10:36 AM



“ Heavenly Light was purchased for the family of Mr. James Lyle.



June 07, 2023 at 10:02 AM

JW

“ I just saw this and my heart breaks a little. James was without a doubt one of my fathers best friends before he passed. The hours and hours they spent together talking about their favorite things, themselves usually, was as entertaining as the best television. James and Linda were always an amazing couple. James drove Linda crazy, but there was never any doubt she was the love of his life. But she did learn to never stand behind a car stuck in the mud and push again.

James gave me one of my first real jobs and introduced me to paying taxes, punching a clock, and having to show initiative if I wanted to learn the next job. I was lucky enough to learn more about motors and the amount of work that went into being the best at what you do.

I know my pops was waiting on James on the other side, probably with a hand me down fire truck, Ricky, Kevin, Bobby, and the rest, ready to charge the lines and rush the gates of hell.

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**Jon Williams** - June 07, 2023 at 08:58 AM

MP

“ Love and Prayers. Bro. Victor and Margaret Pacheco. Bristol Tn

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**Margaret Pacheco** - June 07, 2023 at 08:28 AM

MP

Temple Baptist Church

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**Margaret Pacheco** - June 07, 2023 at 08:30 AM

GG

“ James was not only the Chief of the fire department he was the fire department I remember my mother had her clothes dryer catch on fire and when James got there he picked the burning dryer up by himself and carried it out of the house my mother couldn't believe it but James was a strong man back in his day me and a friend of mine helped him get a crank out of one of his machines in the shop and he Carried it across the shop himself and when he weighed it it was 600 lbs he just chuckled about it he was a good man and friend he will be missed Greg Greenway

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**Greg Greenway** - June 06, 2023 at 10:20 PM

SM

“ I am shocked and saddened to learn that James is gone.

*I've always considered him a dear friend and have fond memories. The pictures in my scrapbook are even more special now.*

*I admire the exceptional way he maintained his shop. Clean & orderly; he handled business just the same. He had a wit and could tag you with a nickname jiffy quick!*

*James' engines were the gold standard, he was the best of the best = they did not break. It was an honor and a privilege for me to have the opportunity for him to help me "way back when" as I attempted to compete in NASCAR.*

*Condolences to Linda and all the ones that loved him. Godspeed dear friend, rest in peace.*

*~ Steve Moore, Carrollton, GA*

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**Steve Moore** - June 06, 2023 at 08:53 PM

Roscoe  
Smith

“ James was one of the best engine builders I ever dealt with, Honest and always fair in his prices. also a great friend, of mine, sorry to hear of his passing. Roscoe Smith

Roscoe Smith - June 06, 2023 at 08:44 PM

FB

“ Frankie Burrell lit a candle in memory of Mr. James Lyle



Frankie Burrell - June 06, 2023 at 06:42 PM

ED

“ Condolences to the family



Eddie & Kim Dumas - June 06, 2023 at 06:30 PM

PF

“ Very respectful Man !! Rest in Peace. God's comfort for your family 🙏🙏



Pace family - June 06, 2023 at 05:55 PM



“ *Strength & Solace Spray was purchased for the family of Mr. James Lyle.*



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June 06, 2023 at 03:56 PM



“ *John & Mussette Underwood lit a candle in memory of Mr. James Lyle*



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**John & Mussette Underwood** - June 06, 2023 at 03:27 PM



*A good friend and best person you could ever meet. Will be missed everyday. RIP friend*

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**greg mopar walfrop** - June 07, 2023 at 08:19 AM