



## Arthur "Art" James Helms

September 1, 1933 - January 10, 2021

Arthur James Helms of Crocker, Missouri was born on September 1, 1933 to Clarence and Grace Elmyere (McKinnon) Helms. Early Sunday morning, on January 10, 2021, Art departed this life with his loving wife Barbara by his side. He had lived 87 years, 4 months, and 9 days. Art was united in marriage on October 3, 1952, to Christine (Collins) Helms, and from this union three children were born: Gregory, Artina, and Andy. Christine preceded Art in death on November 13, 1977. Fifteen years later, Art gained Valerie, Michelle, and Mark as children when he married Barbara Gayle Helms on July 11, 1992.

Art attended the University of Missouri his freshman year and then transferred to Missouri State, where he was part of the 1953 National Championship basketball team. Art was named All-American and was inducted into the Missouri State Hall of Fame on February 20, 1993. After college, Art was drafted by the St. Louis Hawks of the NBA but chose to play for the Wichita Vickers in the National Industrial basketball league. After his basketball career was over, Art returned to Crocker where he was the proprietor of Art's Service Station for 24 years. He increased his involvement with the community through coaching little league basketball and baseball, being the president of the Crocker Chamber of Commerce, and by serving as the Western District County Commissioner for 12 years. Art also had a 34-year contract to provide school busses for the Crocker School district, where he and Barbara would frequently drive children safely to and from school and various events. Art

enjoyed fishing, pheasant hunting with family and friends, and his morning routine of drinking coffee with Barbara while watching the birds and squirrels feeding. Above all else, he loved spending time with his family – whether it was fishing, hunting, or sitting around the table for a fish fry, as long as he was surrounded by loved ones, Art was content.

Art accepted Jesus Christ as his Lord and Savior at an early age and was baptized at the First Baptist Church in Crocker on December 2, 2001.

Those left to mourn the passing of Art include his wife Barbara (Quesenberry) Helms of Crocker, and his children and their spouses: Greg and Terri Helms of Hot Springs, Arkansas; Artina and David Vincent of Pell City, Alabama; Andy and Deatte Helms of Crocker, Missouri; Valerie Helms of St. Robert, Missouri; Michelle and Michael Gaddie of Lake Forest, California; Mark and Toni Helms of Liberty Lake, Washington. He is also survived by his brother Joseph and Audrey Helms of Downey, California, and his two sisters, Veda Holyfield of Louisiana, and Mary Ann and Ken Galvin of Linn, Missouri. Over the years Art grew to know, love, and inspire 16 grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren.

Art was preceded in death by his wife Christine (Collins) Helms, father Arthur Clarence Helms, mother Grace (McKinnon) Helms, two sisters Alfreda Routh and Louise Anderson, two brothers David and Albert Helms, and grandson Zachary Helms.

Services were held at 12:00 p.m. Saturday, January 16, 2021 in the First Baptist Church of Crocker, Missouri with Pastor Robin Salsman officiating. Art's son, Andy Helms, recalled his wonderful memories of his dad. Jimmy Moore sang "Amazing Grace", the song "Down to the River to Pray" was played, and pianist Lisa Schwandt accompanied the congregation as they sang "I'll Fly Away". Serving as escorts were Ty Helms, Keith Ellis, Steven Helms, Chas Swanenburg, Joseph Allevi, Austen Gaddie, and Clayton

Gaddie. Serving as honorary escorts were Bob Goodrich, Travis Gilstrap, Bud Newcomb, Bob Boulware, Joe Helms, Jim Moulder, Ken Galvin, and Claude Massie. Burial followed in the Crocker Memorial Park Cemetery of Crocker, Missouri. Services were under the direction of Memorial Chapels and Crematory of Waynesville / St. Robert.

Memorial contributions may be made in memory of Art Helms and may be left at Memorial Chapels and Crematory of Waynesville / St. Robert.

# Cemetery Details

## Crocker Memorial Park

Crocker, MO 65452

# Previous Events

## Visitation

JAN **15**. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM.

Memorial Chapels And Crematory Of Waynesville / St. Robert

## Visitation

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

First Baptist Church - Crocker  
Crocker, MO

## Funeral Service

JAN **16**. 12:00 PM.

First Baptist Church Of Crocker

# Tribute Wall



“ *Memorial Chapels and Crematory created a Tribute Video in memory of Arthur "Art" James Helms*



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**Memorial Chapels and Crematory** - June 15, 2022 at 01:11 PM



“ *Memorial Chapels and Crematory created a Tribute Video in memory of Arthur "Art" James Helms*



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**Memorial Chapels and Crematory** - January 18, 2021 at 03:58 PM



“ *Arthur "Art" James Helms*

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January 28, 2023 at 06:53 AM



“ *Uncle, Great-Uncle, and Great-Great-Uncle Art was truly a “Gentle Giant” and is remembered as “the school bus driver” to us! I believe he is in heaven now (probably fishing with his Mom and Dad). Love and Condolences from the Austin, TX Petersons.*

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**Jeff Peterson** - January 22, 2021 at 01:06 AM

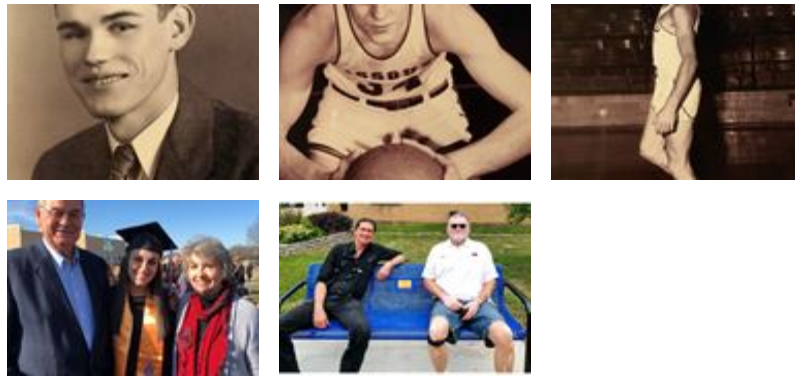
JR

“ Great Uncle Art, the "Gentle Giant". He was one of my favorite people, always a wonderful smile. When I was in high school, I always loved running into him at basketball games. We would always have the nicest chats. When I was older, I always loved it when he stopped by Grandma and Grandpa Routh, I loved hearing the fish stories. He has definitely left a void in the family, but I know he is rejoicing with all his loved ones in heaven. Sending prayers and thoughts to Barb and family. Janice (Routh) Rujawitz

Janice Rujawitz - January 15, 2021 at 12:37 PM



“ 89 files added to the album Life Tributes



Memorial Chapels and Crematory - January 15, 2021 at 10:29 AM

DH

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Deatte Helms - January 15, 2021 at 10:09 AM

LC

“ Art was the best Christian I ever met. He’s in Heaven and enjoying it. My prayers for the family. May God comfort each of you.

Liz Crawford - January 14, 2021 at 08:20 PM

GB

“ Gary And Brenda Bales lit a candle in memory of Arthur "Art" James Helms



Gary and Brenda Bales - January 14, 2021 at 12:04 AM

TI

“ I send my deepest condolences to Art’s family. I first met him, when I worked at the nursing home in Richland. He was always such a sweet man. He will be missed. May his family find peace and comfort during this difficult time.  
Tiffannie McDaniel-Neel

Tiffannie - January 13, 2021 at 08:39 PM

SW

“ So very sorry for your loss, Art was a wonderful man and the best bus driver, loved when he was our driver for ballgames and events!



Shaunna Weber - January 13, 2021 at 09:22 AM

PG

“ Pulaski County Camp Gideons lit a candle in memory of Arthur "Art" James Helms



Pulaski County Camp Gideons - January 13, 2021 at 09:09 AM

MH

“ Marilyn Hayden lit a candle in memory of Arthur "Art" James Helms



marilyn hayden - January 13, 2021 at 08:13 AM



“ So sorry to hear this sad news. Prayers for the family.



Mary Haas - January 12, 2021 at 10:00 PM

RH

“ Rick And Robin Hobbs lit a candle in memory of Arthur "Art" James Helms



Rick and Robin Hobbs - January 12, 2021 at 08:55 PM

CD

“ *My uncle has told me many good stories about playing basketball against Art back in the 50's. He says that Art was the toughest player he ever faced and my uncle was on the 1951 WHS basketball team that came in second in the State, losing to Puxico Indians in the finals. Our condolences to Art's family and friends.*



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**Cornelia & Robert Dodds** - January 12, 2021 at 05:47 PM

MB

“ *Barbara and family; we are sorry! It's hard to lose our friends and peers! Paul and Millie Howlett Brotherton*

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**Millie Brotherton** - January 12, 2021 at 02:53 PM

MS

“ *Marge Scott lit a candle in memory of Arthur "Art" James Helms*



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**Marge Scott** - January 12, 2021 at 10:08 AM