



JAMES AVERY "JIMMY" LEE

DEC 25, 1935 - JAN 14, 2022



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JULIETTE –

On December 25, 2021, James Avery “Jimmy” Lee celebrated his 86th birthday, and he passed away unexpectedly on Thursday, January 14, 2022. Services to Celebrate the Life of Jimmy Lee will be held on Wednesday, January 19, 2022, at Watson-Hunt Funeral Home in Perry. Visitation will begin at 4:00 p.m., and the Service will follow at 5:00 p.m.

Jimmy was born and raised in Perry and was a graduate of Perry High School. He attended both Middle Georgia College in Cochran and Mercer University in Macon. He proudly served our country in the Georgia Army National Guard from 1953 to 1967.

Lee began his broadcasting career in 1955 as an afternoon DJ for WRBN, Warner Robins, broadcasting from a remote studio in Perry. Two years later, he joined the staff of Perry’s WBBN Radio, which later became WPGA. In 1958, Jimmy married the love of his life, Iris Odell. The very next year, Lee was named program director for WPGA. In 1960, Lee and his family moved up the road to Macon to join the staff of WMAZ Radio and Television as a newsman and announcer. The following year he was named Promotion Director for WMAZ AM/FM and Farm Director for the stations. He later was named Operations Director for WMAZ AM/FM.

In 1967, Jimmy began producing the weekly Georgia Farm Monitor program for the Georgia Farm Bureau Federation that was carried on 42 radio stations and WMAZ-TV. He later created the “Georgia Farm Monitor” television network that was broadcast statewide for Georgia Farm Bureau on 18 television stations with Macon’s WMAZ as the flagship station. Over the years, Lee produced and hosted 936 half-hour television shows with never a repeat show.

In 1970, Lee joined the staff of Georgia Farm Bureau as director of radio and television services. In 1977, he was named Information Director for Georgia Farm Bureau. In addition, from 1980 until 1985, Lee produced six daily radio programs for the Georgia News Network (GNN). He also



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produced a monthly radio essay that was distributed nationally by the American Farm Bureau Federation on 200 radio stations.

In 1984-85, Lee was co-host with Steve Bell, from University of Georgia, on a farm show, "The Georgia Farmer," on the Georgia Public Television network. The half-hour show was broadcast on Friday nights at 7:30 p.m. with a 15-minute segment presented at 12 Noon. The shows were a collaboration of Georgia Farm Bureau, University of Georgia, and Georgia Public TV. It won top farm show in the nation from the American Farm Bureau.

In 1985, Lee left Georgia Farm Bureau and co-founded Master Video Productions with his son, James A. Lee, Jr. From 1985 to 1997, he produced and hosted "Georgia Peanut Update," a weekly half-hour television program for the Georgia Peanut Commission that was broadcast on five television stations. He also began producing and hosting a daily radio program for the Georgia Peanut Commission, converted later to a farmer-information "Hotline" call-in report. He produced a nationally syndicated television show, "One If by Land." The monthly show dealt with property rights abuse of private landowners by the local, state, and federal governments, and aired to the NET Network in Washington, D.C. In 1997, Jimmy returned to Georgia Farm Bureau as a commodity promotion specialist and occasionally produced features for the "Georgia Farm Monitor."

During all his years in broadcasting, Lee received numerous honors and awards. The American Foundation of Agriculture named him the National Farm Broadcaster of the Year in 1972. He received the top award in the nation from the American Farm Bureau Federation for his television and radio shows for nine different years, from 1970 through 1984. In 1977, Lee received the Associated Press Award for the Best Public Affairs television show in Georgia. In 1994, Lee received the Georgia Peanut Commission Media Award. And in February 2006, Lee was inducted into the Georgia Association of Broadcaster's Hall of Fame. His portrait and a plaque are displayed in the Henry W. Grady School of Journalism at the University of Georgia.

He was a Past President of the Greater Macon Chamber of Commerce Farmer's Club and was Charter President of the North Macon Exchange Club and was named Exchangite of the Year in 1987. He also served as Southeast Regional Vice President of the National Association of Farm Broadcasters.

Jimmy retired from Georgia Farm Bureau in December of 2007 and began serving as a multi-



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media producer for the Georgia Peanut Commission. In 2016, he celebrated his 64th year in broadcasting and officially retired.

Jimmy was preceded in death by his parents, Avery and Josephine Holloman Lee; his brother, Joneal Lee; and his beloved wife of 61 years, Iris Odell Lee.

Left to cherish the memories they made with Jimmy are his loving and devoted son and daughter-in-law, Jamie and Cheryl Lee of Juliette; his grandchildren, Breana "Breezy" Lee and Colby Lee; one great-grandson, Avery Lee; and several nieces, nephews, and other extended family members.

Condolences for the family and special memories of working with Jimmy may be left in the online guestbook at www.watsonhunt.com. Watson-Hunt Funeral Home has been entrusted with the arrangements.






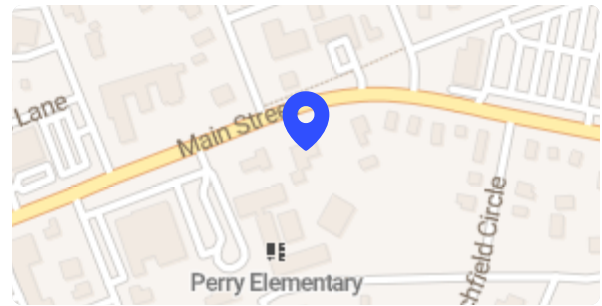
Events

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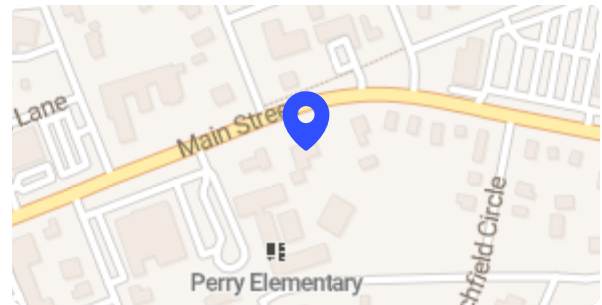
Visitation

-  **Wednesday**, January 19, 2022
-  4:00 PM - 5:00 PM ET
-  **Watson - Hunt Funeral Home**
1208 Main Street, Perry GA 31069



Celebration of Life

-  **Wednesday**, January 19, 2022
-  5:00 PM ET
-  **Watson - Hunt Funeral Home**
1208 Main Street, Perry GA 31069





Tribute Wall

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JL

Jill Lee posted:

Loved Aunt Iris and Uncle Jimmy Very much. Love, cousin Jill Lee Jillian5454@gmail.com

June 28 at 2:47 PM

JH

Jon D. Huffmaster, Sr posted:

I came to work with Georgia Farm Bureau in 1982, and that was where I met Jimmy Lee. I continued with GFB for 40 years, and I knew Jimmy well during the years he was there. I knew him to be a fine man of great moral integrity. He was always kind, friendly, and positive, and he was always straight in all his dealings with me. I am sorry to hear of his passing, and I offer my condolences to the family.

March 8 at 3:39 AM

SM

Steve Malone posted:

I'm so sorry to hear of Jimmys passing. He was a good friend and co-worker over the years. In 1963 he hired me to work at WMAZ Radio and help him produce the farm news. Fourteen years later he hired me again to help him at Georgia Farm Bureau produce Farm Radio news and The Georgia Farm Monitor for TV.. He was always a great boss and friend. He was always happy and easy to work with. He will surely be missed. My condolences to Jamie and his family. Steve Malone

January 17 at 6:38 AM

GT

G. Thomas Lee shared 2 photos to the **Jimmy Lee** album.



January 16 at 11:14 AM



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G. Thomas Lee shared an album called **Jimmy Lee**.



January 16 at 8:40 AM

JH **Johnny Holliday** July 24 at 12:18 PM

My first job in Radio in 1956 was in Perry at WBBN. Jimmy was already working for the station and took me, an 18 year old kid, under his wing. We spoke a lot over the years. He was such a professional in every sense of the word. To his family and friends, my deepest Sympathy. Johnny Holliday

SB **Susan Brown** January 17 at 7:59 AM

Enjoyed and looked forward to Mr. Jimmy's farm reports each week. Condolences to his family.

GL **G. Thomas Lee** January 16 at 8:41 AM

September 2008



Media

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G. Thomas Lee shared 2 photos to the **Jimmy Lee** album.

January 16 at 11:14 AM





Media

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G. Thomas Lee shared a photo to the **Jimmy Lee** album.

January 16 at 8:40 AM



September 2008



G. Thomas Lee January 16 at 8:41 AM
September 2008



Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring JAMES by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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