



## James "Jim" Holt Mitchell

February 26, 1941 - November 25, 2024

James Holt Mitchell, 83, of Bowling Green, MO, passed away surrounded by his family on Monday, November 25, 2024, at University of Missouri Hospital in Columbia. He was born on February 26, 1941 in Montgomery City, MO, and was the son of the late Jessie Elwood and Mary Helen (Holt) Mitchell. Jim was united in marriage to Elizabeth (Betty) Sue Bibb on July 26, 1964, at the First Presbyterian Church in Bowling Green, MO, and to this union, two sons and one daughter were born.

Jim graduated from Bowling Green High School in 1959. Following his high school graduation, Jim attended college at Mizzou, obtaining both a Bachelor of Science in Education and the rank of Second Lieutenant in the advanced ROTC training program. Jim began his time in the Air Force with flight training in Oklahoma and specialized training on flying the F-4 Phantom II in Florida, with Betty at his side. Becoming a fighter pilot in the Air Force was one of Jim's proudest accomplishments (until his grandchildren came along).

Jim spent one year in Cam Ranh Bay Air Base in Vietnam, and then was stationed at several different Air Force bases around the country (and outside the states), from Arizona to New Mexico to England, then back stateside to Georgia before going to Korea for a year without his family (a very hard year for all of them), followed by the last two years of his Air Force career back in Georgia. In all, Jim spent 20 years in the Air Force, racking up over 4000 hours of flight time as a pilot, flying F4s, T38s, and F-111s during his service. Jim received 14 oak leaf clusters for his service in Vietnam, as well as a

Distinguished Flying Cross.

After retiring from the Air Force, Jim and his family came home to Bowling Green, where he began his second career as a high school physical science and physics teacher. His students remember him fondly for his “POP” quizzes, “SA” tests, and the pixie dust he would use in the classroom to make experiments work. Following 17 years as a full time teacher at the high school and middle school, Jim retired again, but couldn't sit still. He then started teaching at St. Clement Catholic school, working there for another 5 years. After that, Jim continued substitute teaching at all the area schools until just this year.

An avid runner all of his life, Jim participated in many races, including running for BG at state while in high school, winning second place in both the indoor and outdoor half-mile. He also ran a marathon while he was in Seoul, Korea in 1983. He ran in numerous 5K races locally, and even ran in the Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure with his oldest son who inherited his love of running. Jim was known by his family as “The Baby Whisperer” because he had the ability to soothe a fussy baby like no one else. He loved all children, especially his grandchildren, nieces, nephews, and great-nieces and great nephews. He could usually be found at family gatherings with the youngest kids, pushing them around in cardboard boxes, pretending they were in cars, or just walking them around the house in circles in umbrella strollers. Jim was a coach to his own kids in all the sports they played growing up, and continued that with his nieces and nephews. He and Betty would travel across the state to see their grandchildren participate in any of the numerous activities they were involved in, and hated having to miss anything. He enjoyed Dad jokes, and had great wit, and loved a good pun. He was a voracious reader, enjoying all kinds of books, but mostly mystery and spy novels. He was a lover of puzzles, from crosswords to Boggle, and most recently had begun to enjoy Wordle. Jim was a member of the local VFW Post 5553 and the Bowling Green First Presbyterian Church.

Jim is survived by his loving wife, Betty Sue, of Bowling Green, MO; children:

Timothy "Tim" Mitchell and wife Michelle of Mexico, MO; Jeffrey "Jeff" Mitchell and wife Shannon of Fenton, MO; and Melissa Walker and husband Jim of Bowling Green, MO; grandchildren: Dr. Nyja Mitchell, Joseph Mitchell, Jordan Mitchell, Brianna Walker, Asher Mitchell, Holt Mitchell, and Morgan Walker; siblings: Barbara Kuda and husband Frank of Maplewood, MO; Paul Smith and wife Paulette of Spearfish, SD; and Walter Mitchell and wife Mary of Indiana; Bonham Bibb and wife Joyce; Mona Grote and husband Dave; Jack Bibb and wife Cathy; and Rich Marchetto and wife Connie; numerous nieces and nephews who meant the world to him; and long-time foster son Thomas "Tom" Manker, of Columbia, MO. Jim was preceded in death by his parents and his in-laws, Earl "Bennie" Bibb and Frances Bibb; sister-in-law Judith "Judy" Marchetto; and nephew Christopher "Chris" Marchetto.

Family and friends will be received from 1:00-3:00pm at Bibb-Veach Funeral Home in Bowling Green. A Celebration of Jim's life will follow. The family has requested donations in Jim's name to be made to Bowling Green High School Alumni Association or Pike County Sheltered Workshop.

# Previous Events

## Memorial Visitation

NOV **29**. 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM (CT)

Bibb-Veach Funeral Home's & Crematory LLC - Bowling Green

606 West Main Street

Bowling Green, MO 63334

(573) 324-2211

[office@bibbveach.com](mailto:office@bibbveach.com)

<https://www.bibbveach.com/>

## Memorial Service

NOV **29**. 3:00 PM (CT)

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# Tribute Wall

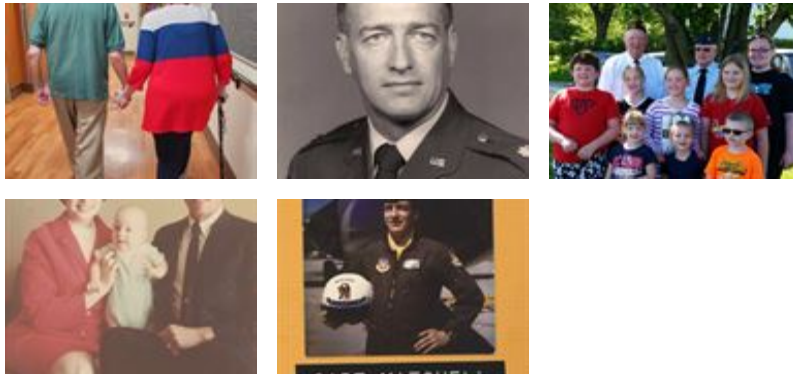
SB

“ *I'm so sorry for your loss. Jim was a good man— I know he is greatly missed.* ”

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**Stacey Bibb** - November 29, 2024 at 05:23 PM



“ 264 files added to the album *LifeTributes* ”



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**Bibb-Veach Funeral Home's, LLC.** - November 28, 2024 at 04:45 PM

JR

“ *Betty and family! Deepest sympathy for you at time . I remember all the good times we had at the church soup and chili suppers! He worked so hard right along with us! Love and prayers!* ”



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**Jack and Jane Reid** - November 28, 2024 at 03:33 PM

BO

“ Brad Owens purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of James "Jim" Holt Mitchell.



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**Brad Owens** - November 28, 2024 at 09:31 AM

BO

“ Brad Owens planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of James "Jim" Holt Mitchell.

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**Brad Owens** - November 28, 2024 at 09:31 AM



“ Betty and family, so sorry for your loss. Jim was a wonderful man and amazing teacher. BG and St. Clement schools were blessed to have him as a teacher.



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**Donna Korte Wiss** - November 28, 2024 at 09:25 AM

LS

“ Love, Robb, Amy, Scarlett and Ezra Sherm purchased the Sweet Tenderness for the family of James "Jim" Holt Mitchell.



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**Love, Robb, Amy, Scarlett and Ezra Sherm** - November 27, 2024 at 06:59 PM

RL

“ Robin, Richard, Todd, Susan, Nick, Lisa planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of James "Jim" Holt Mitchell.

Robin, Richard, Todd, Susan, Nick, Lisa - November 27, 2024 at 05:18 PM

RL

“ Robin, Richard, Todd, Susan, Nick, Lisa purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of James "Jim" Holt Mitchell.



Robin, Richard, Todd, Susan, Nick, Lisa - November 27, 2024 at 05:18 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of James "Jim" Holt Mitchell.

November 27, 2024 at 11:28 AM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of James "Jim" Holt Mitchell.



November 27, 2024 at 11:28 AM



“ So sorry we can't be there Betty. You and the whole family are in our thoughts and prayers 🙏❤️

Sarah Freeman - November 27, 2024 at 11:20 AM

JG

*Thoughts and prayers for Betty Sue and her family. Jo Ann Johnson Gibbany*

**Jo Ann Gibbany** - November 28, 2024 at 11:35 AM

PC

“ *Pam Cole sent a virtual gift in memory of James "Jim" Holt Mitchell*



**Pam Cole** - November 27, 2024 at 01:12 AM

PP

“ *Deepest condolences to the families.*



**Peggy Perkins** - November 27, 2024 at 12:19 AM

HS

“ *Mr. Mitchell was a wonderful science teacher, but an even better human. I always our visits when he was a subbing at St. Clement. My deepest condolences to the family during this difficult time.*

**Heather Spegal-Ritchey** - November 26, 2024 at 11:07 PM

CM

“ Carla Mills sent a virtual gift in memory of James "Jim" Holt Mitchell



Carla Mills - November 26, 2024 at 08:12 PM

MC

“ Mark Cohea lit a candle in memory of James "Jim" Holt Mitchell



Mark Cohea - November 26, 2024 at 08:11 PM

MC

*The Mitchell's are our neighbors!  
"Mr. Mitchell" kept students and staff tickled! At the same time, he had a knack for getting through to all of his Students at St. Clement (and all of his students through the years!)  
One year his gift to the teachers was a homemade-handmade Christmas Tree!  
Ours has been dressed and re-dressed for.....well, ever. He caused all of us to be grateful to God, every day.  
We love him and his Sweetie-pie.  
Continuing love & Prayers,  
Doc & Mignon*

Mignon Purcell Chismarich - November 26, 2024 at 11:41 PM



*It was always an honor to serve and enjoy his help and dedication to the services with the VFW. He will be greatly missed. We all loved ya Jim.*

*Tom Marshall*

Tom Marshall - November 27, 2024 at 02:05 PM

GD

“ *Gray Donnalley purchased the Sacred Duty Spray for the family of James "Jim" Holt Mitchell.*



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**Gray Donnalley** - November 26, 2024 at 08:02 PM

KO

“ *Kathy Orf sent a virtual gift in memory of James "Jim" Holt Mitchell*



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**Kathy Orf** - November 26, 2024 at 06:13 PM