



## James Wright Hobbs

March 5, 1934 - September 10, 2024

James W. Hobbs, 90, died on Tuesday, September 10, 2024, in Bartlesville, Oklahoma, after a short illness.

Jim was born to Marconi Hobbs and Lucille Pitts Hobbs on March 5, 1934, in Wichita Falls, Texas. His father passed away when he was only nine years old, but he grew up in a household surrounded by family and love, including two brothers, three cousins, an aunt, and his beloved grandmother, Mama Pitts.

Jim attended Alamo Elementary and Zundy Jr. High, and graduated from Wichita Falls High School in 1952. He then left Texas to attend the Colorado School of Mines, where he joined the Kappa Sigma fraternity and played on the football team.

After graduating with his Bachelor's in petroleum refining engineering in 1956, he joined the Navy and became a Seabee. The highlight of his military service was his tour of duty in Antarctica during 1958, the International Geophysical Year. In honor of his work there, the highest peak in the Williams Hills of Antarctica was named for him: Mount Hobbs.

Jim's career was spent working in the petroleum industry. He returned to Mines and earned a master's degree, and was awarded a number of patents

while working for Applied Automation and Phillips Petroleum in Bartlesville, Oklahoma, and Sweeny, Texas. He married Karen Hobbs in Bartlesville in 1966, and they had a daughter three years later. He eventually retired to Kerrville, Texas, where he attended the First United Methodist Church and built a wonderful community of friends.

He loved playing tennis and racquetball and made many friends on the courts. He attended John Newcombe's Tennis Fantasies camp twice, where he hobnobbed with such distinguished tennis professionals as Ken Rosewall, Roy Emerson and John Newcombe himself. He also dearly loved making music, and often introduced himself as an "internationally unknown folk singer." From playing the guitar in his high school band, The Westerners, to singing and playing banjo with the Saints Alive chorus in Kerrville, his life was full of song.

Jim was preceded in death by his mother, Lucille Rains, and his brothers, John Mark Hobbs and Jerry Allen Hobbs. He is survived by his daughter, Ellen Hobbs, her wife, Kyre Osborn, and his grandson, Fergus Osborn-Hobbs; and Karen Hobbs.

Services may be planned for the future; for now, we encourage you to raise a glass of champagne in his memory and sing one of his favorite hymns, "Just a Closer Walk with Thee" or "I'll Fly Away." Or maybe just "Good Night, Irene."

There are many charitable organizations to which he donated regularly. In lieu of flowers please make a donation to one of his favorites:

- o Mercy Ships
- o Texas Children's Hospital
- o Hill Country Youth Orchestras
- o San Antonio Food Bank
- o Doctors Without Borders



# Tribute Wall

PT

“ I sang with Jim in the KFUMC Saints Alive chorus. I always enjoyed his kind and gentle nature. He was a great singer and musician and a good friend. Paul Toops, Kerrville, TX.

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**Paul E. Toops** - October 07, 2024 at 04:58 PM

BO

“ I was in the Kappa Sigma pledge class with Jim. There were great times as Jim and Tim Thompson did their version of Homer and Jethro by demand at every party! Then, later, Jim would sing solos and that I remember most of all. He quietly excelled at school and also after graduating. I will always cherish the times spent with Him.  
Dick O'Neil

"I have always thought of Jim as a dear friend. A gentle, thoughtful man with a "heavenly" voice. He must be now singing with the angels. Love you Jim, Barbara O'Neil

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**Barbara O'neil** - October 06, 2024 at 12:56 PM

WR

“ I met Jim two or three decades ago during a trip to Kerrville and the Kerrville HEB Tennis Center. We struck up a conversation and played several times over the next couple of years. Singles. He won. Later, we sometimes met in his home and talked about guitar/folk music and a few tunes he'd written.

*Jim's obituary contains a LOT (Wow!) that I never knew, and that he never mentioned. He was that kind of guy, in my small experience with him: modest, unassuming, not given to talking about his achievements.*

*He wondered about the house next door (a decade or so ago), which he thought was a bit mysterious because no one seemed to live there, but a large potted plant seemed healthy and sometimes was moved. I hope he finally solved the mystery.*

*He was very close to friends from the Colorado School of Mines. .*

*What a nice, and good, man! May he rest in peace, and perhaps find family and friends who have gone before, and may you and your family get through this period with good memories and, as I wish for him, peace.*

*Bill Reid*

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W.H. Reid - October 05, 2024 at 02:00 PM



“ 20 files added to the album Jim Hobbs



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**Ellen Hobbs** - September 29, 2024 at 10:51 PM