



Jimmy Joe Burton

June 14, 1941 - August 20, 2025

Jimmy Joe Burton, a beloved and dedicated husband, father, grandfather, great-grandfather, teacher, and veteran, passed away peacefully on August 20, 2025, at the age of 84. Born on June 14, 1941, Jimmy dedicated his life to family, education, and service to his country. Jimmy graduated from Skiatook High School in 1959. He has a Bachelor's in Science degree in Mathematics Education from Northeastern State University and a Master's of Science degree in Education from Northeastern State University.

After serving four years in the U.S. Air Force, Jimmy began his long and impactful career at Will Rogers High School in Tulsa, Oklahoma. For decades, he taught thousands of students the intricacies of Calculus, Trigonometry, Geometry, and Algebra. He had a passion for developing student leaders and served as the longtime sponsor for the student council, a role in which he was able to guide and mentor future generations. He was known for his gregarious personality and a love for telling jokes, often using humor to make complex mathematical concepts more approachable.

Beyond the classroom, Jimmy was a devoted family man. He is survived by his loving wife of over 60 years, Sharon Prentice Burton. Together, they raised four children, who gave them 11 grandchildren and four great-grandchildren, with one on the way. He cherished his role as a husband, father, grandfather, and great-grandfather. His family was the center of his world.

In his retirement, Jimmy and Sharon enjoyed traveling the world as avid cruisers. He was a true connoisseur of cuisine, always seeking out new and delicious experiences on his travels. He also loved re-connecting with students at Will Rogers High School reunions.

Jimmy's legacy lives on in the countless students he inspired, the leaders he helped shape, and the loving family he leaves behind. His humor, kindness, and unwavering dedication will be deeply missed by all who knew him.

He was preceded in death by his father, Charles Arvil Burton; his mother, Ruth Etolia Gibson Burton; and his sister, Beverly Ann Burton Collins. He is survived by his wife; Sharon Burton, brother; Ronnie Burton, and children; Melissa "Missy" Bush, Erick Burton, Jeremy Burton, and Sarah Vann. He is also survived by grandchildren Tyler Bush, Madyson Bush Boultinghouse, Megan Bush Warren, Connor Burton, Joe Burton, Macy Bush, Evan Burton, Sydney Vann, Emma Burton, Seth Vann, and Hope Burton, along with great-grandchildren Tyce Bush, Trace Bush, Blakely Boultinghouse, and Hadleigh Warren.

A memorial service will be held at Riveted Church in Skiatook on Saturday, August 30, 2025, at 3:00 PM.

In lieu of flowers, please donate in his name to your charity of choice.

The service will be live streamed. Please use this link. <http://facebook.com/rivetedchurchfb>

Previous Events

Memorial Service

AUG **30**. 3:00 PM (CT)

Riveted Church Skiatook
14765 N 52nd W Ave
Skiatook, OK 74070
(918) 396-1112

Tribute Wall



“ *Mr. Burton was my favorite teacher by far. After the first math class I had with him, I managed to take all my high school math classes from him! He was such a wonderful teacher and person. Rest in peace.*

Tom Upshaw (Class of '78) - October 02, 2025 at 11:27 AM



“ *Charlotte M. planted a grove of 3 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Jimmy Joe Burton.*

Charlotte M. - September 02, 2025 at 11:16 PM



“ *Sincere condolences and prayers for peace for a wonderful man who led his family to be the best they could be me we have good memories of the Burton family*

CH and Pat Whiteman - August 30, 2025 at 05:26 PM



“ *A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Jimmy Joe Burton.*

August 29, 2025 at 01:21 PM



“ *Crystal Cross Bouquet was purchased for the family of Jimmy Joe Burton.*



August 29, 2025 at 01:21 PM



“ *Christina Tate (Parks) planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Jimmy Joe Burton.*

Christina Tate (Parks) - August 25, 2025 at 10:12 PM



“ *Christina Tate (Parks) purchased the Beautiful Dreams for the family of Jimmy Joe Burton.*



Christina Tate (Parks) - August 25, 2025 at 10:12 PM



“ *I was maybe an average math student. Between my Daddy and Mr Burton's help, I escaped with a passing grade in Geometry. I would venture to say that he was one of the best math instructors in the country. His daily enthusiasm and sense of humor were both contagious. He rarely missed a reunion (we've already had our 50th), and that alone attests to his life-long passion for student learning.*

Rest in Peace Mr Burton. You made a difference for thousands of students. Deepest sympathy go out to his loved ones. .

Martha Humes - August 24, 2025 at 05:25 PM

PM

“ Graduated from Rogers in 1971. I am a substitute teacher and often try and emulate Mr. Burton. He was a good teacher, firm when needed but always respectful. I think of him often. Rest in Peace Mr. Burton and thanks. Pat Moriarty

Pat Moriarty - August 23, 2025 at 10:32 PM

RS

“ What I found so wonderful about Mr. Burton years later after he had taught us all in highschool was that when we would go back to our reunions...he was there. He never needed to see our name tags. As we walked up to him he would call us out by our names and open his arms for a big hug. That meant everything to me. He was the best.

Ranell Barham Shea

Ranell Braham Shea - August 23, 2025 at 02:19 PM

SJ

“ I remember Mr. Burton with such love and fondness! He was our student council sponsor during my years at Rogers, and I served on the council for two years. What a saint! He taught us responsibility and leadership, ferried us to state conferences, chaperoned us, and laughed with (at?) us.

Jim Burton was a great man, and an example of what an educator should be.

I am very sorry for your loss.

Shelley (Sizemore) Jordan, WRHS Class of '72

Shelley Jordan - August 23, 2025 at 08:18 AM

SJ

“ When I think of my time at Will Rogers High School, Mr. Burton is always included. He was my Geometry teacher, and he was also one of the best math instructors I have ever had. His enthusiasm, sense of humor, and energy were contagious. I regret that I didn't continue into higher math as he wanted me to, but we don't always make the best decisions at that age. He was strict (in a good way), and that made me respect him even more. He will be missed. My condolences to his family.

Stephanie Baker Janowski, WRHS class of 1973

Stephanie Janowski - August 23, 2025 at 01:52 AM



“ Mr. Burton was my favorite teacher. Geometry, Intermediate Algebra, and as an assistant to him my senior year. I saw him once at TU and it was wonderful to catch up. He was kind, funny, but made you think and helped you understand the intricacies of “math”. I won't ever forget him. He was the best.

Charlotte Westbrook McDaniel, Rogers class of 1971

Charlotte Westbrook McDaniel - August 22, 2025 at 11:34 PM

GC

“ Gayle Ingle Cude planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Jimmy Joe Burton.

Gayle Ingle Cude - August 22, 2025 at 09:59 PM

GC

“ *Gayle Ingle Cude purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Jimmy Joe Burton.*



Gayle Ingle Cude - August 22, 2025 at 09:59 PM

LW

“ *Mr. Burton was a great teacher and most everyone who had his classes will say he is their favorite teacher. He was so dedicated and obviously loved his students and did anything he could to help them succeed. I loved how he continued to connect with former students by attending our reunions and special events at the school. He made the world a better place. I will miss seeing his smiling face.*

Leslie Lazzaro Westemeir - August 22, 2025 at 08:28 PM

MM

“ *I didn't have a class with Mr. Burton at Will Rogers, however it was obvious that he was respected by all. It's always sad when we lose a Roper. I know he will be missed by family and friends.*
Mark Miller
Class of 1977

Mark Miller - August 22, 2025 at 06:38 PM

JM

“ *Jason David Miller lit a candle in memory of Jimmy Joe Burton*



Jason David Miller - August 22, 2025 at 04:24 PM

JM

He was wonderful teacher and friend and great Roll model to all Rest in Peace my friend Jason David Miller Will Rogers Class of 1990

Jason David Miller - August 22, 2025 at 04:27 PM

CB

“ Charlie and Sharolyn Bowman purchased the Fair rest of All for the family of Jimmy Joe Burton.



Charlie and Sharolyn Bowman - August 22, 2025 at 10:50 AM

CB

“ Charlie and Sharolyn Bowman planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Jimmy Joe Burton.

Charlie and Sharolyn Bowman - August 22, 2025 at 10:50 AM

CL

“ This man spent hours with me in the library outside of school hours trying so hard to get me to understand proofs in geometry. Those are one of the best memories of high school. He made you feel like family. Miss that guy. RIP Mr. Burton c/o 92

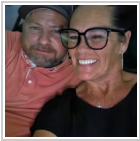
Christopher Lowe - August 22, 2025 at 03:03 AM

RB

“ *Mr. Burton, Thank you for the education you gave me. We had a small group of us that made it to your home for an advanced math party. Forever grateful for your love of teaching.*
Robert Hill c/o '91 Will Rogers High



Robert Hill Brasier - August 21, 2025 at 08:17 PM



“ *I didn't get to spend much time with you while you were at Bartlesville Assisted Living but when I did the 1940s Photo's and he showed no expression. He was a simple man who was very kind. He sure enjoyed eating. I took your photos and hoped that wouldn't be the last time, sadly it was. Rest easy Sir, Thank You for your Service to our Country and for blessing us for the short time you were with us.*

Heather Hoover - August 21, 2025 at 07:19 PM



“ *What a great guy! Always remembered fondly. Praying for peace & comfort for his wonderful family.*



Alison Park - August 21, 2025 at 06:16 PM

GC

Jim Burton was my high school algebra teacher. I tried so hard but was making a D. So I went to see him and talk about it. He worked with me EVERY morning for the rest of the school year. I pulled the D up to a C and then a B. The next year, I was his assistant. There was a girl like me who was struggling. He assigned her to me for help. I thought he was crazy! He was SMART and wise to do that because it helped us both!

We've stayed in touch over the years. He tutored me through college algebra with a terrible teacher and did the same for my husband. From that point on, I got A's in post graduate math classes!

I have a bachelors, masters, and doctoral degree. In those programs I received plenty of pedagogical theory and techniques. However, everything I learned about being a good teacher, I learned from Jim Burton. Those techniques include compassion, understanding, passion for your topic, the ability to see a student beyond a grade, and a love for students and what you do. These lessons go beyond algebra and are life lessons for which I'm appreciative. For everything he's done for me and countless other students, I say "Thank you, Mr. Burton!"

Gayle Ingle Cude - August 22, 2025 at 09:48 PM

JB

“ *Jesi Bowman lit a candle in memory of Jimmy Joe Burton*



Jesi Bowman - August 21, 2025 at 06:09 PM