



James Ralph Howard

March 28, 1938 - January 6, 2026

James Ralph Howard, age 87, passed away on January 6, 2026, in Cullman, Alabama. Born on March 28, 1938, in Athens, Georgia, he was the son of Clay and Helen Howard, who instilled in him the values of service, faith, and dedication that shaped his life.

A proud graduate of the University of Georgia, James was a member of the University of Georgia Redcoat Band, an experience he cherished throughout his life. His love for music and camaraderie continued as a devoted member of the First Baptist Church of Cullman, where he sang in the Chancel Choir and participated faithfully in the Levering Sunday School Class.

James served his country with honor, achieving the rank of Lieutenant Colonel in the United States Army and completing his distinguished military career in the Georgia National Guard. His commitment to leadership and service extended deeply into his community as well. As a lifetime member of the Cullman Lions Club, he held numerous offices, including past president and played a key role in establishing the LEO Club at Cullman High School, helping inspire future generations of young leaders. He was also a recipient of the Melvin Jones Award.

He is survived by his beloved wife, Virginia King Howard; his daughter, Stacy Howard Ramirez, and her husband, Samuel John Ramirez; and his treasured

grandson, Campbell Clyde Ramirez, who brought him immense joy.

James will be remembered for his steadfast faith, his generous spirit, his love of music, and his unwavering devotion to family, country, and community. His legacy lives on in the many lives he touched through service, mentorship, and friendship.

Funeral Service for James Ralph Howard, will be at 2:00 PM on Sunday, January 11, 2026, at Cullman Heritage Funeral Home with Dr. Edwin Hayes & Bro. Tom Richter officiating, burial at Cullman City Cemetery. Visitation will be from 12:00 PM-2:00 PM on Sunday, January 11, 2026, at Cullman Heritage Funeral Home.

In Lieu of flowers please make donations to First Baptist Church of Cullman 501 2nd Ave SW, Cullman, AL 35055.

Funeral arrangements are under the direction of Cullman Heritage Funeral Home.

Cemetery Details

Cullman City Cemetery

821 Lessman Cir SW
Cullman, AL 35055-5201
(256) 734-3833

Previous Events

Visitation

JAN 11. 12:00 PM - 2:00 PM (CT)

Cullman Heritage Funeral Home
255 County Road 1435
Cullman, AL 35058
(256) 734-0208
info@cullmanheritage.com
<https://www.cullmanheritage.com>

Funeral

JAN 11. 2:00 PM (CT)

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255 County Road 1435
Cullman, AL 35058
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Tribute Wall

PF

“ *Protective Procurement Family purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of James Ralph Howard.*



Protective Procurement Family - January 08 at 06:41 PM

PF

“ *Protective Procurement Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of James Ralph Howard.*

Protective Procurement Family - January 08 at 06:41 PM