



Celebrating THE *Life* OF
James A. Snell

Celebration of Life
Friday, June 7, 2024 at 1:00 p.m.
Range Riders Museum
435 Interstate 94 Business
Miles City, Montana

Private Family Interment
Snell Family Lot
Custer County Cemetery
Miles City, Montana
Full Military Honors

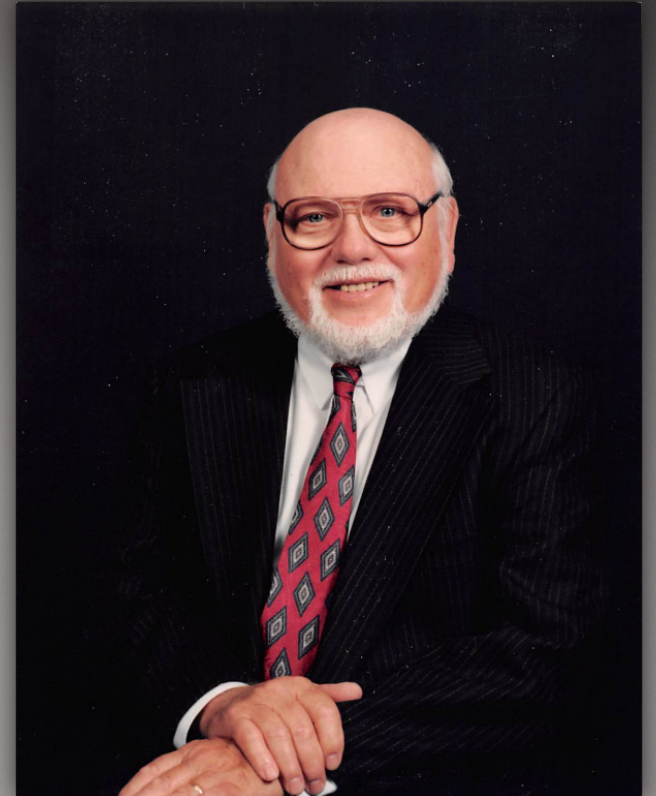
Officiating
Pastor Paul Peterson

Music
"Amazing Grace" on Bagpipes
Dusting of Rose Petals
from the family rose garden
by Jim's grandchildren

"Do not cry because they
are gone, but smile because
they lived."

Jim's Handwriting

Arrangements By
Stevenson and Sons Funeral Home



In Loving Memory Of
James Anthony Snell

February 16, 1929 - November 21, 2023

"The memory of a righteous man is a blessing "
Proverbs 10:7

James “Jim” Anthony Snell, age 94, was called to his eternal home the evening of November 21, 2023, at 8:30 p.m., ending a courageous battle with cancer. He passed peacefully at his home in Miles City, comforted by his wife. Jim was born Feb. 16, 1929, to Walrond Carter Snell Sr. and Margaret Gladys Anthony in Miles City, Montana at the old Darcy Hospital where flowers froze in their room. Jim attended school in Miles City and served with the ROTC while attending college at Bozeman, MT where he graduated with a BS in Animal Science.

Jim was commissioned to serve during the Korean War right after the “Korean Armistice agreement to end hostilities” was signed. He witnessed war atrocities that troubled him for many years. In Korea Jim was a platoon leader for George Company 17th Infantry Regiment 7th Division. He also served in the Army Reserves, he was called up for the Cuban crisis, and was a past commander of the Miles City National Guard where he willingly stepped down from the rank of Major to the rank of Captain, a requirement to fill the position. Jim’s military medals included: the Korean Service Medal, the United Nations Service Medal, and the National Defense Service Medal. He retired from the U.S. Army as a Major.

Upon returning from Korea, Jim joined his father as a seed broker in the alfalfa seed business for several years, was a businessman in Miles City managing a Standard Oil Service station and was a joint owner and manager of the adjoining campground. He was a ranching partner with Snell and Sons Inc.; He retired from the postal service and served as a Justice of the Peace in Custer County for his final employment years. Judge Snell had a sound Judicial philosophy; his Judicial opinions were never challenged nor was a case ever appealed. Through the years he heard from many a young person who thanked him for the second chance he gave them, saying it changed their lives.

Jim and Geraldine “Jeri” Hilton were married on April 1st, 1964, in Belle Fourche, South Dakota. Three children were born to this union: Mary Margaret (Dave) Parent, Christina Marie Bergman (her fiancé, Patrick Hill), and James Scott (Audrey) Snell. Jim was the eldest living member of the Miles City pioneer Snell family. He was preceded in death by his parents, a baby brother, John Anthony, a brother W. Carter Jr., and all his aunts and uncles and a grand nephew, Benjamin Snell and Ben’s mother, Barbie Snell.

Jim is survived by his wife of 59 years; his three children and six grandchildren: The Parent children: David James and Anna Marie; The Bergman children: Jessica (Avery) Hackett, Calvin Jordan, and Rachel Ann, and Mayling Jade Snell; one great-grandchild Bear James Hackett, who Jim got to meet before his passing. His sister-in-law, Jeneese Hilton of St. Ignatius a brother-in-law, James C. Hilton of Las Vegas, Nevada. A niece, Diane Hooker from Billings, MT nephew, Charley Snell from Redmond, Oregon, grand nieces and nephews: Keith Gillette of Michigan, Leigh Rae Allison, Joleene Schmidt, Wiley Snell all from Miles City. Shawn Hooker of Atlanta, Georgia and Chad Hooker of Billings, MT and Shavon Cape of Bozeman, MT.



Jim was a past member of the National Judges Association, Reserve Officers Association, a lifetime member of both the Veterans of Foreign Wars and The Range Riders Museum, past member of Toastmasters, Kiwanis, and the Elks. He was a founding member of Friends of the library. As a member of the International Friendship Force his travels included: South Korea, Ireland, Scotland, Germany, Japan, and England where he visited the ancestral homes of his paternal grandparents Walrond Salter Snell and Elizabeth Mary Carter Snell before they migrated to America. He also visited Knightstone Manor in Devon England where his Maternal great grandfather was raised.

Jim often recalled as a young lad wearing his Sunday best which included knickerbockers and being “drug” to Grandmother Snell’s house for English High Tea which was served using linin tablecloths and linin napkins, sterling silver, and fine China cups and saucers that he had to balance on his lap and was always afraid of breaking. In his later years he appreciated finer things but distained pomp and snobbery. He said a cup of cowboy coffee served over an open fire in a tin cup was more to his liking. Jim also recalled times of having his knuckles wrapped with a ruler when taking piano lessons from Grandmother Snell, the first piano teacher in Miles City. He later became the owner of that upright grand piano. Jim was fond of old-fashioned Gospel, Classical, and Western music, was an incessant reader and a cracker jack at playing Chess even winning when pitted against chess games on the computer.

Jim was first and foremost a family man, no sacrifice was too great. He was friendly yet a private humble English gentleman known for his generosity, intelligence, wit, and sense of humor. His handshake was his bond and he treated everyone with respect and dignity regardless of position or prestige. He loved people and knew no strangers. He was kind and good to animals, on occasion buying food for them when people could not afford to feed them. He attended Grace Bible Church until ill health prevented him from doing so. When his time came, he was ready to “go home and be with Jesus” some of his last words.

To honor Jim’s wishes there will be no visitation or funeral service. There will be a private family interment in the family lot at Custer County Cemetery in Miles City with Full Military Honors. Interment will end with a dusting of rose petals from the family rose garden over the burial site by family members. Pastor Paul Peterson will officiate the service. Following interment, a celebration of life for family and friends, will be held in Pioneer Hall on June 7 2024, at 1:00 p.m. at the Range Riders Museum where pictures of Miles City pioneers including his father, Walrond Carter Snell Sr. and Grandfather Walrond Salter Snell are displayed. Jim’s family gives special thanks to the Hospice & Well Home Healthcare teams for their wonderful care in keeping Jim comfortable during his last days.