



James Edward Snell

March 3, 1968 - April 22, 2025

In Loving Memory of James Edward Snell March 3, 1968 – April 22, 2025

James Edward Snell, (Turfman) 57, of Manassas, Virginia, passed away at his residence on Tuesday, April 22, 2025. Just days later, his beloved cat companion of 16 years, Jinxie, joined him, reaffirming their unbreakable bond.

Born in Martinsburg, West Virginia, to Joseph Snell and the late Frances Faircloth, James was a devoted pet parent, cherishing his time with Jinxie, Trixie, and Dudley, who brought immense joy to his life.

After graduating from Greenbrier East High School in Lewisburg, West Virginia, James pursued a distinguished career in the United States Navy. He honorably served as an Electronics Technician Second Class aboard the USS Vicksburg during the Persian Gulf conflict. His dedication earned him numerous commendations, including the Good Conduct Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Sea Service Ribbon, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, and Humanitarian Medal.

Following his military service, James pursued his passion for horticulture and landscape design, earning his Bachelor of Science degree Magna Cum Laude from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, in 2000. His expertise in turf management led him to many professional endeavors, where his knowledge and skill left a lasting impact. James worked at Heritage Hunt Golf and Country Club in Gainesville VA, Fort Belvoir Golf Club in Fort Belvoir VA,

Holston Hills Country Club Knoxville Tennessee, and Independence National Historical Park in Philadelphia PA. James' last endeavor was working for the National Mall and Memorial Parks in Washington D.C as a Turf Manager. Aka "The Sodfather" The position was caring for more than 44-and-a-half acres of manicured grass between the nation's Capital and the Lincoln Memorial. James loved this job, the work and his coworkers.

James was preceded in death by his two brothers Paul Snell and Todd Snell. James is survived by his four sisters Teresa Snell, Katherine Snell, Barbara Frasch, Frances Tederick and her husband (Paul) all of Martinsburg WV. Several nieces and nephews.

James will be remembered for his unwavering dedication, his love for his pets, and his kind and gentle nature. His legacy lives on in the hearts of those who knew and loved him.

A graveside service will be held on Monday, May 19 at 11:00 AM at Quantico National Cemetery, 18424 Joplin Rd, Triangle, VA 22172 with Rev. Dr. Billy Tatum officiating.

All funeral arrangements are being handled by Pierce Funeral Home, Manassas, Virginia.

In lieu of flowers, plant a tree of your choice in memory of James and the love he had for horticulture or make a donation to your local Animal Shelter.

Cemetery Details

Quantico National Cemetery

18424 Joplin Road
Triangle, VA 22172

Previous Events

Graveside Service

MAY **19**. 11:00 AM - 11:30 AM (ET)

Quantico National Cemetery
18424 Joplin Road
Triangle, VA 22172

Tribute Wall

JE

“ James and I were classmates from Day 1 at UTK. We had most of our classes together, studied together, and really just hung out - ALOT! I remember him telling me that he was going to get a job at a resort golf course in the Caribbean and be mega-rich! James was the most authentic person I knew. He was direct and honest. We bonded over our childhood experiences. James new how to study and I am sure I had good grades bc of the study groups. He was frank and funny. One day after a lecture in Entomology class, the professor asked our little group what we thought. James cavalierly replied, "Well, Dr. Lambden, I didn't think I was going to learn anything new today, but you surprised me". Haha. We used to go out to eat at the nicest restuarants - filthy dirty after our greenhouse labs. He said it didn't matter because our money was the same as when we were dressed up. He came to my graduation party and insisted that he pay for my dinner. James new what a big deal graduating was and was genuinely happy I had met that goal. James cared about his animals like they were family. I was excited to meet his "son" Dudley after class one day. I had heard so much about Dudley. I could only smile when I met Dudley and he was a Sharpei. Our lives took us in different directions and all over the country. I had hoped that our paths would cross again and we could reminisce over drinks. He was a hard worker and brilliant. I know that every thing he did reflected that. James, if you're out there as the breeze or in spirit, know that I am grateful our paths crossed and I'm sorry that we didn't get to have that dinner somewhere. It would have definely been my treat. My your soul rest easy, you did good while you were on this planet. Sincerely, Jenn

Jenn - April 24 at 04:50 PM

MG

“ I am just learning of James' passing and I wanted to express my deepest condolences to the family. I got to know James thru our online Turf School at VA Tech and we later shared many opinions and ideas about turfgrass management. I will always remember James for his passion for his craft and his humility (he never told me he was the 'Sodfather', but that's a perfect nickname). I will miss our discussions but I will not forget the ones we had. RIP James.

Mike Goatley - July 14, 2025 at 01:51 PM

BY

“ James helped me so much at Cherokee Country Club in Knoxville, he was a good man and super smart, he introduced me to a whole new world and I am sad to see him go.

Bryan Young - June 14, 2025 at 04:21 PM

MM

“ James and I walked in lockstep on many project here at the National Mall and Memorial Parks as his grass roots and my tree roots occupied the same space. His passion for good turf was matched by my passion for tree preservation which led to many hours of one-on-one professional collaboration which was fueled by friendship and good jeer. James' absence leaves a deafening silence and a huge void that cannot be refilled. I can hear his laughter and feel his arm-nudging in response to me writing this about him...Rest in peace, James. You are missed.



Matthew Morrison - May 19, 2025 at 07:01 AM

SO

“ *My name is Steven Oliver and James was a man who loved his work, he will be truly missed from the Grounds crew at the park service.*



Steven Oliver - May 16, 2025 at 01:57 PM

JB

“ *Snell and I used to go back and forth every day about WVU, Virginia Tech, Penn State, and Pitt football, he was a die-hard WVU fan!*

We had countless debates and laughs (and sometimes a little frustration, lol) over our teams. I can still hear his voice, whether he was cracking up or passionately defending WVU.

Being a fellow West Virginian and close in age, we always had something to connect over. Some folks even joked that we were "West Virginia brothers," and honestly, it felt that way.

He was truly a great guy, and I'm really going to miss him. Rest easy, my friend....it was an honor to know you.

James Bodkin - May 16, 2025 at 09:05 AM

JB

“ *1 file added to the tribute wall*



James Bodkin - May 16, 2025 at 08:22 AM



I did not know James for a long period of time but was able to have some conversations with him and learn how much knowledge he possessed. He loved his craft and was good at his job. James will be missed.

Dan Castor - May 18, 2025 at 07:53 PM



“ *Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of James Edward Snell.*



May 15, 2025 at 12:56 PM



“ *From Teresa & Kathy purchased the Serenity Wreath for the family of James Edward Snell.*



From Teresa & Kathy - May 15, 2025 at 08:54 AM