



James Moore Stokely

April 17, 1948 - January 23, 2024

On the morning of Tuesday, January 23, 2024, JAMES MOORE STOKELY of Manassas, VA, passed away peacefully after a brief illness. Beloved husband of Mary Delia Beard Stokely; cherished father of Kathryn Stokely Powell and her husband, G. Brooks Powell III of Danville, VA, and John Matthews Stokely and his wife, Sarah Cleary Stokely of Arlington, VA; loving grandfather of Gordon Brooks Powell IV, Virginia Louise Powell and Samuel Woods Stokely; he was a nephew, cousin, classmate, coworker, neighbor, fellow firefighter, and friend to so many people who are dear to the family. James was never without a smile, and if you were with him, you were never without a friend.

James was preceded in death by his mother, Ruth Emma Moore Stokely, and father, James Allen Stokely.

Born on April 17, 1948 in Del Rio, Tennessee, James was primarily raised by his mother within her large southern family.

A proud graduate of the Robert E. Lee (now John R. Lewis) High School in Springfield, VA, James loved organizing its class of '66 reunions. Lee High was where James met and began dating his lifelong sweetheart, Mary Delia Beard. A fellow high school classmate recently said that when she walked into the 50th reunion and saw James and Mary, she felt at home.

James, also called Jim or Mo, earned his associate degree in business at Chowan College, attending one semester then taking the next semester off to work to pay for the following semester; a work ethic which served him well through the decades.

On June 21, 1969, James and Mary wed at Pohick Church. The young couple settled near family in Old Town Manassas in 1973 and would create their life together focused on the community. Be it in the early days as the PTO President of Haydon Elementary School or on the tball field, meals and life events with friends, hours spent discussing local politics at kitchen tables or dropping everything to dash to the firehouse when the siren called, every day of James' adult life was organized around making things better.

James was exceptionally dedicated to his two 50-year careers - as an executive property and casualty insurance agent as well as a volunteer firefighter - ultimately combining them for the good of the Commonwealth of Virginia and its citizens.

A Certified Insurance Counselor (CIC) and a Certified Professional Insurance Agent, James was a past President of The Independent Insurance Agents of Northern Virginia and was named Virginia's Agent of the Year by the Insurance Association of Virginia. James also served on the Agents Advisory Board of the Utica Mutual Insurance Company and the USF&G Insurance Company, being featured in the Utica Mutual Insurance Company's Annual Report as Agent of the Year.

With his book of business already including individuals, corporations large and small, school boards, museums and localities, James developed a specialty insuring Fire & Rescue Departments, often working closely with VFIS to do so. Clients ranged from small volunteer fire departments to large municipal departments with local, state, and international exposures. He worked

tirelessly, with finesse and prudent use of the public dollar, to insure the brave men and women who ran those units and all aspects of their operations.

James largely retired from the insurance industry on December 31, 2019.

During the same time, James voluntarily served the Manassas Volunteer Fire Company in all capacities possible for over 50 years - on the front lines, as both a line and administrative officer, including president of the company and chairman of its foundation board, training, at convention competitions, educating about Stop, Drop and Roll while visiting local classrooms in his gear, fundraising, restoring the company's antique fire trucks, rallying support for those affected by fire and working politically on the local, state and federal levels. Among the first of many projects James' leadership was recognized for was distributing more than 60,000 Tot Finder stickers, an internationally recognized fire-rescue symbol, across Northern Virginia in the mid-1970's. Notably, James was credited with 1 "fire save" and 1 "water save" while a member of the MVFC.

James' involvement within the fire service expanded to statewide efforts, and in 2000, he was elected to the Virginia State Firefighters' Association (VSFA) Hall of Fame for this work. While serving as the VSFA Board President from 2001-2002, in addition to effective leadership and management of his planned initiatives, James navigated the challenges of 9/11, including significant representation, advocacy, and legislative work for emergency service workers.

James was a dedicated public servant to the Commonwealth, working across political lines for decades on behalf of insurance, volunteerism, fire, and emergency services through several governors' appointments including the State Fire Services Board. He spent decades guiding and mentoring friends in these realms across the country.

James poured himself into numerous pieces of legislation strengthening the Fire and Rescue Service and the communities in which they serve. He championed VOLSAP as well as the entire rewriting of the Workers' Compensation laws in Virginia to make coverage available for its fire and rescue volunteers. The Virginia Insurance Commissioner's Office often tapped his expertise involving insurance laws and the fire service.

An outdoorsman and conservationist, James relished spending time with friends and family in its pursuits including his memberships in hunt clubs, on the grounds of the Manassas National Battlefield Park, on the beaches of Nags Head, North Carolina, and in his last chapter on the waters around a family retreat in Wicomico Church, Virginia.

James enjoyed traveling, and in his later years, the boy from Del Rio and his lovely bride, Mary Delia, saw the world.

A firefighter's funeral officiated by The Rev. Vinnie Lainson has been planned for Monday, February 12, 2024, at PIERCE FUNERAL HOME, 9609 Center Street in Manassas, Virginia. Visitation will begin at 10 a.m. The service will begin at 11:30 and will be live streamed on this webpage. Graveside immediately follows at the Old Town Manassas Cemetery.

The family suggests that, in lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to the Manassas Volunteer Fire Company at <https://manassasfire.com> or P. O. Box 46, Manassas, VA 20108.

Cemetery Details

Manassas City Cemetery

9317 Center Street
Manassas, VA 20110
(703) 257-8372
<http://www.manassascity.org/181/Cemeteries>

Previous Events

Visitation

FEB 12. 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM (ET)

Pierce Funeral Home
9609 Center St.
Manassas, VA 20110
(703) 257-6028
pfh@piercefh.com
<https://www.piercefh.com>

Funeral Service

FEB 12. 11:30 AM (ET)

Pierce Funeral Home
9609 Center St.
Manassas, VA 20110
(703) 257-6028
pfh@piercefh.com
<https://www.piercefh.com>

Interment

FEB 12. 1:00 PM (ET)

Manassas City Cemetery

9317 Center Street

Manassas, VA 20110

(703) 257-8372

<http://www.manassascity.org/181/Cemeteries>

Tribute Wall



“ *Pierce Funeral Home created a Webcast in memory of James Moore Stokely*



Pierce Funeral Home - January 30, 2024 at 10:44 AM

JG

Mary, I send my sincere condolences to you and your family. I cannot imagine the grief journey you must be traveling. I hope you will find comfort in the many memories you and Mo share.
Jane Gott

Jane Gott - February 02, 2024 at 02:15 PM

WG

“ *May you rest in peace my friend and colleague in the VSFA. Thank you for your guidance. Prayers for the family.*

Wayne Grimsley - February 11, 2024 at 08:07 PM

LG

“ *Larry S. Gwaltney lit a candle in memory of James Moore Stokely*



Larry S. Gwaltney - February 11, 2024 at 07:56 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of James Moore Stokely.



February 11, 2024 at 04:51 PM



“ Tom and Pam Welch purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of James Moore Stokely.



Tom and Pam Welch - February 11, 2024 at 08:24 AM



“ Tom and Pam Welch planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of James Moore Stokely.

Tom and Pam Welch - February 11, 2024 at 08:24 AM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of James Moore Stokely.



February 09, 2024 at 04:14 PM



“ *Pink Potpourri Bouquet was purchased for the family of James Moore Stokely.*



February 09, 2024 at 01:35 PM



“ *Ray & Lisa (Russell) Colgan purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of James Moore Stokely.*



Ray & Lisa (Russell) Colgan - February 09, 2024 at 09:00 AM



“ *Ray & Lisa (Russell) Colgan planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of James Moore Stokely.*

Ray & Lisa (Russell) Colgan - February 09, 2024 at 09:00 AM



“ *The Carbone Family purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of James Moore Stokely.*



The Carbone Family - February 08, 2024 at 03:39 PM

TF

“ The Carbone Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of James Moore Stokely.

The Carbone Family - February 08, 2024 at 03:39 PM

VA

“ Virginia State Firefighters Association purchased the Strength & Solace Spray for the family of James Moore Stokely.



Virginia State Firefighters Association - February 06, 2024 at 04:24 PM



“ Lavender Reflections Spray was purchased for the family of James Moore Stokely.



February 03, 2024 at 02:03 PM

JP

“ To a dear classmate and lifetime friend, our condolences to Mary and their families. Good bye, dear friend and God bless. John & Cathy Patch

John & Cathy Patch - February 02, 2024 at 02:36 PM

BB

“ *My profound condolences to the Stokely family. I am sorry for your loss. Mo was a great friend and hunting buddy. I hope to see him again!*

Brant Bassett

Brant Bassett - February 01, 2024 at 04:42 PM

BF

“ *Bill and Joyce Fendley purchased the Strength & Solace Spray for the family of James Moore Stokely.*



Bill and Joyce Fendley - January 30, 2024 at 09:10 AM

BF

“ *Bill and Joyce Fendley planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of James Moore Stokely.*

Bill and Joyce Fendley - January 30, 2024 at 09:10 AM

JE

“ *2 files added to the album website*



Jeff - January 29, 2024 at 09:57 AM

SA

Great man and fireman. I was honored to know Jim through his involvement with the VA State Firefighter's Association. He will be missed.

*Steve Austin
Past President Delaware Volunteer Firefighter's Association*

Steve Austin - January 30, 2024 at 10:51 AM

SJ

“*Mary, You and your family are in my thoughts and prayers as you go through this difficult time. Mo will surely be missed by many. Sharon*

Sharon Judd - January 27, 2024 at 02:27 PM

DJ

“*Mary, I'm so very sad to learn of Mo's passing. You and your family are in my thoughts and prayers during this very sad and difficult time.*

Dale (Potts) Jepson - January 26, 2024 at 07:59 AM

DC

“*D. Scott Cain lit a candle in memory of James Moore Stokely*



D. Scott Cain - January 25, 2024 at 12:05 PM

JC

“ June Chapman lit a candle in memory of James Moore Stokely



June Chapman - January 25, 2024 at 10:05 AM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of James Moore Stokely.



January 25, 2024 at 09:23 AM

JM

“ Jeanette McWilliams planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of James Moore Stokely.

Jeanette McWilliams - January 25, 2024 at 09:23 AM

PG

“ So many wonderful memories of times shared with Mo. Sending love and peace to Mary Delia and family. With love, Meade and Pam

Pamela Gwinn - January 25, 2024 at 09:20 AM

JM

“ Jeanette McWilliams lit a candle in memory of James Moore Stokely



Jeanette McWilliams - January 25, 2024 at 09:00 AM

PJ

“ Patti Johnston lit a candle in memory of James Moore Stokely



Patti Johnston - January 24, 2024 at 09:36 PM

LC

“ Lisa Colgan lit a candle in memory of James Moore Stokely



Lisa Colgan - January 24, 2024 at 02:26 PM

RH

I served with Jim in many capacities with the Virginia State Firefighters Association. He was always straight forward on anything he worked on, did it to the best of his ability, and you could depended on him doing what he told you he was going to do. He was a mighty fine officer and member of our Association and he will be missed.

Richard W. (Dicky) Harris - January 29, 2024 at 10:52 AM

DB

My heartfelt sympathy to Mary Delia and her family. My thoughts are with you and your family.

Doris Harrover Benton - February 01, 2024 at 11:56 AM

BH

For sixty years I have thought of Mo and Mary as a steady constant. Both names always came to mind. I know this will continue to be true going forward.

My thoughts are with Mary and the family as I grieve the loss of Mo and a piece of our youth.

Bill Hamilton - February 06, 2024 at 11:05 PM

HG

I am so sorry. I knew Mo both from his days as a patient at Dr. Wadley's and also his insurance work after we moved into Manassas City. I followed his posts once he moved to Northern Neck, where my family is from. Mo was a great man and his work creating and maintaining a fire department for Manassas was a huge gift to all of us.

Helen Graham - February 17, 2024 at 08:31 PM