



James Delbert
Buchanan

Jan. 1, 1941 - March 5, 2026

James Delbert Buchanan, a beloved husband, father, grandfather, and accomplished musician, passed away on March 5, 2026, at the age of 85. He was born on January 1, 1941, and was preceded in death by his cherished wife of forty-five years, Emma Jean Lee Buchanan; his parents, Clato Homer Buchanan and Lola Lee Denny Buchanan; his sister, Pansy Buchanan Burns; his brother-in-law, Martin Burns; and his nephew, Martin Rodney Burns.

James is survived by his present wife, Lynda Dunlap Buchanan; his five children, Delbert (Beth), Mark, Ron (Connie), David (Mari), and Jan Buchanan; his step-children, Lisa Klasen, Doug (Michelle) Ferguson, and Wendy Ferguson; his grandchildren, Neal (Laura) Buchanan, James Buchanan, Connor Buchanan, Eli Ferguson, and Leo Ferguson; and one great-grandchild, Lily Grace Buchanan.

Born and raised in Drexel, North Carolina, James held a profound affection for his hometown and its people throughout his life. Music was the cornerstone of his existence, a passion ignited at a young age by his father, Clato "Buck" Buchanan, a talented fiddler who nurtured James's musical talents by introducing him to various stringed instruments around their home. A self-taught prodigy, James began performing alongside his father in the Southeast, before honing his skills further with

performing alongside his father in the Southeast, before honing his skills further with Joe Franklin over the weekends and Kathryn Siphers at Drexel High School during the week.

His musical journey led him to Nashville, where he joined renowned groups such as Jim and Jesse and the Virginia Boys. Over the years, James graced the stage of the

Grand Ole Opry and recorded with some of the biggest names in the industry, including Ronnie Milsap, Barbara Mandrell, Ringo Starr, and The Doors. In 1970, he became a member of Mel Tillis's Statesiders, as well as touring the world and collaborating with mandolin artist David Grisman, earning a Grammy nomination for their work together. James's influential career also saw him record several notable albums, including Dan Fogelberg's acclaimed "High Country Snows", Ringo Starr's "Beaucoup of Blues", and The Doors "Silent Parade". He later joined the iconic George Jones, sharing his musical talents until his retirement.

Despite the fame and accolades, James remained grounded and devoted to his community and family. In his later years, he found great joy in playing the fiddle at his church on Sunday mornings, sharing his love of music with those around him.

James will be remembered for his warmth, kindness, and the indelible mark he left on the world of music. His legacy lives on through his family, friends, and the countless lives he touched through his art.

The family will receive friends from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m., Saturday, March 14, 2026 at Sossoman Funeral Home. The graveside service will follow at 12:30 p.m. at Burke Memorial Park with Rev. Shawn Milburn officiating. There will also be a celebration of life on April 11, 2026 in Franklin, TN.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to a music education charity or scholarship of your choice, honoring James's lifelong passion for music.

Sossoman Funeral Home and Crematory Center is assisting the family with the arrangements.

Tribute Wall

–Michael laidley

We are praying for all of Jim's family! He was such a talented man! We fondly remember him playing at our wedding on April 2, 1977 at First Baptist of Glen Alpine, NC. He played "True Love" on the violin. Joe was a member of his band after he left Jim and Jesse and came back to Morganton. They had a radio program on WFMX in Statesville. Jim and Joe were very close friends for many years. Treasuring the memories! Joe and Kathy Greene

–Joe and Kathy Greene



You will be missed by many Jim, now you can play your beautiful music on the streets of gold. Our prayers of comfort are with the family during thus difficult time.
Sharma and Vaughan Reed (Jones Boy)

–Sharma Reed

Extending my heartfelt condolences to all members of the Buchanan family. I am wishing you grace and healing as you honor your loved one's memory.

–Ray Grogan

We send love and prayers to Jim's family during this difficult time. We were blessed to know him and enjoy his life and talents .

–Tom and Deb Killen



Jim was not only a PHENOMENAL fiddler, but he was an even GREATER man. He was one of the kindest human beings I have ever known. He was close friends with my parents. Our family sends our deepest condolences and prayers for his family.

–Cindy Chapman



My deep sympathies and condolences go out to all the Buchanan family members. It was a special gift to have Jim as a stepfather. He will be forever remembered in my heart.

–Lisa Klasen

Jin and Linda, were special friends to Wayne and I. He played at my husband funeral Wayne loved his playing!

–Jane Cheatham



I am very saddened to hear this. He was a fantastic musician, and a great person.

–Dale Sellers



I will always remember the great times we had rooming together while touring with David Grisman. I already miss my Mang!!!

–Craig Miller



Jim, Sorry for your loss. My condolences

–Steve Watson



Love you and miss you already. Your legacy will endure long after the music stops playing. Our hearts ache now but we can find solace that you are at peace and your burdens are laid down.

–Delbert Buchanan