Sossoman
Funeral Home & Crematory Center
5th Generation Family Owned & Operated Since 1949.



James "Rockey" Gurley

Dec. 11, 1949 - Feb. 6, 2026

James "Rockey" Gurley, 76, of Morganton, NC, went to his heavenly home on Friday, February 6, 2026.

Born in Burke County, NC on December 11, 1949, he was the son of the late Walter Gurley and Ruth Newton Hamaker.

Rockey served in the US Army from 1968 to 1976 and was a veteran of the Vietnam War. Following his service, he was a DJ for 92.1 in Morganton and served as a VP for Anevka, also in Morganton. He later moved to Florida and worked as a hospice nurse's aide for 25 years. His hobbies included fishing and singing karaoke.

Those left to cherish his memory include his daughter, Melissa Lloyd (Jim) of the home; son, Chris Gurley (Elaine) of Flagler Beach, FL; grandchildren, Chelsea Holder (Matt), Carson Lloyd, Alex Gurley, Chelsea Carswell (Bobby), James Gurley, II (Tiffany), Autumn Gurley, Matthew Gurley, Andrew Gurley, Landon Speagle, and Caleb Gurley; great-grandchildren, Grace Foster, Kennedie Holder, Riley Holder, Elizabeth Gurley, Colson Burleson, Kinsley Burleson, Maizie Burleson, Grayson Gurley, Keegan Speagle, Alex Gurley, and Dean Carswell; sister, Aloma Mullins of Florida; brother, Billy Carswell of Morganton; and a number of nieces, nephews, cousins, and other extended family.

In addition to his parents, Rockey was preceded in death by his wife, Cheryl Gurley; son, James “Jamie” Gurley; granddaughter, Samantha Allyson Crow Foster; and brother, Paul Hamaker.

A celebration of Rockey’s life will be held at 1 p.m., Friday, February 13, 2026 in the Colonial Chapel of Sossoman Funeral Home with Rev. Jim Taber officiating.

The family would like to thank Medi-Home Hospice and Autumn Care for the compassion and care shown to Rockey and family.

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

Tribute Wall



I am so sorry to hear this - I was Rockey's sister in law I just saw this today hugs and prayers to all of his family

–Georgia Klees



Condolences for the family loss. Dan & Becky Piterski

–Dan and Becky Piterski

My condolences

–Ted McKinney



Dear Melissa and Chris---I am so very sad to hear of Rockey's passing. He was a wonderful man and there was never any doubt about how great his love was for his family. The world lost a good man, but he will certainly live on in our memories.

–Wanda Wood



Melissa Our deepest condolences and prayers for the loss of your father. May you feel the comforting warmth and love of God's arms surrounding you James, and your family as you go through the challenging days ahead and as you

move forward with life. We love you. From David & Peggy Lloyd



Deepest condolences and heartfelt prayers for the loss of your dad. from: Rick, Regina, Annie & Asley Odom

–Richard & Regina Odom



My sweet precious daddy. Thank you for allowing me to care for the over the last year. I will miss you so very much. I know you have so many waiting for you in heaven I love you daddy and will miss you so very much Your daughter Melissa

–Melissa Gurley Lloyd