Sossoman
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Jeffrey Reid Carswell

July 25, 1960 - Jan. 5, 2024

Jeffrey Reid Carswell, 63, of Morganton, NC passed away peacefully on Friday, January 5, 2024 after a courageous battle with pancreatic cancer. He was born in Morganton on July 25, 1960 to the late Wilbert “Wimp” Reid Carswell and Betty “Joanne” Carswell. Jeff attended Freedom High School and received a golf scholarship to Gardner Webb University, where he graduated with a Bachelor’s in Business Management and Accounting. It was in college that he met the love of his life, Janet, to whom he was married to for 40 years. Jeff was in the banking industry for 38 years and finished his career at First Citizens Bank. He was an avid golfer and active member of his community serving in various leadership roles. He was a devoted member of First Baptist Church of Morganton.
Surviving is his mother, Joanne Cline Carswell; wife, Janet Penley Carswell; daughters, Kaitlin Carswell Bensch (Jonathan) and Keri Jo Carswell (Connor Clark); grandchildren, Carswell “Wells” and Grace Bensch; sister, Sandra “Sandy” Carswell Lonon (Rodger); niece, Kristen Lonon Gaston (John Neely).

The family will receive friends from 1-3 p.m. January 13, 2024 in the sanctuary at First Baptist Church of Morganton. A memorial service will begin at 3 p.m. with Dr. Thomas A. Bland, Jr. officiating. There will be a gathering, following the service, to celebrate Jeff’s life at Mimosa Hills Country Club.

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In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Blue Ridge Healthcare Foundation who will designate contributions to the UNC Health Blue Ridge Cancer Center's general fund.

The family is very appreciative of the medical care and support provided by the medical staff of UNC Health Blue Ridge.

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

Tribute Wall

Janet,Kaitlin, and Kerri Jo, Remember this is just an interruption from your precious husband and daddy. You will be reunited with him in Paradise at a later date. Jeff was a quiet Christian gentleman that loved his sweet family dearly. We pray it will ease pain knowing he is in the arms of Jesus. We love you, Tim and Phyllis Wilson

—Phyllis and Tim Wilson

I knew Jeff from Glen Alpine elementary days. It is hard to think he is gone.All the best to his family during this difficult time.

—Sandra McNeely



So sorry to hear of Jeff's passing. He was a good friend and I enjoyed working with Jeff on several committees at First Baptist Church and Western Piedmont Community College. He will surely be missed. Our condolences to Janet and other members of his family. Our thoughts and prayers are with you during this difficult time.

—Dr. Roger Jackson

—Dr. Roger Jackson

Joann, Janet, and family. I worked with Jeff for many years. He was truly inspirational in his humble manner and the way he treated everyone with respect. Whether you had $200 or $200,000 in your account he gave his best advice. He was a man of character. I have worked an office away from him for the past several years while he was struggling with cancer. He always managed to say hello and asked how my family was. I'm sure that he probably didn't feel like it most of the time but he always made an effort and put a smile on his face. I was blessed to call him a co worker and a friend.

—Robin Daves Stephenson

I am so sorry to hear about Jeff's passing. I worked with Jeff at First Citizens Bank. He was a wonderful person. He loved to hit the bell at the drive-thru and as soon as I rushed down, he just grinned with that smile if his. Always a true joy to be around. Prayers being lifted for his family as you go through this very difficult time.

—Jamie Cline

Carswell family: My thoughts and prayers are with you during this difficult time. I work with Jeff at First Citizens and he was a great banker, but an even better person. He was a selfless leader and cared deeply about our associates and our clients. He will be missed.

—Bob Roberts

Janet,Joanne, Sandy, and all the Family, You have my deepest sympathy in the loss of Jeff, I remember him growing up in Calvin Heights Baptist Church, He was always so polite and such a special young man . Jeff sure will be missed by Everyone, May God Bless You and your family

—Mavis Leonard

Janet and Family, I first got to know Jeff when he was a young teenager playing golf at MHCC. My first impressions were how well mannered he was and so

golf at MHCC. My first impressions were how well mannered he was and so courteous on the course. I watched Jeff grow into prince of a man and serve his community so graciously. His banking career was stellar and as a long time proponent and board member of First Citizens I was thrilled to have him on the First Citizens team. Jeff lived his life in service to others and that is a life well

lived. Please know that thoughts and prayers are with your family. With Sympathy, Steve Gregory

Steve Gregory



Sad news to hear of Jeff's passing. Jeff was a wonderful man and I was privileged to get to know him while he and family lived in Belmont. My prayers go out to Janet, Kaitlin, Keri Jo, and entire family.

—David Thomas Payseur

We are so very sorry for your loss. We got to meet Kristen's family at Kristen and John Neely's wedding in September 2022. I know how much Sandy and Kristen loved him. John Neely talked fondly of him and the entire family. Do know that we are praying for all of you! Lyn and Neely Gaston

—Neely and Lyn Gaston

Jeff and I were very good friends in High School, and had many great times together. Life took us in different directions, and towns, but I always had fond memories. Such a great person gone too soon. Much love and prayers to the family. Until we meet again my friend.

—Freddie Davis

Our prayers are with you all during this time of Jeff's passing. Growing up in the neighborhood with Jeff and Sandra brings back a lot of good memories. Jeff was a good man. We know he'll be missed by you all. May God's love, mercy and grace bring you peace during this time. Doug and Lynn Pollard.

–Doug and Lynn Pollard

Our prayers go out for the Carswell family. May God's love, mercy and grace abound in your lives as you go through the passing of Jeff. Growing up in the

same neighborhood, there are a lot of good memories. Jeff was a good man and will be missed. Doug and Lynn Pollard

–Doug and Lynn Pollard

I remember Jeff from high school. He was always smiling, laughing & was just a really good guy. I'm sorry for his loss.

–Roger Knight

Jeff was one of the nicest men I knew. He was my boss and friend. Loved him as a brother in Christ and a wonderful man. You will be missed.

–Debbie Cooper



Sandy, I am so sorry to hear of Jeff's passing. There were many weekends spent with your family that I remember fondly. Sending love and prayers to the family.

–Karen Herron Stiles

Prayers lifted for Janet and the family. He selflessly contributed so much to our community and beyond. He will be missed. Peace and hope, John Branstrom

–John Branstrom

Jeff, will be missed at First Citizens Bank. Jeff was loved by many and contributed to the success of whoever he was around. He made our company a much better place with the highest of character and integrity. Prayers go out to Jeff's family during this time

Jeff's family during this time.

—Patrick Carver

Dear Family, I am so sorry for the loss of Jeff. We went to Glen Alpine from grade school through Freedom together. My prayers are with you.

—Sheila Grady (Scott)

Janet & family, I grew up with Jeff, the same age and neighborhood. He was a special friend and a I will always cherish the memories of him as grew up together. Jeff was a wonderful man with a wonderful family that will always hold a special place in my heart. God bless you all during this difficult time and the journey ahead.

—Don Pollard & Ruth Bowers

We are so very sorry for the loss of Jeff- what a great man, banker and person he was. Please know that you are all in our thoughts and prayers.

—Scott and Sandra Wade



Rest in peace my friend, you have always been a fighter. Whether in the business world or on the golf course , you have been admired. You have WON the war to be with your savior.God bless your entire family. JB

—Gerald Baker Jr



So sorry for this loss. I grew up with Jeff at Calvin Heights Baptist Church. Prayers for the family. Terry Baker Moses

—Terry Moses

Our thoughts and prayers are with the Carswell family and the entire Blue Ridge family. Jeff was a great man and a wonderful friend to so many. We will miss him. Sincerely, Jason Zaks

–Jason Zaks

Janet and girls, you are in our thoughts and prayers. Jeff was loved by so many people… We love you all.

–Betty & Randy Biggerstaff

Jeff was a wonderful man. He gave of himself to support his community and healthcare system. His love for his family was evident every day. Jeff's wisdom and warmth will be greatly missed.

–Kathy Bailey



Janet and family, My heart goes out to all of you. I am humbled that Jeff and Gary's paths crossed. I am honored to have known him as well. My prayers are with you during this very difficult time. May you find peace and comfort knowing Jeff is no more suffering. My sincere sympathy to you all. Grace Hartley

–Grace Hartley