



James Carr,

May 6, 1913 - April 1, 2009

Dr. James F. (Jimmy) Carr Jr., 95, of Searcy, Ark., a Christian, died Wednesday, April 1, 2009 in Searcy. He was born May 6, 1913 in Farmville, N.C. the son of James F. and Eula Carr.

He spent his entire working career involved in education, more than 50 years of which were involved in higher education. In 1946, his mentor and friend, Dr. Doak Campbell, president of Florida State University, asked Carr to join his administration. That invitation was the beginning of his career in higher education.

After serving in numerous administrative posts at Florida State University, in 1970 he retired from the Florida Board of Regents to accept the position as assistant dean at then Harding College in Searcy. In 1973 he was named assistant to the president, a position he held until he retired again in 1997. Former Florida Governor Reubin Askew said, "Jimmy Carr was the most admired and respected college administrator I've ever known."

Carr received his undergraduate education at East Carolina University in Greenville, N.C. He then received an M.A. in 1942 from Peabody College of Vanderbilt University in Nashville, Tenn., followed by M.S. and Ed.D. degrees from Indiana University in Bloomington in 1951 and 1955, respectively.

A three and a half-year period of military service in World War II in the Army Air Corps interrupted his graduate work at Peabody. During World War II he was stationed in the Cook Islands, where he developed numerous friendships with the islanders.

Known for his boundless energy and exuberant enthusiasm, Carr coined the phrase in the mid-70s, "It's great to be at Harding!" Just a few months before his retirement from Harding he reiterated that feeling by saying his time at Harding "has been the greatest experience of my career."

During his tenure at Harding he helped provide the initial development for the College of Nursing, the Elderhostel activities on the campus, and Harding Place, the University's retirement community.

Following his retirement from Harding in 1997, he served as assistant to the president of White County Medical Center in Searcy. He enjoyed his work at the Medical Center, but at age 95 last year, he decided it was time to permanently retire again. Even in retirement he was an active volunteer at the hospital.

Carr's enthusiasm was not limited to his work for Harding. He was a proud ambassador for the city of Searcy. Always quick to coin a phrase, he created the slogan, "Searcy, Ark. ? A city where thousands live as millions wish they could."

His involvement in civic activities was known throughout the community. He served in leadership roles and was active in the Chamber of Commerce, Kiwanis Club, Quapaw Council of Boy Scouts, Sunshine School, Sheltered Workshop, United Way, White County Heart Association, Arkansas Kidney Foundation, Arkansas Governor's Committee on the Handicapped, and the White River Health Planning and Development District.

Among his many honors is the Silver Beaver Award, the prestigious award for adult volunteer service to the Boy Scouts.

He was a member of the College Church of Christ in Searcy, where he served as an elder for many years.

Carr was preceded in death by his parents and a brother, Taylor Carr. His wife of 63 years, Mary Stephanie Killgore Carr of Searcy; sons James W. and wife Susan, and Thomas D. and wife Lisa, all of Searcy, and John T. and wife Aletha of Springhill, Tenn.; and nine grandchildren and one great grandchild, survive him.

A memorial service will be held April 6 at 4 p.m. at the College Church of Christ in Searcy. There will be a private burial service.

Pallbearers will be relatives John T. Carr Jr., Jesse T. Carr, James D. Carr, Lance R. Carr, Ty W. Taylor, Taylor B. Carr Jr., Robert G. Carr and Kendel P. Cole.

Memorials: Carr Scholarship for Nursing at Harding University; African Christian Hospitals and International Health Care Foundation; Boy Scouts of America; or White County Medical Foundation.

Tribute Wall



“ My favorite memory of Dr. Carr was a comment he made in chapel at Harding, standing onstage between two members of the basketball team, he quipped: "I feel like a dime between two nickels."

Crysta Kessler - July 19, 2024 at 12:58 PM



“ I was truly saddened to hear about the passing of Dr. Carr. I want to offer my most sincere condolences to his Wife(Mary), James and Susan,
all other members of his family and his many friends as well.

James G. Jack

April 06, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ Dr. Carr was a real Christian, and Gentelman.
We were so furtunate to live on the steet were you lived. Seeing you walking in the morning.
I was doing a lot of work on your houses, and always was amazed, by his grace and his belive in God.
He will be missed.
Our thoughts and prayers
From the Holleman Fam.

April 04, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ Dear Carr Family, the world has indeed lost a wonderful man, but heaven has gained an angel.

When the Lord calls our love ones home, he leaves a gift of memories in exchange. All of you are in our thoughts, prayers and in our heart.

*God Bless You Everyone,
Lola & Pat*

April 03, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ Aunt Stevie, We are deeply saddend to hear about Uncle Jim. We also celebrate the pleasure he took from not only serving Christ but his fellow man. My family will allways be grateful for the love & understanding that You, Jimmy, and boys gave to one scared & confused little boy. Uncle Jim was a devoted Christian, husband father & grand-father. He was also a true southern gentleman. We are blessed to be a part of his life. Our thoughts and prayers.
Richard, Robert, Sarah & Will

April 03, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ Dr. Carr was everyone's favorite, he was indeed an original Readers Digest unforgettable character and will be sorely missed by all. I am praying for you as you learn to live without this wonderful man of God.

April 02, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ *Ms. Stephanie,
I took care of you at WCMC Rehab. I hope you remember me.
I am saddened to hear of Dr. Carr's passing. However, knowing him,
I know there is a happy homecoming in Heaven for him now. He
was a wonderful man of God who witnessed to anyone he
encountered. The world has lost a true original. I pray that God
comforts you during your time of grief and know that you find
comfort yourself in knowing his is with his Savior now.
With much love and prayers,
Kassy Whitener*

April 02, 2009 at 12:00 AM