



## James "Jim" Ray Bland

July 10, 1949 - January 29, 2025

James "Jim" Ray Bland, 75, of Miami, OK, passed away on January 29, 2025 surrounded by his loved ones.

Jim was born July 10, 1949 in Fairland, OK, after his "much older" twin sister, Judy, whom he kicked out about seven minutes prior to making his appearance, to Bert Sylvester & Mary Etta Bland.

He started elementary school at Wyandotte, then the family moved to Fairland in the middle of his second grade year. He later graduated from Fairland High School in 1967. After graduation, he spent that summer on the Martin & Burgin Wheat Harvest team that started near the Oklahoma/Texas border and traveled north to The Dakotas.

In August of 1967, he began attending NEO A&M College and joined the U.S. Army National Guard.

Jim married Nancy Martin July 31, 1970, making their home in Fairland, and they welcomed their children: Aaron James in October of 1973 and Kellie Diane in March of 1976.

Also in 1970, he was hired at B.F. Goodrich in Miami, OK and remained there until their closing in 1986. Upon closing, he returned to college earning his

bachelors in Marketing & Management from Missouri Southern State College in Joplin, MO.

Wyandotte blood ran strong through his veins and he proudly served the nation he loved as Second Chief for over two decades. While in this role his heart was to find opportunities to promote economic development for the tribe and the citizens he served, such as acquiring trade schools and the creation of companies specializing in fiber optics and petroleum.

An avid sports fan his whole life, he made no qualms letting everyone know that his allegiance was to the OU Sooners and St. Louis Cardinals. He also wholeheartedly supported and cheered for any sports teams his family members were playing on or coaching even after his ALS diagnosis and becoming wheel-chair bound.

Jim was preceded in death by his parents, his father-in-law Richard "Dick" Martin, nephew Lindle Divine, sister-in-law Linda Bland and three brothers-in-law, Beebe Mitchell, David Wilmoth and Larry Linn.

He is survived by his wife Nancy, son Aaron (Jill) Bland, daughter Kellie (Todd) Dixon; four grandchildren, Greyson Williams, Avery Bland, Ethan Bland, and Bethany Dixon; seven siblings, Wanda (Eldon) Divine, Barbara (Charles) Stoner, Janice Wilmoth, John (Joyce) Bland, Judy Mitchell, Bert Bland Jr. (Theresa), Keven (Karrie) Bland; mother-in-law Reba Martin; sisters-in-law Donna Linn and Kathleen (Bob) Norman, a great many nieces and nephews, and a church family he loved dearly.

Visitation for Jim will be from 10:00 AM until 11:00 AM on Saturday, February 8, 2025 at the Connexions Building behind the First Assembly of God in Miami.

There will be a Celebration of Life at 11:00 AM, Saturday, February 8, 2025 at

the Connexions Building behind the First Assembly of God in Miami with Minister Kurt Witten officiating. Interment will be at a later time at the Bland Family Cemetery.

Friends and family may send the family notes of encouragement by viewing Mr. Bland's Tribute Page at [www.brown-winters.com](http://www.brown-winters.com).

# Cemetery Details

## Bland Cemetery

S 630 RD  
Miami, OK 74354

# Previous Events

## Visitation

FEB 8. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

Connexions Student Ministries  
1815 E Steve Owens BLVD  
Miami, OK 74354  
<https://www.miamifirstag.org/connexion-student-ministries#>

*This is the blue roofed building behind the main Church building*

## Celebration of Life

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# Tribute Wall



“ *Gracious Lavender Basket was purchased for the family of James "Jim" Ray Bland.*



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February 04, 2025 at 10:54 AM



“ *The Conrad Family purchased the Be My Love Bouquet with Red Roses for the family of James "Jim" Ray Bland.*



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**The Conrad Family** - February 03, 2025 at 10:26 PM



“ *Second Chief Bland serviced under Chief Bearskin. I remember when i was elected, drinking coffee and asking them for guidance in serving tribal members. They both provided great insight. That makes a true servant.*

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**John Froman** - February 03, 2025 at 12:41 AM



“ *Chuck Earls and Peggy Lea Earls Godwin planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of James "Jim" Ray Bland.*

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**Chuck Earls and Peggy Lea Earls Godwin** - February 02, 2025 at 04:54 PM

CG

“ Chuck Earls and Peggy Lea Earls Godwin purchased the Pink Tribute Spray for the family of James "Jim" Ray Bland.



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**Chuck Earls and Peggy Lea Earls Godwin** - February 02, 2025  
at 04:54 PM

KD

“ I met Jim in 1985 when I started working at the Wyandotte Tribe (Nation now). He encouraged me in 1994 to pursue a new position at the tribe with the clinic that opened in June 1994, which is Bearskin Healthcare. He served as Second Chief many years alongside Chief Bearskin, which I had the privilege of working with Jim and the Chief.

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**Karen Duderstadt** - January 30, 2025 at 04:30 PM

KD

Karen thank you for “babysitting” me (I.e. driving me to drivers ed, coming up with jobs for me as I “volunteered”) that summer I was 15. You have always been loved by our family. ❤️

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**Kellie Dixon** - January 30, 2025 at 10:52 PM

BJ

You are all in our prayers 🙏❤️ Jim was a wonderful person! He was a great baseball coach to our sons at Fairland. Sorry for your loss! Don, Belle Jones and sons

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**Belle Jones** - January 31, 2025 at 12:00 PM

JL

I was hired for the tribal Admin . Receptionist position by Jim , I was so excited . I worked 25 years for the nation , best job I ever had!!! Known the family for many years . My heart goes out to all of you. Love & Prayers

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**judy lofland** - February 01, 2025 at 12:35 PM

RA

“ Jim and his siblings and mine grew up together and what fun times our families had. His older sister married into my family and just like all the Bland kids, she is awesome! I am so sorry and I send a lot of love and many prayers for the hard days ahead! I love all of you!

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**Rose Mary Anderson** - January 29, 2025 at 10:27 PM

KD

*We love you too!*

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**Kellie Dixon** - January 30, 2025 at 10:54 PM