



James "Jim" Franklin Ellis

March 10, 1953 - August 22, 2023

James Franklin "Jim" Ellis was born to Harold Franklin "Jack" Ellis and Jessie Fyfe "Penny" Beveridge on March 10, 1953 at Miami Baptist Hospital, Miami, Oklahoma. His death on August 22, 2023 at Freeman Hospital in Joplin, Missouri followed a brief illness.

He attended Miami Public Schools for 1st Grade through 12th and was on the newspaper staff for Will Rogers Junior High as well as at Miami High School. His early newspaper career continued when he attended NEO A&M and then Northeastern State University (NSU) in Tahlequah where worked on the campus newspapers as sports editor.

Jim's first job after graduating from NSU was with the Sequoyah County Times in Sallisaw, OK (1975-1977). After that, he began working for the Miami News-Record as assistant sports editor and eventually becoming the sports editor.

As he wrote on his Twitter profile: "Sports editor of the Miami News-Record since 1977, now working on the news side, too. I bleed blue since I am a grad of Miami High School and Northeastern A&M." Jim was inducted into the Oklahoma Eight-Man High School Football Hall of Fame in 2011 and was inducted into the Oklahoma Journalism Hall of Fame in 2012. He was a member of the Oklahoma Press Association Quarter Century Club and a member of the organizing committee of the Oklahoma 8-Man Football

Coaches Association All-Star game held in Miami. In 2017, he was awarded a Mayoral Proclamation to honor his service to the Miami, Oklahoma Community. Jim was inducted into the NEO Athletic Hall of Fame and the Miami High School Hall of Fame in 2018.

Jim married Mary Elizabeth Bay on the 23rd of April 1983 at Bethany Christian Church, Miami, Oklahoma. Mary preceded him in death in 2016.

Jim is survived by his daughter Brittany Marie Alfred and her husband Matthew of Oklahoma City; one sister Heather Fitzgibbon and her husband Dennis of Grove; one aunt, Mrs. Mary MacRae Beveridge of Glasgow, Scotland, and a multitude of cousins.

In lieu of flowers, donations to the American Heart Association, Miami Public Schools Enrichment Foundation or the NEO A&M Educational Foundation in his honor would be appreciated.

The family would like to thank all the doctors, nurses, nurse techs and other healthcare workers at Freeman Hospital West for their perseverance and care during Jim's illness. He was very pleased with the attention and care he received at Freeman West.

Services are 1:00 PM, Saturday, September 16, 2023 at the Miami Civic Center Banquet Room (Enter on South taking ramp up to room) with Pastor Kurt Witten officiating. Services have been placed in the care of Brown-Winters Funeral Home and Cremation Service in Miami. The family has asked that attendees wear their Wardog blue and white shoes if possible.

Friends and family may send the family notes of encouragement by viewing Jim's Tribute Page at www.brown-winters.com.

Cemetery Details

Grand Army of the Republic

2801 North Main Street
Miami, OK 74354

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

SEP **16**. 1:00 PM (CT)

Miami Civic Center
129 5th Ave. NW
Miami, OK 74354

Enter the Civic Center on the South side. Take the ramp that goes up to the glass doors. The family has asked that attendees wear their Wardog blue and white shoes if possible.

Tribute Wall



“ *Brown-Winters Funeral Home and Cremation Service created a Tribute Video in memory of James "Jim" Franklin Ellis*



Brown-Winters Funeral Home and Cremation Service - September 12, 2023 at 02:56 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of James "Jim" Franklin Ellis.*



September 15, 2023 at 02:18 PM



“ *A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of James "Jim" Franklin Ellis.*

September 15, 2023 at 02:18 PM



“ 90 files added to the album LifeTributes



Brown-Winters Funeral Home and Cremation Service - September 12, 2023 at 02:34 PM



“ Jim was my other Uncle. As a kid spending time in the newsroom with him and my dad was a fun thing to watch. Jim's love for NE Oklahoma Athletics was huge. I loved working with him when I would start working at the paper as a stringer. He was a great man and will be missed by my family and NE Oklahoma.

Matthew Franks - September 07, 2023 at 10:20 AM



“ Jim had a great influence on my newspaper career and I will greatly miss our conversations about sports. To say he will be missed is a huge understatement. Prayers to the Ellis family.

Rick Lomenick - August 27, 2023 at 10:48 PM

BF

“ So when I was a young boy growing up in the Bains household I would answer the phone every Saturday morning during football season and hear this familiar voice “is Coach Bains around?”. Jim Ellis would take to my dad and get all the information and quotes from the previous nights game. You would see Jim at every sporting event from JH to HS. RIP sir you will be missed..

Bains Family - August 27, 2023 at 05:29 PM

SO

“ Jim Ellis was a great friend of the Owens family. He was the best sports writer I have ever known. Jim always got the story right. He was like family to us. I will miss my visits with Jim. He was one of a kind Rest In Peace my friend. We love u. Steve, Tinker, Jimbo and Owens family. 🙏❤️

Steve Owens - August 26, 2023 at 03:51 PM

LR

“ I can't show my appreciation of Jim Ellis enough. He captured all of my sports memories. Of which, my mother strategically cut out of the newspaper and placed into a few photo albums as keepsakes. The thanks and enjoyment of having friends and families saving their copies of his articles that mentioned me I solely owe to him. I will have those forever. I have proof that I lived those moments because of him. So many of us in the Miami, OK area have those moments captured by him. The legend of Jim Ellis comes from the longevity and the consistency of his works. The proof of his excellence is on record. The Miami News Record. Rest in peace, Legend. And, thank you. 💙

Lance Reece - August 26, 2023 at 11:39 AM

DB

“ Throughout my coaching and educational career in the area Jim always treated me with the highest professionalism. He covered my teams with integrity. After I retired and would see him he would always ask how I was doing and we would share a few thoughts. Jim will be remembered as truly one of the good guys. Rest in peace.

Don Barr - August 25, 2023 at 07:57 PM

LR

“ Jim Ellis is a Miami area treasure, in part because he treasured all of us. He was a pro as a writer but he didn't mind making you feel like he was your biggest cheerleader, too! He was making us sound like all-stars in the '80's and he never stopped... I think he loved it too much to quit. What a gift he gave us all. I'd say RIH but I know his white shoes will be covering sporting events up there. Thank you, my friend!



Larry Reece - August 24, 2023 at 06:56 PM

JP

“ I've known Jim since he was a college student at Northeastern State in Tahlequah. He worked in the sports information office and also on the student newspaper. He was a hard worker, always wanted to get the job done right, and that continued through the years at the Miami News-Record. He was a fun guy to be around because he always treated everyone nice. RIP Jim.

Jim Patterson - August 24, 2023 at 03:06 PM

TB

“ This guy was good what he did last time I talk to him he told me he was busy this guy will be miss Jim was a good guy and friend i work with Jim to help him out on Friday night football game my friend made you rest in peace

Tony Bayliss - August 24, 2023 at 01:08 PM

SA

“ What more can be said about a man, that was loved by all! Jim you will be missed, but not forgotten.

Sandy - August 24, 2023 at 10:51 AM

KD

“ Jim was a people person, I ou ved everyone. He was a blessing to many young local sports athletics. R.I.P. Jim

Karen Downs - August 24, 2023 at 10:10 AM