



## James W. Underwood

July 6, 1937 - April 5, 2020

James W. Underwood passed away Sunday, April 5, 2020 at the age of 82.

He was preceded in death by his beloved wife Martha Lou Hall Sitton, his parents

John M. Underwood, Sr. and Frances (Gillespie) Underwood, sister Nelda Underwood (the late Thomas) Simpson, brother John M. Underwood, Jr., nephew Mark Underwood, and niece Jari Simpson VandenBerg.

Jim is survived by his stepdaughter LuAnn Sitton Conner, his grandson Austin (Polly) Conner, his great grandchildren Tyler, Adelyn and Clayton Conner, his siblings Dennis (Barbara) Underwood, Alice (Burt) Cofman, Doyle (Karin) Underwood, and Brian (Carol Hunt) Underwood and 28 nieces, nephews, grandnieces, grandnephews, great grandnieces , and great grandnephews.

Jim grew up on a farm in Stoddard County, MO near Leora graduating from Bloomfield High School in 1955.

He served in the U.S. Army from 1961 through 1965.

Jim received a B.S. Degree in Education and an M.A. Degree in Education from Southeast Missouri State College. In July 1987 Jim was awarded a Doctor of Education Degree in Educational Administration from the University

of Missouri in Columbia, Missouri. He was a member of the Pi Kappa Alpha fraternity and the MU Delta Chapter of Kappa Delta Pi, an international professional education honor society.

A lifelong educator, Jim taught at Illmo-Scott City High School; and served as principal of Oran High School. He was an administrator in the Columbia Public School District for 25 years, retiring in 1998 from his position as the Director of Buildings and Facilities and Administrative Assistant to the Director of Buildings Services for the Columbia Public School District. He was an accomplished woodworker, electrician and beekeeper.

Memorial contributions can be made to The Crossing Church in Columbia, Missouri at [www.thecrossingchurch.com](http://www.thecrossingchurch.com).

Private family burial with full military honors will be in the Bloomfield Cemetery. A memorial service will be held at a later date.

# Cemetery Details

## **Bloomfield Cemetery**

Bloomfield, MO 63825

# Tribute Wall

JN

“ *Mr. Underwood was a great teacher and a friend to all in Scott City School. Our last year of school was class of 1968. Janie Freed Niswonger*

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**Janie Niswonger** - May 02, 2020 at 06:38 PM

LB

“ *Dearest LuAnn and family,  
I am so sorry for your loss. I remember Mr Underwood as a fair and nice High School Principal. I have only fond memories of your Mom and Dad opening up their home to me and the other "girls" who loved you and welcomed you into our class back in the day!*

*Love and prayers, and may God bless you and yours, Lucy Brindley*

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**Lucy Brindley** - April 10, 2020 at 10:16 AM

MG

“ *I worked with Jim at CPS. I enjoy talking to him because he was full of wisdom. Him and Martha came to my wife and my wedding and we both felt honored. If you had him as a friend it was forever. Will miss him.*

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**Mike Gilpin** - April 08, 2020 at 05:32 AM

RH

“ Mr. Underwood was a very special person to me as he was the principal at Oran High School while I was a student there. I would "steal" his chair and sit in it in the hallway during lunch break and sometimes before school, and he would just take the secretary's chair and use it until I brought his back when classes started. He and I had a special friendship as student and principal. I will never forget him. LuAnn, I am very sorry for your loss. Mr. Underwood was a great man in my eyes, and I did not deserve the special relationship he and I developed while we were together at OHS. May he rest in peace.

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**ROBERT HENCY** - April 07, 2020 at 10:47 AM

TA

“ LuAnn, I'm so sorry to learn of Jim's passing. I was Martha's "other" daughter at Columbia Orthopaedic Group for so many, many years. I was so very sad when we lost her. I doubt you remember me, but I, too, have MS. Maybe that will jog your memory. My thoughts and prayers are with you and your family.

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**Teri Adkisson** - April 07, 2020 at 09:37 AM