



## James Wendell Wyatt

August 18, 1940 - October 20, 2025

James Wendell Wyatt, 85, of Cape Girardeau, Missouri, went home to be with his Lord and Savior Jesus Christ on October 20, 2025.

Wendell was born on August 18, 1940, in Searcy, Arkansas, to the late Esta and Willie Wyatt. On August 6, 1977, he married the love of his life, Wanda (Short) Wyatt. He was a proud father of Amanda and David.

Wendell earned both a bachelor's degree in 1962 and master's degree in 1963 in mathematics education from Arkansas State University. In 1985, he completed his doctorate in mathematics education from the University of Missouri-Columbia. He began his teaching career in West Memphis, Arkansas. In 1965, he moved to Cape Girardeau and joined Southeast Missouri State University as an instructor in the University Schools teaching high school mathematics and mentored more than 60 student teachers during his 20 years in the school. In 1985, he joined the Mathematics Department at SEMO. For many years he was the Director of the local and state Missouri Elementary Math Contests. From 2000 to 2008, he was an assistant professor in mathematics education at Northeastern State University in Tahlequah, Oklahoma. Throughout his career, he was active in both the Missouri and National Council of the Teachers of Mathematics and received many awards for his teaching and service.

His passion for teaching was evident to all who met him. He led Bible studies and taught Sunday School for most of his adult life and helped young men earn their GED.

Wendell was an active member of Lynwood Baptist Church in Cape Girardeau. His servant heart motivated him to serve others and show them God's love. He served as a deacon and in many other capacities. He loved his church family. For many years, he participated in short-term mission trips to Central America with Commissioned International. His true joy was providing continuing education to the teachers at the Mount of Olives Christian School, equipping them to provide a strong education to children in rural Nicaragua.

He was active in his local community. He delivered meals for the Cape Senior Center, and volunteered with AARP's Tax-Aide program, Gideon's International, and as an election judge for local elections.

He was a lifelong learner, kind, gentle, patient, and generous. He is survived by his wife, Wanda of Cape Girardeau, daughter, Amanda Wyatt and her husband Giacomo Zanello of Reading, England, and son, David Wyatt of Washington, D.C., and his sister, Eva Nell Roop, of Searcy. He was preceded in death by his brother, Sonny Wyatt, and his parents. He leaves many other family members and friends who will miss him.

Visitation for family and friends will be on Sunday, October 26, from 4:00-7:00 PM at Ford & Sons Funeral Home in Cape Girardeau.

Funeral service will be held on Monday, October 27, 2025, at 10:00 AM at Lynwood Baptist Church in Cape Girardeau.

Burial will follow at Cape County Memorial Park Cemetery in Cape Girardeau.

In lieu of flowers, the family kindly requests that donations be made to Commissioned International to support the Mount of Olives Christian School (<https://commissionedintl.org/donate>) or to Lynwood Baptist Church.

Online condolences may be made at [www.fordandsonsfuneralhome.com](http://www.fordandsonsfuneralhome.com)

# Cemetery Details

## Cape County Memorial Park Cemetery

2315 Highway 61 North  
Cape Girardeau, MO 63701  
(573) 334-1909  
<https://www.fordandsonsfuneralhome.com/>

# Previous Events

## Visitation

OCT **26**. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Ford and Sons Mt. Auburn Chapel  
1001 N. Mt. Auburn Rd.  
Cape Girardeau, MO 63701

## Funeral Service

OCT **27**. 10:00 AM (CT)

Lynwood Baptist Church  
2935 Lynwood Hills Drive  
Cape Girardeau, MO 63701

# Tribute Wall

DW

“ *My sincere sympathy to Mr. Wyatt's family and friends. I am so very sorry for your loss. I was a student of his at College High and was impressed and benefitted greatly from his excellent teaching skills, knowledge, kindness, patience and humor. He cared for the students Mr. Wyatt was a friend, teacher, and mentor and will be missed*

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**Deborah Bryant Weaver** - October 29, 2025 at 03:06 PM

LB

“ *So sorry to hear of Wendell's passing. He was always ready to step up and help people with their taxes through the TaxAide program.*

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**Lynn Boulware** - October 25, 2025 at 01:54 PM

EW

“ *I am very sorry to hear about Wendell's passing. I knew his family and went to school with his son David. They are all very good people. You are in my prayers.*

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**Eric Wessel** - October 24, 2025 at 09:00 PM

PM

“ *Wanda and family, I certainly didn't know Wendell as well as so many others who have & will share memories, but I do know the he was the epitome of both a Christian and a gentleman. He truly lived his faith as a servant of the Lord, was so gracious and kind . . . and always with a smile on his face. No doubt you have countless wonderful memories of him, and I pray that these memories bring you joy even in the midst of the pain of his loss.*

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**Patti Miinch** - October 24, 2025 at 08:00 PM

GS

“ Mr. Wyatt was a great math teacher who helped elevate my deep interest in math. I recall one time while practicing basketball he took the time to teach me about using angles to make baskets off the backboard. He probably had no idea how many lives he touched. My condolences to the family.

Glenn (Skip) Smallwood - October 24, 2025 at 07:42 PM

JC

“ Wendel was kindness personified. His love for his family was only matched by his love for Jesus. You are loved by so many. You are still a dear friend to Steve and I. Praying for all, Steve and Jayna Coppedge

Jayna Coppedge - October 24, 2025 at 05:12 PM

CA

“ He was a marvelous teacher. He was always willing to help anyone reach their goals. I loved him so much and he was a perfect role model for me when I was teaching.

Christine Magaletta Alibwrti - October 23, 2025 at 07:29 PM

CB

“ Wanda & family - I'm so thankful that I had the opportunity to know Wendell. He was such a kind and godly person. All of you are in my prayers.

Christy Bollinger - October 23, 2025 at 06:18 PM

LC

My heart goes out to you and your family. I'm very thankful we got to spend some time with you and Wendell last week. Was a great visit. Leavenia

Leavenia J Covington - October 24, 2025 at 05:49 PM



“ *A life well lived, most of what I learned from Mr. Wyatt had nothing to do with math ! Humanity at its best. I've often thought of him over the years. May he rest in peace and rise in glory. Steve Fluegge. Class of '70*

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**Steve Fluegge** - October 23, 2025 at 06:02 PM