



## James Oliver Keener

July 4, 1932 - October 27, 2021

James Oliver Keener July 4, 1932 – October 27, 2021

James Oliver Keener, age 89 of Gallant passed away Wednesday, October 27, 2021 at TLC Nursing Home in Oneonta.

His funeral service will be at 2 p.m. Monday, November 1, 2021 at Etowah Memorial Chapel. Burial will follow at Pleasant Valley FCM Church in Gallant. Rev. Freddy Keener will officiate the service. Pallbearers will be Wesley Speegle, Adam Speegle, Phillip Mulkey, Tyler Gillis, Josh Gillis and William Keener. The family will receive friends from 12:30 until 2 before the service. The family has respectfully requested everyone please wear a mask.

In lieu of flowers; the family has requested donations to St. Judes Hospital. He is survived by his wife; Ruby Doris Keener, sons; Neal Keener, Grahl Keener (Angie), Walter Keener (Katie) and Steven Kelly Moore (Glenda), daughter; LaVonda Payne (Tom), step-sons; Jeff Gillis (Tracie) and Carl Gillis (Lynn), step-daughter; Lessie Putman (Donald), many grandchildren, great-grandchildren, nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.

He is preceded in death by his parents; Robert and Clara Keener, brothers; Willard, Lewis and Wallace, step-sons; Charles (Sheila) Gillis and Tony Moore.

James was born in Greasy Cove, Al. July 4, 1932 and graduated from Ashville High School in 1950. He served our country in The U. S. Navy from 1950 – 1954. He graduated from Jacksonville State University in 1958.

He began his teaching career at Ragland High School as both a teacher and a

bus driver. Then he taught and served as assistant principal at Gadsden High School from 1965 – 1973. Lastly, he served as principal at Ashville Middle School from 1973 – 1987.

Many fondly remember him when he played Banjo evenings at Shakey's Pizza Parlor in Roebuck, Al.

He was a very talented self-taught musician who played many stringed instruments. He was in several bluegrass gospel groups writing several gospel songs during that time.

He enjoyed working in his garden. He was a very special man that never met a stranger. Most important he loved his Savior, Jesus Christ and now rejoices with him in Heaven.

Special thanks to Southern Care Hospice and the nurses and staff at TLC Nursing Home in Oneonta.

Etowah Memorial Chapel Directing

# Cemetery Details

## Pleasant Valley FCM Church Cemtery

52 Pleasant Valley Rd.  
Gallant, AL 35972

# Previous Events

## Visitation

NOV 1. 12:30 PM - 2:00 PM (CT)

Etowah Memorial Chapel  
12600 US Highway 431  
Sardis City, AL 35956  
(256) 593-4994

## Service

NOV 1. 2:00 PM (CT)

Etowah Memorial Chapel  
12600 US Highway 431  
Sardis City, AL 35956  
(256) 593-4994

# Tribute Wall



“ *James Oliver Keener*

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January 29, 2023 at 11:49 PM



“ *James and I and Charley Brannon did a lot of "pluckin' an' sangin'" when James and I were teachers at Ragland High School and Charley was a lifelong resident of the town. We called ourselves a "Hootenanny Group" and played and sang at lots of different places just for the fun of it. James was a genius with a banjo and all stringed instruments. Charley played the guitar, and I did my best thumping an old standup bass we'd bought at a pawnshop in Panama City. The wonder years, for sure! Hold me a cloud, Mr. Keener...see you soon, Buddy!*

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**Jim Holmes** - July 11, 2022 at 01:32 PM

RM

“ Neal, Grahl, Kelly, Walter..... I am just now ( 5-28-2022 ) finding that James passed away. I am so sorry for your loss. The days of he and Mom getting together and playing music and James teaching her to play the banjo were good memories.  
I guess he and Mom are playing together in Heaven now and making a joyous noise! We lost Mother September 16, 2020 from Covid.  
I miss her tremendously every single day but I know she is with Dad and the Lord now and I'm sure James , Mother and their numerous musical friends have the praise and Worship music blasting! It's very difficult to lose your parents .....

So even though I've come the knowledge of James passing a bit late, I will be saying a prayer for each of you guys.....

Sincerely  
Ruchelee McCoy

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Ruchelee McCoy - May 28, 2022 at 10:26 PM



“ Divine Light was purchased for the family of James Oliver Keener.



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October 31, 2021 at 03:29 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of James Oliver Keener.



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October 29, 2021 at 03:18 PM

JS

“ I remember moving to Ragland as a child and meeting Mr Keener and his family . He was always such a kind man . RIP MR Keener .Prayers for your family .

Jane Boggs Simmons - October 28, 2021 at 10:10 PM

LP

Thank you for your memory and kind words. Lessie

Lessie Putman - March 24, 2022 at 12:25 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of James Oliver Keener.



October 28, 2021 at 08:30 PM