



James Wilson Aikman

January 23, 1929 - June 29, 2020

James Wilson Aikman,

James Wilson Aikman who was born in Washington, Indiana on January 23, 1929, died peacefully on June 29, 2020 in the comfort of his own home with family and friends by his side. He was the only child of George Vincent Aikman and Marcella Lucille Smith Aikman (both deceased). After the family moved to Indianapolis in the Great Depression, he graduated from Franklin Township High School in 1946. He attended Indiana University and then enlisted in the Air Force in 1952. Having received what he considered his most treasured award of his life, The American Spirit Medal of Honor, he was honorably discharged in 1954. Upon his return to Indiana, he joined the family business, G.V. Aikman Company, designing and providing commercial food service equipment to facilities all over the world. He was the proprietor of Hide-A-Way Farms and over the course of his life raised, trained and showed 24 World Champion American Saddlebred Horses. From 1966 to 1989 he was a Board Member of the American Saddlebred Association serving as President from 1980 to 1983. Upon retiring from the business world, he carried his business knowledge and love of horses forward to establish the All American Cup in 2003 to forge the growth of the American Saddlebred Industry. He loved life and believed in hard work and the determined pursuit of dreams. He was "THE" best. He is survived by his son, James Whitton Aikman; daughter, Jennifer Dianne Thomas-Adams (Joel); and seven grandchildren, Hania, Elise (Agustin), Cambrian, Joshua, Emilela, Grance and

Aliana; and one great-grandchild, Solaris James. He is also survived by his “stepson”, John Hale; and numerous devoted and cherished friends. Services will be held at a later date due to the pandemic. In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to the American Saddlebred Horse Museum, 4083 Iron Works Parkway, Lexington, KY 40511 and/or the charity of your choice. Final care and arrangements are entrusted to Shirley Brothers Washington Memorial Chapel.

Tribute Wall

MH

“ We bought our first saddlebred from Jim, Hide-a-Way’s Golly Miss Molly. Jim had a kind heart and was so considerate of others. He will be missed. Prayers for John Hale and all of the family.

Mary Kay Hunt - July 02, 2020 at 03:22 PM

PA

“ My deepest condolences to John Hale & Family

Paulette Saladino Adrian
317-888-2885

Paulette Adrian - July 02, 2020 at 11:30 AM

KW

“ I knew Jim through the horses. He was always a kind and helpful man. Because of him there were many outstanding horses led or ridden in front of critical judges who marked those horses high. He knew what he was doing when he looked at a horse. He was very important to the American Saddlebred Association boke national and local. He knew how to fit a baby for the arena. There was never a question too small or unimportant you could ask him. He was a teacher of teachers. He will be missed and honored throughout the years to come. RIP my friend.

Kathi White - July 01, 2020 at 09:13 PM

TW

Jim was a great neighbor to my parents. He was a very generous man with a big heart. I also admired his parents!! He will be missed ❤️

Tina Abram Williams - July 02, 2020 at 09:20 PM

BS

One of Jim's neighbors in the '80s, just across Buck Creek from his Hide-Away-Farms. He told great stories about his 50+ years living there, through hardships and adventures. The neighbor kids had heard wild stories about this mystery man. He surprised them by visiting their swim fest, arriving barefoot on his oldest tractor. The legend became even more colorful than his helicopter rescue of a horse in his flooded field. He always brought home the tastiest entrees from his restaurant. So glad for having known Jim.

Barb Sieck - July 09, 2021 at 02:48 AM