



James Louis Sellers

December 14, 1952 - August 28, 2020

James Louis Sellers, 67, of Blacksburg, Virginia passed away on August 28, 2020, from complications brought on by COVID-19. Jim was born in Danville, Virginia on December 14, 1952, and he lived most of his life in Blacksburg, Virginia. He was predeceased by his parents, Louis F. Sellers and Elsie M. Sellers of Ringgold, Virginia. He is survived by his wife of forty-one years, Charlotte Pauley Sellers and by sons Christopher Keeling Sellers of Washington, D.C. and Cameron Moorefield Sellers of Blacksburg. Jim is also survived by his sister Tine Brown of Chatham, Virginia and his brother, Homer Evans (Faye) of Halifax, Virginia. He leaves behind a brother-in-law Richard Pauley (Sandy) of Buchanan, Virginia and a number of loving nieces, nephews, and cousins.

Jim graduated from Dan River High School in Pittsylvania County. He graduated from Virginia Tech with his undergraduate degree in Geography. Jim would go on to earn a Master's in Social Studies Education and a doctorate in Curriculum and Instruction from Virginia Tech as well. Jim was a career educator having begun his teaching career as a social studies teacher at Blacksburg High School. Jim would spend much of his career in education in Montgomery County Public Schools, serving as Principal of Price's Fork Elementary and Principal of Blacksburg Middle, as well as serving as a central office administrator in various roles, from curriculum supervisor to assistant superintendent for instruction, and later as interim superintendent for the school division. Jim would retire from Radford University where he continued to teach as adjunct faculty in the Educational Leadership program. Even in retirement, he continued to work part-time in education. He served as Executive Director of Western Virginia Public Education Consortium (WVPEC) in Radford; he worked in the Virginia Tech School of Education as an Assessment Coordinator, as well as a clinical faculty member in Educational Leadership at Virginia Tech. Most recently, Jim enjoyed his work traveling the country and abroad as an instructor and assessor for NCBRT, a grant out of LSU in support of Homeland Security. Education was important to Jim.

Beyond his career, Jim cherished his faith and he put that faith into action, serving as an elder, a Sunday school teacher, and currently he served as Board Chair at Blacksburg

Christian Church. Likewise, he also treasured his family. He supported, motivated and challenged us in each endeavor we encountered. He guided us, mentored us, consoled us, laughed with us, and he left us in a prime position to tackle the challenges that life has left to offer. Moreover, he showed us how to support one another; how to love work and life itself; how to respect all people; how to be kind to everyone. He demonstrated how to love a wife and children without fail, while still holding us accountable to the high standards he set for himself.

A celebration of life for Jim will be held at a drive-in service at Blacksburg Christian Church at 240 Watson Avenue in Blacksburg on Wednesday evening, September 2, 2020, at 6:30 p.m.

The family especially appreciates the outpouring of love and support demonstrated in recent days as Jim battled his brief illness. Likewise, the family appreciates the medical care he received at Lewis Gale Hospital Montgomery and Lewis Gale Medical Center Salem. In remembrance of Jim you may make contributions to Blacksburg Christian Church's Educational Scholarship Fund which helps those furthering their education. Otherwise, you may give your time to support someone you see in need. In doing so, you will be serving to further the legacy of Jim Sellers.

McCoy Funeral Home in Blacksburg is handling arrangements.

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

SEP 2. 6:30 PM (ET)

Blacksburg Christian Church
240 Watson Ave
Blacksburg, VA 24060

Tribute Wall

SN

“ Mr. Sellers was my teacher at Blacksburg Middle School way back when. He was fun and always tried to make students comfortable and wanting to learn geography.

Sara Cherry Nuckolls (class of 1985).

Sara Nuckolls - September 12, 2020 at 05:29 PM

JR

“ I met Jim a few years ago when he led an instructor workshop I was in: one of the best classes - and best teaching performances - I've seen, and I've seen a lot. After the class was done I expressed my appreciation and still chuckle at his response, "Well, the test is graded and class is done, so the only reason you could have for saying that is that you really mean it!" I did indeed. I still use much of what I learned, which is as good a tribute as there is. I'm so sorry that he's gone, so glad I was able to meet him and share a small piece of his life.

Jeff Rubin - September 04, 2020 at 03:04 AM

RD

“ I'm heartbroken over the loss of my Uncle Jim. I'm sitting here looking at his picture and wondering why God called him home so soon. Reading all the memories makes me realize how many lives he influenced in a positive way. My memories include fun family gatherings especially at Thanksgiving and Christmas. Each summer I would spend at least 2 weeks with Granny Seller's as we called her. Jimmy would always "play school" with us and he was always the teacher. We would stay up late at night watching TV and Granny Sellers would always bring us snacks and all kinds of good food from the truck stop where she worked. Those were very special times. Jimmy always encouraged me to further my education and him and Charlotte were so supportive and helpful when I went to VCOM. I will never forget their kindness. As I sit here and look at his picture, I can only think the reason God took him so soon is heaven must have needed another angel. May your spirit fly high Uncle Jim and tell Granny and Louis I love and miss them ❤️

Robin Dillard - September 04, 2020 at 12:46 AM

NS

“ *Mr. Sellers (as I knew him from 9th grade geography) was unquestionably one of the most influential teachers in my educational career. Though I ended up in a field very distant to geography, his impact on my learning and career was significant. I can't thank him enough for his teaching and mentoring. He will not be forgotten.*

Nathan Simmons - September 03, 2020 at 02:53 PM

BS

“ *I remember well the great times Jim and I had teaching in the Ed Leadership program at Radford University. He had a positive impact on everyone he met, and there are so few people of whom that can be said. He was a treasured friend as well as an incomparably great colleague! Condolences to Charlotte and the boys!*

Barbara Smith - September 02, 2020 at 07:47 PM



“ *Healing Tears - All White was purchased for the family of James Louis Sellers.*



September 02, 2020 at 01:00 PM



“ *Peace, Prayers, & Blessings- Lavender and White was purchased for the family of James Louis Sellers.*



September 02, 2020 at 11:59 AM



“ *Classic Sympathy Dish Garden was purchased for the family of James Louis Sellers.*



September 01, 2020 at 03:16 PM

EJ

“ I am deeply saddened by the loss of a true professional and all around great person. I have worked with Jim at NCBRT for many years and have many fond memories of our interactions. He loved our course and its instructors and made both better with his insightful evaluations. My deepest condolences to Jim's family. Please take solace in knowing that Jim has literally positively impacted the lives of thousands of people over his lifetime, because of his work, but more importantly because of the way he lived his life. Thank you for sharing Jim with us.



Edward William Wallace Jr. - September 01, 2020 at 09:17 AM

DS

“ In 1996, at the age of 46, i returned to college to become a middle school teacher.I was fortunate to encounter many excellent teachers at RU, and Dr. Sellars was one of the best. I do not remember what class he taught, but i do remember that he helped me become a better human being.

Don Shepherd - September 01, 2020 at 09:04 AM

HH

“ Helen Heavener
I have served on several committees at church with Jim over the years. What a leader! Most people can be replaced when they leave this world ... not Jim. Every Christmas Jim would ask if I wanted an emerald or ruby for Christmas. He would then give me a green or red lollipop ring . What a sense of humor! As he entered Heaven I am sure he heard ...WELL DONE THOU GOOD AND FAITHFUL SERVANT!

Helen Heavener - September 01, 2020 at 05:43 AM



“ Having worked with Jim for many years through the Montgomery County Council of PTA's and while on the school board, I am sooo sad that Jim is no longer with us, but I will never forget him. Jim was truly one of the best educator!!! How blessed we were to have him for so many years with our students. My prayers and thoughts are with you all. Phyllis Albritton

Phyllis Albritton - August 31, 2020 at 11:06 PM

RN

“ *Jim was a true professional and his passion for his work made me want to be a better teacher. I am grateful for the short amount of time I worked with and was assessed by Jim.*

Robert Noonan

Robert Noonan - August 31, 2020 at 09:32 PM

CE

“ *Charlotte and family, we send our deepest sympathy to each of you. What a wonderful person and legacy that Jim is leaving. May God comfort each of you during this difficult time. Prayers to each of you.*

Mike & Charlotte Epperley



Charlotte Epperley - August 31, 2020 at 09:06 PM

LD

“ *I knew Jim briefly...time well spent, though. Jim was one of my instructors in a workshop through NCBRT. Workshop is a bit of a misnomer because the content was rich and the bar was set pretty high! Jim had a seemingly effortless and refreshing ability to motivate through individualized feedback that was both detailed, balanced and ultimately, effective. He created a uniquely safe environment where mistakes trumped perfection. Everyone emerged better than they were before. I'm fortunate to have learned from Jim and I'm thankful for that experience. I'll remember him!*

Liz Cunningham Delp - August 31, 2020 at 09:04 PM

MR

“ *My deepest condolences to the Sellers family. I knew "Mr. Sellers" from my early elementary days at Prices Fork. I remember him walking into the classroom in his suit and thinking he looked like a well dressed, smiling giant (to a first grader he was VERY tall). He always seemed to be smiling and spoke very compassionately.*

Prayers of comfort and peace to all his loved ones.

Missy (Winters) Roberts - August 31, 2020 at 07:09 PM

DB

“ Jim was not only fellow LSU-NCBRT instructor, but also a friend and downright good-hearted person. Jim was the definition of an exemplary person, not only on a professional level but also on a personal level. He was an extraordinary person, good hearted, honest, articulate and focused on making you a better person, why, because Jim could see the potential in everyone. A better person, a better instructor, a better teacher, and a better student. I know he will use his magic in heaven to the betterment of all. With heavy heart I say, you will be missed.

Don Birou (Subaru's Husband)

Don Birou - August 31, 2020 at 06:58 PM

SZ

“ I remember Mr. Sellers from my 9th grade Geography class at BHS. He always referred to us as “now people”. He is one of a few teachers I remember fondly. Prayers to his family and blessed rest to Mr. Sellers.

Sarah Armitage Zawodny

Sarah Armitage Zawodny - August 31, 2020 at 06:20 PM

KH

“ I am a better person in so many ways because of Jim...

Kelly J. Hamilton - August 31, 2020 at 05:54 PM

T(

“ I was a geography student of Mr Sellers at BHS many years ago. We all loved him. I had a meeting with him years later about my own 4th grader, he was a good listener and we talked about me being married with kids. He said you look the same, I replied so do you. I'm so glad I got to see him again even though much time has past, I never forgot him. Praying for you're family. 🙏

Trish (Patricia) - August 31, 2020 at 04:26 PM

LC

“ I had the privilege of teaching with Jim for nearly 10 years as a co-instructor delivering numerous instructor training workshops across the country. Jim possessed the perfect mix of human qualities that appealed to all of his participants and fellow instructors alike. I say " his" because he adopted all of us as his own. He had the uncanny ability to disarm potentially challenging and contentious issues with dignity and grace. The end result--participants and instructors became a cohesive and enthusiastic team yearning to learn more. He transformed even the most dubious participant. Jim's accolades are many...he was among the most genuine, honest and committed professionals I have ever met. Jim's stellar legacy will endure long into the future...

Larry Cunningham - August 31, 2020 at 04:15 PM

LO

“ I moved to Blacksburg in the 90s and shortly afterward met Jim when he was walking in the neighborhood and stopped to ask if I played tennis. This was the beginning of a great friendship that included lots of tennis, trips with our kids to New York City and various roller coaster amusement parks, home repair (not always successful!), and lots of laughter. I left Blacksburg 6 years later but visited every fall—one of the highlights of my year. He was a true friend and I will genuinely miss him.

Larry Oakes - August 31, 2020 at 03:42 PM

JD

“ I'm sorry to hear about Jim's passing. Jim was wonderful to work with. He always provided support and instruction without making me feel criticized. He had an amazing ability and commitment to improve the efforts of everyone he touched. I feel fortunate to have known and worked with Jim.

John Dunn - August 31, 2020 at 02:35 PM

LD

“ I knew Jim briefly...time well spent, though. Jim was one of my instructors in a workshop through NCBRT. Workshop is a bit of a misnomer though because the content was rich and the bar was set pretty high! Jim had a seemingly effortless and refreshing ability to motivate through individualized feedback that was both detailed, balanced and ultimately, effective. He created a uniquely safe environment where mistakes trumped perfection. Everyone emerged better than they were before. I'm fortunate to have learned from Jim and I'm thankful for that experience. I'll remember him!

Liz Delp - August 31, 2020 at 02:18 PM

PW

“ Jim was a kind, funny neighbor. His smile made everything better. My thoughts and prayers are with you all.

Pam Winfrey

Pam Winfrey - August 31, 2020 at 01:29 PM

LL

“ What I will always remember about Dr. Sellers is his ready smile and consistent encouragement to all of us who taught in the MCPS system. God bless him and his family. Louiann Landreth retired teacher

Louann Landreth - August 31, 2020 at 12:21 PM

AV

“ Jim was always respectful, caring, patient and understanding. He provided non-critical guidance and support. He listened, thought, then spoke - a rare talent. I will miss his guidance. May he Rest In Peace and his family know that he was appreciated by the many people he contacted. Thank you for sharing him with us.

Al Valerioti - August 31, 2020 at 11:30 AM

JD

“ I had the pleasure of knowing Jim through LSU. Jim played a vital role in my growth and development as an educator. His knowledge, guidance and manner in which he presented himself was truly inspiring. The love he had for his craft was palpable. He passed along his knowledge in a manner in which created an environment of inclusiveness; his feedback made us all want to be better. I will use the guidance that Jim offered me as a way to carry on his legacy. I wish Jim and his family peace. He will be truly missed. -Joseph Delre

Joseph Delre - August 31, 2020 at 11:18 AM

JH

“ Jim was a great colleague, mentor and true friend. He taught me several valuable lessons and we shared memories that will live a lifetime. An excellent example of a truly good person.



JD Hoyle - August 31, 2020 at 11:16 AM

PO

“ I always enjoyed working with Jim. He was a gentleman and genuinely fine person who cared about people and loved education. It was an honor to have known him and travel with him.

Patrick O'Brien - August 31, 2020 at 10:56 AM

KP

“ I am honored to have known Jim through his work at NCBRT. He was the consummate professional, and one of the kindest people I've ever met. He was truly a light in an often dark world. My deepest condolences to his wife and children.

Kelly Papania - August 31, 2020 at 10:41 AM

KC

“ Jim was such a happy man, and caring. Working with him was always a pleasure. My thoughts go out to his family and to the world of education that will miss him a great deal. Karen Coston

Karen Coston - August 31, 2020 at 10:19 AM

BS

“ Jim was my principal at Price's Fork Elementary and at Blacksburg Middle School. I had tremendous respect for him and I learned so much from him during those years. He was truly a compassionate human being who loved children and valued education. He was a wonderful family man and such a great asset to the school system. I know he was a man of faith and he will be greatly missed by his family and many many friends. He left the world a better place and that's about the best thing that can be said for anyone. God bless all of the family in this difficult time.

Becky Smythers - August 31, 2020 at 09:49 AM

JS

“ I remember watching Dr. Sellers teach when I was a blocking student at Virginia Tech. He was the best instructor I have ever seen in a classroom and a prince of a man.

Jeff Smith - August 31, 2020 at 08:23 AM

JS

“ He was a great principal and very nice. Was always nice to me. I got sent to the office one day for hitting a boy that was picking on me. He was really nice of course o got in trouble but he was so sweet about and I'd he picked on me again to come to him and dont hit him :). Prayers for his family and friends

Jennifer linkous scott - August 30, 2020 at 10:22 PM

JW

“ Jim was the Christian I strive to be.

Jeff Wesley - August 30, 2020 at 09:38 PM

KW

“ I will remember that big smile Jim always shared when he greeted you. He was a sweet soul and a great guy to work with. I knew him from his various roles in Montgomery County Schools. He was kind and funny, a man you can never forget. Jim was as determined in his love of education as he was kind. That speaks volumes for those of us gifted to have known him. Rest in Peace my friend. My most heartfelt condolences to Charlotte and all of his family💔

Karen Wadovsky - August 30, 2020 at 09:21 PM

BB

“ Brenda Barts Bryant lit a candle in memory of James Louis Sellers



Brenda Barts Bryant - August 30, 2020 at 08:56 PM

WS

“ Sad to hear of his passing. I remember Mr. Sellers well from BMS long ago. I though he was a great principal and was always nice to me. He had a very positive personality and seemed like he really cared about thecstudents.

Will Snizek

Will Snizek - August 30, 2020 at 08:09 PM

WH

“ *The perienal Virginia Gentleman and true educator. I only met Jim few months ago through LSU. He made an impact on me with his true dedication to the craft of classroom management. It was my honor to have been his student and assessed by him. Rest easy Jim, the impact you have made on instructors will last for generations, your name and your style ("Be Good") will last....May the Perpetual Light Shine Upon You.*

William Harvey - August 30, 2020 at 07:57 PM

LG

“ *Just so very hard to believe and I am so sad for the family. Jim was my study hall teacher in 9th grade and year book advisor along with Charlotte in 12 grade. We had the best times with him! I've had you in my thoughts and prayers during this most difficult time.*

Lisa Larsen Goodhart - August 30, 2020 at 07:53 PM

AS

“ *Jim and Charlotte and their two sons went to church with us in McCoy several years ago. Charlotte sang in the choir with us. Each year our choir would do a Cantata for Christmas and Easter. Jim and I were narrator's and had the best time during practice. Jim smiled the whole time. He had that big smile every time we saw him and Charlotte. My husband and I are saddened by the passing of a wonderful caring man. Hugs and God's Blessings to Charlotte, Chris and Cameron.*

Kay and Al Sublett

Al and Kay Sublett - August 30, 2020 at 07:44 PM

SL

“ *Jim was my mentor and my friend and I was privileged to have worked with him and learned from him. I enjoyed teaching with him as much as he enjoyed bottomless chips and salsa at Chili's! My job at the restaurant was to remind him to get his wallet, which he couldn't keep in his back pocket because it had too much stuff in it....we always laughed about that. Charlotte and family, thank you for sharing him with so many.*

Sherry LaChapell - August 30, 2020 at 06:38 PM



“ *Shades of Purple was purchased for the family of James Louis Sellers.*



August 30, 2020 at 06:17 PM

AT

“ *I. was blessed to know Jim Sellers and Charlotte through the education community as well as the Christian Church. I was lucky to get to know Charlotte through working at Blacksburg Middle School and honored to share time with these great people. I pray that peace will be all around this wonderful family as they feel the love and support given to them by the community. May God be with you all during these challenging moments of grief.*
Angela Thompson

Angela Thompson - August 30, 2020 at 03:47 PM

MP

“ *My sincere condolences to Jim's family. I had the honor of being his colleague and student at NCBRT. He epitomized the qualities of a gentleman. He had a way of making you feel as though you were the most important person in the room. He will be sorely missed and fondly remembered. The world is a lesser place without him.*

mike patten - August 30, 2020 at 03:25 PM

DI

“ *Our staff at Dudes Drive In, send our condolences to his family. Our carhops enjoyed waiting on him and his wife. He diffently had a smile on his face every time he came to eat there. God Bless his family.*

Dude's Drive In - August 30, 2020 at 03:00 PM



“ *Floor Plant for Sympathy was purchased for the family of James Louis Sellers.*



August 30, 2020 at 01:37 PM