

James “Jimmy” Durbin



James “Jimmy” Durbin, born to the late Mildred and Erlo Durbin, passed away on April 16 at the age of 76. He will be remembered for his compassion and love for his family, friends, and the City of Denham Springs.

Jimmy graduated from Denham Springs High School; received his bachelor's degree from LSU; then served in the Louisiana National Guard where he learned one of his favorite hobbies, riding his tractor. After receiving his law degree from Loyola Law School, he and his two best friends joined Jimmy's father in the practice of law at the law firm of Durbin, Durbin, Borde and Fogg. Later, his daughter joined Jimmy and his father at the law firm of Durbin, Durbin and Durbin. Jimmy was known for his integrity and professionalism, as well as his exemplary work as a property attorney—skills he accredited to his mother, who had been a notary and property abstractor.

Jimmy's dedication to public service was evident throughout his twelve years on the City Council and his three terms as Mayor of Denham Springs. During his tenure, Jimmy's visionary leadership ushered in an era of progress for Denham Springs. He championed substantial improvements to the city's infrastructure, including a state-of-the-art wastewater treatment system; the Range Avenue Corridor; the Historic District; completion of the Old City Hall renovation; beautification efforts, including the landscape and sign ordinances; dedication and maintenance of numerous parks and public spaces; and the first no-kill municipal animal shelter in the state. His efforts were instrumental in attracting major businesses, including Bass Pro Shops, and in stimulating economic growth that transformed the city.

Jimmy's contributions continued long after his retirement. He served as chair of Gov. John Bel Edwards' Restore Louisiana Task Force following the 2016 floods, and he maintained his commitment to numerous community charities.

Jimmy enjoyed fellowship with his family and friends. He was excited to play golf with his son at renowned golf courses, including St. Andrews, Pebble Beach, Muirfield, and Pinehurst. He delighted in traveling with his wife and daughter to places like Spain, Greece, Costa Rica, and England. He was full of inquiry and adventure and always ready for a trip or dining excursion. Jimmy had a genuine interest in people and a gift for remembering names, places, and events. He was a gentle and generous person who enjoyed teasing and loving his dogs, Mutt and Jeff, who brought him comfort during his illness.

He is survived by his beloved wife and partner of 46 years, Maurice, his son Brad Rhorer (and wife Trini and daughter Blake) and his daughter Berkley Rhorer Durbin (and family Mike Bruce and Michael and Julianna), his sister Ginger Durbin Millet, and his nephews, Jonathan, Jared, Joel, and Wade. He was predeceased by his sister Delores Durbin Shields Greer.

In lieu of flowers, contributions in memory of Jimmy may be made to PetAid, P.O. Box 608, Denham Springs, LA 70727 or the Livingston Parish Children's Choir.

A memorial will be held at the First Pentecostal Church on Range Avenue in Denham Springs, on Friday April 26. Visitation will be from 4:00-6:00, with a eulogy from 6:00-7:00.