



Samuel Robert Janis

April 12, 1949 - November 18, 2022

Sam Janis, who referred to himself as “the main sugar bear,” was born in Erie, Pennsylvania and died on November 18, 2022. He was pretty old. He enjoyed a great life, especially with his wife, Bettye, to whom he was married for over 49 years. He had two favorite daughters, Corrie Moncrief (husband Ben) and Mandi Stewart (husband Chris). They were and are great daughters. They provided 3 grandchildren, Ellie, Benjamin, and Andrew. Sam enjoyed all of their company very much.

Sam entered into the Christian faith while in college and always cherished his church community. He trusts he is now with Jesus the Saviour.

Our dad took care of us even in his death by writing the preceding words, and since he noted a revision wouldn't bother him much, we, his favorite daughters, offer this addendum: Sam overcame many, many family struggles to earn a full scholarship to and graduate from Carnegie Mellon University, training as a metallurgical engineer, and later at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. He served as a pastor for a short time and had a career at General Motors, then Delphi, for 27 years, relocating to Decatur so that he could stop shoveling snow. He was highly analytical and accomplished - proudly a Six Sigma Black Belt and a Shainin Master.

He was a faithful member of our family's church, Wesley Memorial UMC, for

nearly 40 years. He was a family man - prioritizing extended family and devoted to creating a lively homelife, chronicled in our annual Christmas letter. He enjoyed a lifelong golf game and was also a tennis and racquetball player.

Upon his retirement, he played a LOT of golf - delighting in each round, enjoying the company of his golf partners, reveling in the beauty of a course, and recently reporting he had perfected his swing. He and mom found a variety of ways to serve together in Decatur: CCC, Meals on Wheels, and many others. He loved traveling - exploring the beauty of God's earth with our family, especially trips with mom to see foliage and natural beauty. He was curious and well-read, enthusiastic with a graceful candor.

He was kind, good, generous, compassionate, and faithful. He was also joy-filled - he greeted strangers as friends, light-hearted and always up for a joke, even to those who were unaware it was a joke! To those who called him "Bah" and Grandpa, he was beloved and they knew they were very loved - he always showed encouragement for their interests and had grandpa tricks up his sleeve. We are filled with memories of his affirmations, guided by his wise counsel, and thankful for how he made us all feel seen. His life is a story of redemption, transforming what he inherited into a new life in Christ that will be passed down for generations.

Visitation will be on Friday, November 25th, from 4-6pm and a Celebration of Life service will be on Saturday, November 26th, 10am at Wesley Memorial United Methodist Church in Decatur, Alabama. He loved colors so you're welcome to come dressed for a celebration. If you cannot attend the service and would like to livestream on youtube, here is the link, <https://youtu.be/ZrLTUp2YHsU>.

Back to Dad's words: Sam was very thankful for his life and wishes you well as you continue in yours. Sam's ashes will be scattered at a later date at a

secret location, but you can be sure it will have something to do with a golf course – a great golf course!!

In lieu of flowers, Sam's wish is that any memorials be directed to Committee on Church Cooperation (<https://committeeonchurch.org/>; P.O. Box 131, Decatur, AL 35601) or Meals on Wheels % Community Action, Note: Sam Janis (1909 Central Parkway SW, Decatur, AL 35601). Tributes to share with the grandkids can be posted here: rb.gy/qmqlpn

Shelton Funeral home is assisting the family.

Previous Events

Visitation

NOV **25**. 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM (CT)

Wesley Methodist Church
1211 Westmead Street SW
Decatur, AL 35601

Memorial Service

NOV **26**. 10:00 AM (CT)

Wesley Methodist Church
1211 Westmead Street SW
Decatur, AL 35601

Tribute Wall



“ *Classic Charcuterie Snacks Gift Set was purchased for the family of Samuel Robert Janis.*



December 02, 2022 at 07:54 AM



“ *From Xintong purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Samuel Robert Janis.*



From Xintong - December 01, 2022 at 01:06 AM



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Samuel Robert Janis.*



November 25, 2022 at 10:59 PM



“ *Bettye, I'm so sorry for your loss. It is hard to comprehend. You and Sam were the perfect example of a loving couple and what a family should look like. I am praying for you in the difficult days to come. Love you. Janet Thompson*

Janet Thompson - November 25, 2022 at 04:19 PM

MS

“ *Sharing the live stream information for those who wish to join us for the service but cannot make it in person:*

*The link to jump directly to the stream is here:
<https://youtu.be/ZrLTUp2YHsQ>*

*The link to jump to our homepage where you could also find the stream is:
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCWbL2HKB-dLIwhrq-bDNeng/featured>*

Mandi Janis Stewart - November 24, 2022 at 09:37 PM

JY

“ *Bettye, Corrie and Mandi, I know you are all missing him already. I am praying that time and faith in God will make that easier for you. I just loved your Dad's voice. There was something so distinctive about it. It's almost like when he spoke, he definitely thought before speaking. That laugh too. Just kinda dry, but you knew he was finding something funny. I pray all of you will find peace in the days ahead. I pray you remember all the memories. And, know you are loved by many. God lives you and so do I.*

Jan Yount - November 24, 2022 at 05:27 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Samuel Robert Janis.*



November 24, 2022 at 12:19 PM

CW

“ *Bettye, my deepest sympathies to you. Hugs from Cathy.*

Cathy D Wahl - November 22, 2022 at 11:49 AM

KC

“ *Mandy, we were saddened to hear of the passing of your Dad. He was a fine man who was an inspiration to be around. Your Dad was unashamed of his love of God, and clearly displayed his love of family. Great men would certainly include Sam.*

Keith and Dinah Carr - November 22, 2022 at 09:11 AM

TC

“ *Sam Bettye Corrie and Mandy were an inspirational family when Tom and I joined worship at Wesley. As I think of a memory now, it's hard to think of one Sam wasn't wandering through, making all around him feel welcome and loved! Sam loved Jesus and people, isn't that all we are asked to do. My heart hurts for the Janis family and the rest of us without Sam here on earth. Grieving is so hard. Prayers are so many and they will truly lift you through this time, but it's so hard. Cry together. Laugh together. Tell stories again and again together. Look at pictures together. Hold each other. Let friends and family hold you. Lastly, remember Sam everyday and cherish the wonderful husband dad man he was. Love to each of you. Terri Collins*

Terri Collins - November 22, 2022 at 07:37 AM

JY

Bettye, Corrie and Mandi, life as you knew it with your Dad is not over. I can only imagine all of the memories you will now talk about even more so the grands will remember him. I never saw him mad or upset (could be different for yall since you lived together). He always had a smile for me. I loved to listen to his voice. There was just something so distinct about it. He was a man if God and everyone knew it by his thoughts and actions. I pray for all of you for comfort in the days ahead. You are all loved. There is a hole down here on earth, but what a space he has filled in heaven. As my Mom always said "God loves you and so do I" Jan Yount

Jan Yount - November 22, 2022 at 08:22 AM

LC

Sam was a kind, thoughtful, loving man. He was quick to share a smile and a friendly word, and make everyone feel welcome. Sam was the model of how a person should live his life. As my son said, our world needed Sam. It will be more lonely without him. To the Janis family, you were very blessed. May your memories carry you through your life without him.

Laura Clem - November 22, 2022 at 08:43 AM

DK

Mandy and Corrie, I met your family years ago while going through a difficult divorce. My daughter, Andrea Robinson, was having a hard time adjusting to the loss and change. She joined your parents brownie troop and immediate fell in love with Sam and Bettye. I'll always be grateful to Sam for providing an example of what a godly father looks like. You'll probably never know how many lives he touched through the example of how he lived his life. Bettye, prayers for strength during this time.

Debra kulaw - November 22, 2022 at 09:46 AM

TH

My heart hurts for your loss. Your family has been known and loved by my family for 37 years. So many school related memories with the Janis family!

May God wrap His loving arms around all of you and give you peace during this difficult time.

Remember all things about Sam, for those memories will bring comfort and peace during the difficult days. He will live on through all who knew him as he is such a treasure.

All my love, Trisha

Trisha Hudson Hammond - November 22, 2022 at 07:53 PM

MR

“ I only met Sam a few times, but was always grateful to see how much he loved his wife..it was very obvious. I have known Bettye almost forever, so I am thrilled she found such a wonderful, Christian man to share her life with. God bless you, Bettye. Love you and we’re praying for you and your family.

Mary Reece - November 22, 2022 at 07:36 AM

LT

“ Have known Sam for many years. Always very friendly, upbeat, smiling. Prayers of peace and comfort to Bettye and all the family. He leaves a void.

CD & Linda

Linda Tripp - November 22, 2022 at 07:33 AM

JD

“ Sam was a family member everyone would be proud to know. God bless his loving wife, 2 favorite daughters, 3 great grandkids, and all his extended family who will all truly miss him. It is comforting to know that many fond memories will remain in our hearts and that he is now with His Lord. Our deepest sympathy goes out to everyone who loved him and was touched by this amazing life. Bill and Joy Dickson and Family

Joy Dickson - November 21, 2022 at 10:30 PM

RH

“ Bettye and family, we are so sorry to hear this sad news. Our hearts and thoughts and prayers are with you all. Ron & Jo Anne Holmes

Ron Holmes - November 20, 2022 at 08:51 PM