



## James Randell Vandenburg

October 9, 1959 - January 30, 2018

James Randell Vandenburg, 58 of Bokchito, OK passed away at his home on January 30, 2018. He was born on October 9, 1959 in Bokchito, OK to Harvey Allen and Virgie Lee (May) Vandenburg.

James lived in Bokchito all of his life. He was of the Baptist faith and loved watching TV, playing his hand held games, and talking to his friends on the telephone.

James is preceded in death by his parents and sisters Dorothy Smith and Minnie Ned.

James is survived by his sisters; Judy Mitchell and husband Elmer of Bokchito, OK, Fay Haun of Wade, OK, and Betty Dumas of Lubbock, TX, brothers; Gene Vandenburg of Bokchito, OK, Rickey Vandenburg and wife Donna of Durant, OK, and Don Vandenburg and wife Shirley of Caddo, OK, and numerous nieces and nephews.

Funeral Service will be held on Monday, February 5th, 2018 at 10:00 AM at Brown's Funeral Service Chapel. Bro. Sam Vaughn will be conducting the service with interment at Bokchito Cemetery. Family Hour will be on Sunday, February 4, 2018 from 6-8:00 PM. Pallbearers will be BJ Grider, Ken Golden, Keith Richardson, Jerry Fuller, Bobby Wingo, and Mark Green. Honorary

Pallbearers are Brandon Vandenburg, Smoochy Pierce, and Ronnie Vandenburg. Condolences can be sent to [www.brownsfuneralservice.com](http://www.brownsfuneralservice.com). Arrangements are under the direction of Brown's Funeral Service in Durant, OK.

# Cemetery Details

## Bokchito Cemetery

Bokchito, OK

# Previous Events

## Family Hour

FEB 4. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Brown's Funeral Service - Durant  
4900 West US Hwy 70  
Durant, OK 74701  
(580) 920-0393  
info@brownsfuneralservice.com  
<https://www.brownsfuneralservice.com/>

## Funeral Service

FEB 5. 10:00 AM (CT)

Brown's Funeral Service - Durant  
4900 West US Hwy 70  
Durant, OK 74701  
(580) 920-0393  
info@brownsfuneralservice.com  
<https://www.brownsfuneralservice.com/>

# Tribute Wall



“ *James Randell Vandenburg*

January 08, 2023 at 11:32 PM



“ *Judy Mitchell lit a candle in memory of James Randell Vandenburg*



**Judy Mitchell** - February 18, 2018 at 08:48 AM



“ *Brenda Smith lit a candle in memory of James Randell Vandenburg*



**Brenda Smith** - February 07, 2018 at 02:58 AM



“ I just found out Sunday night that my very dear friend, James Vandenburg has passed. I had just spoke with him a little over week ago. He called me Old Goat and I called him Old Man.

*Please forgive my grammar. I write programs and am not so good with words.*

*The first time I remember meeting James was when I was in elementary. I know it sounds weird but In my memory he was bigger than me. James was a four years older than me. Our first meeting went something like this.*

*James: Hey you. Come here.*

*Me: huh*

*James: What you got in the bag ?*

*Me : Candy { Jolly ranchers}*

*James : You gonna share ?*

*Me : I guess so.*

*This was usually the gist of our conversations. If I had more than one item he would ask for the extra. If I had one item he would offer to trade something.*

*Like I said He was one of the big kids I was kinda afraid of him.*

*I moved out when I started college and kept moving further and further from home. Till finally we ended up in Vancouver Washington. Over 2,500 miles away. Our two boys were born up there.*

*Years later when we moved back to Bokchito in mid 90's. I ran into James again. He used to walk into town by my house on 22. We started talking again. James knew everything that was going on in town. He was riding with the patrol officers from time to time. We shared stories about the old days and what we had been doing.*

*After we opened our shop on main street James would stop by and visit. When I was a kid I never even considered asking James for anything. But then I realized he would, if he could do anything for you in return. So I started asking him for help. He built computers for me , answered the phone at the office, did screen printing in the sign shop etc.*

*When I became a Scoutmaster I asked James for help. We needed people for our review board and to go on campouts. BSA required 2 adults to be in attendance on any outing. We didn't have a lot people in the beginning. James became my assistant Scoutmaster. If he hadn't gone with me to provide two deep leadership we would have had to cancel some of our functions including campouts. He also was on Troop 619's Review board. Again If he hadn't taken the time to make phone calls and attend those boards we would not have had enough people to do the boy's advancement.*

*During one of his visits to the sign shop I remember a story He told that I still retell today. He said a Doctor ( He even named him) had told his mom not to worry about enrolling him in school. He wouldn't live that long and just keep him home and enjoy the short time she would have with him. When his mom tried to enroll him the Superintendent also tried to discourage her from enrolling him because he wouldn't live that long. Then he paused in thought and looked over and said "There all dead now.". It shows we should never give up just because the future looks bleak.*

*I know he had several issues with his heart but it was one the biggest I've ever known. I know it was hard on him on some of those campouts, but I never heard him complain and he had fun and always made the best of it.*

*He called me pretty regularly. A lot of the times I was not able to take his calls. But when I could he kept me up to date on friends and on more than one occasion He called at just the right moment and He helped me through some tough times.*

*I will miss him so so much.*

*Thanks for being my friend James,*

*Keith Whittington*

---

**Keith Whittington** - February 05, 2018 at 11:21 PM

MC

“ *James was a special man who although short in stature was a giant of a man.*

*I considered James a friend and he held a special place and mine and Glenda's heart.*

*Mike and Glenda Crocker*

---

**Michael Crocker** - February 04, 2018 at 08:16 PM

SH

“ *My family and I know Rick and Donna. So sorry for your loss. Hope you can find comfort in God. Our prayers are with the family.*



---

**Sharelle** - February 04, 2018 at 04:06 PM

KF

“ *Kenya Ford-Thomas lit a candle in memory of James Randell Vandenburg*



---

**Kenya Ford-Thomas** - February 04, 2018 at 08:17 AM

DC

“ *Donna Caldwell lit a candle in memory of James Randell Vandenburg*



---

**Donna Caldwell** - February 03, 2018 at 12:51 PM

BG

“ *I'm so sorry to hear of James' passing! In spite of health problems, he was always smiling. My love& prayers!*

---

**Brenda Sullivan Gracy** - February 02, 2018 at 11:15 PM

BG

“ *Brenda Sullivan Gracy lit a candle in memory of James Randell Vandenburg*



---

**Brenda Sullivan Gracy** - February 02, 2018 at 11:02 PM