



James Lee Harkness

July 27, 1932 - December 27, 2024

James Lee Harkness follows his beloved wife Shirley Mae Harkness and son, Dion L. Harkness, back to God's embrace on December 27, 2024. He passed at home with his surviving daughter, Eva Beth Harkness, and Grand-daughter, Lisha Mae Harkness, present.

He was born on July 27, 1932 to Lloyd and Geneva Harkness. He resided in Sedan, Kansas for 10 years. He moved to Fredonia, Kansas and grew up around the area. He travelled and resided in many places ultimately coming back home. Jim graduated with a Bachelor's and Master's from the National University in San Diego, California.

Jim participated in many camps and events as a professional clown.

He spent 37 years in little league baseball.

Jim's mission in life was to bring laughter to people's lives every day, succeeding with that endeavor. He always had a joke ready.

Memorials should be made to the Shriner's Hospitals for Children or St. Jude's Hospital.

A Celebration of Life will be held at Countryside Funeral Home on Saturday, January 18, 2025 at 2:00 p.m.

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

JAN 18. 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM (CT)

Countryside Funeral Home - Fredonia
420 S. 20th St.
P.O. Box 247
Fredonia, KS 66736
(620) 378-2882

Tribute Wall

WB

“ I met Jim Harkness 60 years ago in San Diego, California. He was my Balboa Little League coach when I was 12 years old. He taught me how to play baseball in my only year in the little league. It was the Cap League for beginners. We hit off the tee in the first half of the season, and faced live pitching in the second half. He taught me the game on the outside, too. He gave me a game ball after the little league season concluded.

After the season concluded, we maintained a wonderful friendship until his passing. I am forever indebted to him. I last spoke with Jim on the telephone some two or three years ago.

Jim was also a season ticket holder for the San Diego Padres, whom I have worked for since 1977. After the Padres won the 1984 NLCS over Chicago, we spoke on the phone for several minutes.

Jim, I know you are with Shirley, Dion (whom I played with on Jim's team), and God. I love you like you are a second father and a great friend.

Blessings,

*William Blakeslee
1966 Little League player*



William Blakeslee - February 11 at 06:33 PM



“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Countryside Funeral Home - January 18, 2025 at 03:43 PM

BL

Harkey was a member of the San Diego State University Clown club since at least 1989. Even when he moved away, he kept in touch with the club. He was a current paid member in 2025. He would periodically call Bon Bon in San Diego to check on the club. He will be missed.

Bon Bon aka Bonita Love - April 09, 2025 at 07:42 PM

SR

“ Susan R. planted a grove of 3 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of James Lee Harkness.

Susan R. - January 10, 2025 at 04:45 PM

SL

“ Lisha and Eva, Sending prayers your way. Jim was a special guy.

Shanda Lane - January 06, 2025 at 07:57 PM

DB

“ Jim was a good man, and a great friend. Rest In Peace, Brother.
Condolences to your family.
Dan Bath

Dan Bath - January 02, 2025 at 06:45 PM

MM

“ *What a nice man, he will be missed! A true Gentleman!*

Mary and Rod Meckley - January 02, 2025 at 06:13 PM

SH

“ *Sheila lit a candle in memory of James Lee Harkness*



Sheila - January 02, 2025 at 04:58 PM

SH

“ *He always had a smile! He was a wonderful neighbor! He liked showing off his clown collection and giving my granddaughters rides in his old Army Jeep!!*

Sheila - January 02, 2025 at 04:57 PM

VS

“ *Jim has volunteered for so many scout events over the years for me. He has made so many people laugh and smile! Special place in heaven for him!*

Vicki Starr - January 02, 2025 at 04:56 PM