



## James W. "Jim" Blacksher, Jr.

June 10, 1944 - May 27, 2016

James W. (Jim) Blacksher of Montgomery, Texas passed away on May 27, 2016

In Conroe, Texas at age 71. Jim was born on June 10, 1944 to Weaver & Marnise Blacksher. He is survived by his wife, Mary; sister Janice Mabry; nieces, Ann Morton (Jared), Amy Torno (Shane), one great niece, 3 great nephews, brother-in-law George Thomas (Janice) and family.

Jim graduated from Nacogdoches High School and Stephen F. Austin University

with a Bachelor of Music and a Master in Education degrees. He conducted the following band organization, San Augustine High School, 1969-1971, Cleveland High School, 1973-1980, Humble High School 1983-2003, and Montgomery Middle School 2006-2012. He was a member of TMEA, TMAA, TBA, Phi Beta MU, ITA (International Trombone Association and NAMMB.

He was a band director for 42 years. He always held the highest standards for teaching, student performance and student behavior. He listened to and made notes for band directors for concert preparation, rehearsals and tapes. His bands were consistent winners in UIL contests and other festivals. He was involved with community performances with bands in Cleveland and in Humble. When not involved with music he was an avid fisherman.

Visitation will be held on Monday, May 30th 6:30 pm-8pm in the Chapel of Sam Houston Memorial Funeral Home, Montgomery, Texas with funeral services on Tuesday, May 31st at 2 p.m. at the funeral home. Private burial will be held on Thursday, June 2nd at the Laurel Land Cemetery in Dallas, Texas.

You may send monetary contributions to M.D. Anderson Cancer Center, P. O. Box 4486, Houston, TX. 77210 in the memory of James Blacksher.

You are invited to leave written condolences at [www.shmfh.com](http://www.shmfh.com)

# Cemetery Details

## Laurel Land Cemetery

Dallas, TX

# Previous Events

## Visitation

**MAY 30.** 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Sam Houston Memorial Funeral Home - Montgomery  
10129 FM 1097 Rd W  
Willis, TX 77318  
(936) 890-0454  
greg@shmfh.com  
<https://www.shmfh.com>

## Service

**MAY 31.** 2:00 PM (CT)

Sam Houston Memorial Funeral Home - Montgomery  
10129 FM 1097 Rd W  
Willis, TX 77318  
(936) 890-0454  
greg@shmfh.com  
<https://www.shmfh.com>

# Tribute Wall



“ *James W. "Jim" Blacksher, Jr.*

---

November 15, 2022 at 08:33 PM



“ *Mr. Blacksher was my favorite teacher at Humble High School. He liked baseball and fishing.*

*I always thought of him and the film "Mr. Holland's Opus". I hope some of his former students made him feel like that. So glad I reconnected with him after so many years.*

*Rest in peace big guy. You had a huge, positive impact on a lot of us.*

---

**Steve Kirk** - June 28, 2016 at 12:30 PM



“ *Jim was a terrific person. His good nature and open spirit made the band and its members sound enthusiastic from the stands of the football field at HHS. It was always a pleasure to work with him. Many students and faculty will be sad to hear of his passing, but we sincerely want the family to know he was loved by all.*

---

**Mary A Fitzgerald** - June 05, 2016 at 01:52 PM

SM

“ I remember interviewing Mr. Blacksher for the position that coaxed him out of retirement...beginning band at Montgomery Middle School. I already knew him by reputation and knew what it could mean to our kids if I could get him to come to work there, but I was trying to play it cool during the interview. As we were finishing up (clearly he was the one interviewing me), he stood up and said he would take the position. I pointed out that I hadn't offered it yet. He smiled and pointed to the master schedule board in the corner of my office. Yep, I had already written his name on it. It was the beginning of a loving friendship. I will always be grateful to Jim for introducing me to great music...he provided me with countless bootleg copies. I will also always remember the year he received a giant bottle of Jack Daniel's from a student for a Christmas present. I don't know which he liked more, the whiskey or the idea that a mother had marched out to his band hall in the middle of the day and handed it to him.

---

**Sheryl Moore** - June 02, 2016 at 12:55 PM

DH

“ Mr. Blacksher was my band director at Humble High (1996 - 1990) and the reason I joined the HHS Wildcat Band. After 8th grade, I had no intention of joining the HHS Wildcat Band. When Mr. Blacksher noticed I did not show up for tryouts, he came seeking me the very next day and encouraged me to tryout and told me that I was making a mistake. After a few days of debating, I finally took Mr. Blacksher's advice and tried out. I'm so glad I did because the next four years of my life, I made many new friends and good memories which will remain with me forever! Thank you Mr. Blacksher for giving me the nudge and encouraging me to become a member of the HHS Wildcat Band! You have been a positive impact in my life and many others!

---

**Daniel Ho** - June 01, 2016 at 09:17 AM

DH

*Correction. Mr. Blacksher was my high school band director from 1986 - 1990.*

**Daniel Ho** - June 01, 2016 at 09:37 AM

CS

“*Mr Blacksher was my band director at Humble High 86-90. He was my favorite teacher and I always liked finding ways to surprise him. I recall one year when we forgot to bring the bass drum to an off-campus competition and I had to "borrow" one from another school. After our performance, while moving the percussion equipment out of the performance building, I was approached by the bass drum's owning school's band director. He demanded to know what school we attended. My response was, of course, Kingwood (our rival school). Well, after a few phone calls and research by those school's directors, they figured it out a couple days later and Mr. B's phone finally rang. I remember him "scolding" me while making no attempt at withholding his laughter. He was definatly surprised! Mr. B made a profound impact on my life and touched so many others. He will be greatly missed. My thoughts and prayers are with his family and all us who where privileged to know him.*

**Curtis Schroeder** - June 01, 2016 at 02:11 AM

CS

“ *Mr Blacksher was my band director at Humble High 86-90. He was my favorite teacher and I always liked finding ways to surprise him. I recall one year when we forgot to bring the bass drum to an off-campus competition and I had to "borrow" one from another school. After our performance, while moving the percussion equipment out of the performance building, I was approached by the bass drum's owning school's band director. He demanded to know what school we attended. My response was, of course, Kingwood (our rival school). Well, after a few phone calls and research by those school's directors, they figured it out a couple days later and Mr. B's phone finally rang. I remember him "scolding" me while making no attempt at withholding his laughter. He was definatly surprised! Mr. B made a profound impact on my life and touched so many others. He will be greatly missed. My thoughts and prayers are with his family and all us who where privileged to know him.*

---

**Curtis Schroeder** - June 01, 2016 at 02:07 AM



Amanda  
Massingill

“ *Mr. Blacksher taught me at Montgomery Middle School. My class was the first he had coming out of retirement and the class he retired with again, we all liked to say we were his favorites.*

*The flute I had to use in 6th grade was my mom's old flute and it was covered in corroded spots. Mr. Blacksher jokingly called it my "dalmatian flute", and after realizing I was embarrassed of it, let me use his personal flute every single day.*

*Also will never forget how he still made it to watch our highschool marching practice, even when his leg was in a cast. He just drove his suburban to a parking spot in the practice lot and yelled from his air conditioned car!*

*Great memories made, he will be missed. I'm glad I got to visit him last week. The service was beautiful.*

---

**Amanda Massingill** - May 31, 2016 at 03:08 PM

NN

“ *Jimmy, thanks for taking a rookie under your wings 43 years ago. I'll always cherish the great times we had with you, Sapphire, and the gang. One day, I'll meet you on the big football field in the sky. Now for you it's 5 o'clock all the time! I love ya Jimmy.*

---

**Nelson Nolden** - May 31, 2016 at 01:16 PM

RH

“ Mr. Blacksher has been a friend of our family for over 40 years. While I was not lucky enough to have him as a band director, my brothers were, and two of them, Robby and Rusty, both had the privilege of working with him at some point during their band director careers. I always looked forward to seeing Mr. Blacksher as he usually has a great story to tell. I especially liked hearing the one about a fishing trip he and my brothers had taken down at The Gulf when they got just a little spooked after seeing the movie JAWS. He was passionate about music/band, fishing, and he really enjoyed my Mama's pecan pies, with a little bit of Blue Bell, of course. You will be missed, Mr. Blacksher!

---

**Rhonda (Caston) Holt** - May 31, 2016 at 07:51 AM



“ Mr. Blacksher was my band director in Cleveland, Texas from 6th grade through graduation. He is the one who made it possible for me to be in the band. After my Dad told me we couldn't afford an instrument I tried not to let Mr. Blacksher see my tears. He pulled me aside and told me he would make sure I had an instrument to play. I used a school instrument until ninth grade when my Dad gave me my own clarinet for Christmas. Mr. Blacksher taught me that I was capable of so much more than I ever imagined and gave me a sense of pride in myself. He was my hero and I will never forget him. Rest in peace Mr. Blacksher.



---

**Marian Alsobrooks** - May 30, 2016 at 07:15 PM



“ *Spring Has Sprung Mixed Basket was purchased for the family of James W. "Jim" Blacksher, Jr..*



---

May 30, 2016 at 05:09 PM



“ *1 file added to the album New Album Name*



---

**Alice Newland** - May 30, 2016 at 01:50 PM



“ *I have known Jimmy for many years but recently had the opportunity to spend more time with him. I loved seeing him smile. He would light up whenever his wife, Mary came into the room. He adored her and she adored him. They had a love for each other that most people will never experience. He was an awesome man. We lost an angel that's for sure. I'm sure Heaven is rejoicing. They now have the Best Band Director that ever lived. What fun they will all have in Heaven now.*

*RIP Jimmy . We all love you and miss you.*

*Brenda*

---

**Brenda Connealy** - May 30, 2016 at 01:25 PM

JE

“ Jim was well regarded by his students and teaching colleagues alike. Everycon ersatz on we had atHumble High School was a delight. RIP old friend.

James Ellis

---

James Ellis - May 30, 2016 at 12:08 PM

TC

“ The Murphy Road Church Of Christ purchased the Ocean Breeze Spray for the family of James W. "Jim" Blacksher, Jr..



---

The Murphy Road Church Of Christ - May 30, 2016 at 12:03 PM

RO

“ To the Family -  
I am so sorry for your loss of Jimmy.  
I went through high school with Jimmy and I know from first hand experience what an admirable person he is. He and I shared many happy times together then and I benefit from that relationship. He has integrity, humor and honor.  
I talk of him in the first person because he will always be in my heart.  
No words from me can assuage your grief but I hope you can take some comfort in the knowledge that he is not in our past but in our future because our promise is that we will be reunited again.  
With sincere condolences, I remain  
Bob Owens - Mason, Texas - Class of 1962

---

Robert Owens - May 30, 2016 at 10:32 AM

Karen Cauthen

“ I remember Mr. Blackshear from when he taught band at Cleveland High School . May you rest in peace Mr. Blackshear -- you are missed by your family , all your friends, and your former band students.

Karen Cauthen - May 30, 2016 at 08:45 AM

J(

“ Mr. Blacksher, you were a great teacher and mentor to me and so many others. When I started at Humble as a freshman, you helped me become a part of the HHS band family in summer marching band, which eased my transition to a new school. You were tender and caring, yet firm and strong. I appreciate the leadership and structure, and especially the "home" and family you provided us in band. Thanks for all the great memories! I pray for peace and healing for your family.

Julie Smiley (Wizinsky) - May 30, 2016 at 08:01 AM

TH

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Travis Hobson - May 30, 2016 at 07:44 AM

JW

“ Time passes and erases us all. Its been awhile since jr. high, band practice and football games.....Rest easy old friend and may i find you in another lifetime.....Jim Willis

jim willis - May 30, 2016 at 01:10 AM

LC

“ Jimmy you will be missed by everyone, especially all the kids you were a mentor to.

Mary you and Jimmy had so many years together and I know you will miss him the most.

Love, Lynda, your cousin

---

**Lynda, cousin** - May 29, 2016 at 08:41 PM

EB

“ I LOVED Mr. Blacksher! He was my co-band teacher in AMS, and then all through HHS. I started on the flute, and in 10th grade he convinced me to switch to oboe and then to march with a tenor sax. He was hilarious, tough, and very kind. I always say that I probably would have dropped out of band without him as my instructor. I hope he is fishing in heaven today! Love, Elizabeth Boudreaux

---

**Elizabeth Boudreaux** - May 29, 2016 at 05:10 PM

WL

“ Walter D. Loge purchased the Lavender Reflections Spray for the family of James W. "Jim" Blacksher, Jr..



---

**Walter D. Loge** - May 29, 2016 at 04:32 PM

TB

“ 1 file added to the album New Album Name



---

**Tad Bailey** - May 29, 2016 at 03:57 PM

TB

*"And may flights of angels sing thee to thy rest". Wait...scratch that. He hated "hollerin' bands".*

Tad Bailey - May 29, 2016 at 04:00 PM



*“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of James W. "Jim" Blacksher, Jr..*



May 29, 2016 at 03:35 PM



*“ Strength & Solace Spray was purchased for the family of James W. "Jim" Blacksher, Jr..*



May 29, 2016 at 02:15 PM

WT

*“ I will always remember Mr. Blacksher and the positive impact he had on my life. He always pushed for hard work, commitment, and treating people the right way. He was a tough leader but did it in a way you had to love him. The world needs more Jim Blackshers. He will always be missed and never be forgotten!!!*

Weston Thompson - May 29, 2016 at 02:05 PM

RC

“ I have known Jim since the fall of 1968 when he became Band Director in San Augustine. He had an immediate impact in my life that continues to this day. He hired me to be his assistant in Cleveland and was a great teacher and mentor to me. Through the years that followed, Jim remained one of my greatest friends. He touched so many people and leaves behind a tremendous legacy that will continue to expand. I consider it a privilege to have known him. You did good, Jimmy!

Robby Caston - May 29, 2016 at 11:08 AM



“ Beautiful Dreams was purchased for the family of James W. "Jim" Blacksher, Jr..



May 29, 2016 at 08:20 AM

EC

“ Eva Matlock Casarez lit a candle in memory of James W. "Jim" Blacksher, Jr.



Eva Matlock Casarez - May 29, 2016 at 06:56 AM

PY

“ I love and respected him so much. He was a huge influence on me and didn't even know it

Patricia Yeager - May 29, 2016 at 06:44 AM

SM

“ Having been Mr.B's last HHS class was an amazing experience and I can't replace the bond our class has with him. He taught me leadership, commitment, and life lessons! I had the fortune to be working at MD Anderson from 2003-2007 where I was able to reconnect with him during treatment/follow up as well. He was on of the good guys... and will be missed! RIP. It's 5 o'clock somewhere... and suffering is gone! We will miss you. Prayers for his family.

---

**Sara (foss) Montenegro** - May 29, 2016 at 06:29 AM

RI

“ Rex Inman purchased the Pink Tribute Spray for the family of James W. "Jim" Blacksher, Jr..



---

**Rex Inman** - May 29, 2016 at 12:28 AM

SS

“ *Mr Blacksher was an excellent director, mentor, and person for all of whom he came in contact. I had the honor of being in his band for grades 10-12 in Cleveland. He guided us to Sweepstakes victories in both our Junior and Senior years in 1974 & 1975.*

*Even better, Mr Blacksher remained a part of our community and band alumni even after he had moved on. I had not personally seen him in 40 years until our class reunion last July.*

*Most recently, I was honored to visit with him on Wednesday and let him know how much he meant to me and to our Class of 1975. I will always treasure that special opportunity of saying farewell to such an influential and well respected individual in my life. RIP You were one of the good guys!!*



---

**Susan Skarness** - May 28, 2016 at 10:59 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of James W. "Jim" Blacksher, Jr..*



---

May 28, 2016 at 10:03 PM

AP

“ 2 files added to the album New Album Name



---

**Andy Post** - May 28, 2016 at 09:10 PM

MO

“ Only good memories! A good band director, the best of times!

---

**Merrell Overton** - May 28, 2016 at 08:37 PM

 Joanne Goodman

“ James Blacksher was an excellent Band Director and very good teacher. I was only part of his class for a short time, while living in Texas for 3 years. My thoughts and prayers go out to his entire family.

---

**Joanne Goodman** - May 28, 2016 at 06:38 PM

JB

“ I have known Jim Blacksher since 1982 when he had taken over the Humble High School Band. I was a sophomore at the time and had gone back to visit during my college years (tortured him by practicing the Eb clarinet at the band hall for a solo I had to perform in college). When I moved back to Humble in 1992, he graciously allowed for me to teach privately at the school which I immensely appreciated. I got to see how much the band had changed for the good since my time there all because of what Jim did for the kids. He was a mentor for many and will be remembered with love.  
Jennifer Baskin



---

**Jennifer Baskin** - May 28, 2016 at 05:01 PM

TF

I was a freshman at Humble High when he took over. He always said I had a natural talent for music. Because of him I still have a deep appreciation for music. He will be sadly missed.  
Tammy M Fielder

---

**Tammy M Fielder** - May 28, 2016 at 05:47 PM

TH

I first met Jim in 1986 when I became the assistant director on "the other side of the river", Kingwood High School. Jim became a mentor and friend. When I had a question or needed help, he was but a call away. I also enjoyed fishing on many occasions with Jim. R.I.P. old friend! I bet you and Arthur are already fishing together in Heaven!

---

**Travis Hobson** - May 28, 2016 at 09:49 PM

RC

*I first met Jim when he became the band director in San Augustine, Texas. He meant a great deal to my entire family, teaching each of my brothers and starting me on trombone by uttering these words , "No son we play trombone right handed."*

*Years later, he hired me to cover the Humble-9 campus and assist at Humble H.S. which was a great opportunity. No way to ever repay him but what a great mentor, friend and teacher. Well done Jim, you touched the lives of so many in such a positive way. My family will miss you.*

*Rusty Caston*

---

**Russell (Rusty) Caston** - May 30, 2016 at 08:47 AM

JM

*I met Jim early in my teaching career when I was a junior high director in Crosby and he was the band director at Cleveland High School. I always learned things from him. And he had so many stories! Every time we got together or judged band contests together, he had another story. Jim was a great mentor to many band directors, myself included. We lost a good one. Rest in peace Jim. You did great while you were with us. We will miss you.*

---

**James Marioneaux** - May 30, 2016 at 11:24 AM

TC

*Mr. Blacksher came to Cleveland when I was in 7th grade. We were so bad he wouldn't let us play in the spring concert. We went on to become much better band members. In High School being a member of the Royal Braves Band (RBB) i learned so much from him. He always knew we could do better and to become better we had to work for it. One of my fondest memory is the party the band moms would give us after a marching contest. And being so shock to watch my mother and Jim Blacksher dancing the jitter bug. There are so many memories that I can't tell you all of them. But Mr. Jim Blacksher will always be a part of my life. RBB forever 78'*

---

**Theresa Canion** - May 30, 2016 at 01:00 PM

AM

*I met Jim when I was a rookie band director at a middle school in Beaumont. He helped to mentor me and introduced me to several other excellent directors that boosted my knowledge of teaching. He later became the Director of Bands for Humble High School where I had the privilege to work with him as his assistant and later as Fine Arts Director for the Humble ISD. His students worked hard and learned life-long lessons through his insistence for excellence while maintaining a caring and thoughtful student-teacher relationship. You will be missed Jimmy and the band world lost an icon. God bless and rest in peace my friend.*

*Allen Miller*

---

**Allen Miller** - May 30, 2016 at 01:21 PM