



James Edward "Jim" Epting Sr.

September 12, 1932 - August 22, 2018

James Edward "Jim" Epting, Sr., of Salisbury died Wednesday, Aug. 22, 2018, at Beacon Place Hospice and Palliative Care in Greensboro.

Born Sept. 12, 1932, in Lexington, he was the third child of Keller Vernon Epting Sr. and Mary Owen Epting.

The family moved to Salisbury in 1934, where they became members of St. John's Lutheran Church. With the exception of three years in Siler City, where Jim was editor of three weekly newspapers, he and his family attended St. John's.

Jim attended Wiley Elementary School and was a graduate of Boyden High School. In 1954, he received a bachelor's degree in business administration from Catawba College. While a day student at Catawba, he played on the tennis team, delivered an afternoon paper route, and worked part-time at both Mooney's Restaurant and at the Salisbury Post, where he covered night ball games, and bundled papers in the mailroom. He later studied urban planning at the Georgia Institute of Technology and economic development at Rowan Community College.

Jim was drafted into the Army on Aug. 3, 1954, and stationed at Fort Jackson. He served as a company clerk and head of security of the 501st Infantry Regiment of the 101st Airborne Division. He also helped coach basketball and golf events and published a division newspaper. He returned to Salisbury in 1956.

From 1951 to 1966, he was a sports reporter and photographer for the Salisbury Post. He was general manager and editor for the Siler City, Liberty and Pittsboro weekly newspapers from 1966 to 1969. Following his newspaper career, he was a regional industrial development representative for the North Carolina Department of Commerce, serving 33 counties in promoting industrial recruiting efforts, working with local governments and prospects from throughout the world. He often said during that career that the old reporter in him still surfaced from time to time. He retired in September 1994.

He was active in the N.C. Industrial Development Association, and several economic development boards.

He and his wife formed HFE Realty, serving Rowan County and the surrounding areas for a number of years. A longtime member of Salisbury Country Club, Jim loved golf and won a number of events. He teamed with his brother, Sonny, in the annual Labor Day golf tournament at the club, and he participated in golf tournaments throughout the Carolinas. He was especially proud to have participated several times in the Pro-Am of the Greater Greensboro Open (now the Wyndham Championship). He received awards from the N.C. Golf Writers Association.

For more than 25 years, Jim was a member of "The Wink's Bunch," a group of men who met for coffee every weekday morning. In his retirement years, this gathering of friends became the highlight of his day and the source of many strong and enduring friendships.

Jim was the eternal optimist, the kind of guy whose glass was always half-full. He was extremely proud of his family, his home, and his beautiful yard.

Jim was predeceased by his parents; his wife of 61 years, Hazel Lee Fisher Epting, whom he married June 13, 1954; a daughter, Mitzi Epting Kicklighter Snipes; his brother, K.V. "Sonny" Epting, Jr.; and his sister, Mary Emma Epting Kanaley.

Survivors include a daughter, Andrea Epting Powell and husband Vernon of Greensboro; a son, James Edward Epting, Jr. and wife Meredith of Atlanta; grandchildren Rob Ketner and wife Rebecca of Winston-Salem, Andrew Ketner and fiancée Jessica Jensen of Greensboro, Julian Powell and wife Judith of Charlotte, Betts Powell-Angel and husband Jeremy of Marietta, Ga., Mandy Spencer and husband Steve of Camden, S.C., Hope Collins and husband Colby of Greenville, S.C., Amy Woody and husband Dent of Camden, S.C., Carrie Brown and husband Eric of Atlanta, and Eryn Epting, Emerson Epting, Lulu Congrave and Max Congrave, all of Atlanta; great-grandsons Philip and Christopher Angel of Marietta, and Thomas Spencer of Camden; son-in-law Gary Snipes of Camden; brother Bill Epting of Ocean Isle; sister-in-law Eulene Fisher Shepherd of Thomasville, sister-in-law Pat Epting of Salisbury; and a number of nieces and nephews.

A celebration of Mr. Epting's life is set for 11:00 AM Monday, August 27 in the Sanctuary of St. John's Lutheran Church, 200 W. Innes St, Salisbury, NC Visitation will be in Peeler Hall following the service.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be sent to: St. John's Lutheran Church Music Fund, 200

W. Innes St., Salisbury, NC 28144; the Hazel and James Epting International Study Fund, UNCG Advancement Services, P.O. Box 26170, Greensboro, NC 27402; Catawba College, 2300 W. Innes St., Salisbury, NC 28144; or a charity of your choice.

The family wishes to thank the nursing staff of Beacon Place, and the Palliative Care Team of Moses Cone Hospital for their compassionate care and wise counsel.

Summersett Funeral Home is serving the Epting family. Online condolences may be made at www.summersettfuneralhome.com.

Tribute Wall

JG

“ To Jim's family : May good memories help you through this time of sadness. We were honored to know Jim as well as Hazel. Remembering his gentlemanly ways and his smile.

Jeff & Robin Gobble (Jeff knew him through Piedmont Natural Gas and also through your parents property off of Long Ferry Road.)

Jeff & Robin Gobble - August 27, 2018 at 04:50 PM



“ Serene Retreat was purchased for the family of James Edward "Jim" Epting Sr..



August 25, 2018 at 09:34 AM



“ Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of James Edward "Jim" Epting Sr..



August 25, 2018 at 08:34 AM



“ Strength & Solace Spray was purchased for the family of James Edward "Jim" Epting Sr..



August 24, 2018 at 08:24 PM

GC

“ Dear Andrea, My thoughts and prayers will be lifted for you and your family as you grieve the loss of your dad. May God surround you all with His comfort and peace in the days ahead. With hugs from across the miles, Gloria Gilbert Cloninger

Gloria Gilbert Cloninger - August 24, 2018 at 01:38 PM

TL

“ Jimmy and Andrea,
Sorry to hear about Jim. He was a joy to talk to. I always enjoyed coming to your house when you lived on Lincolnton Road.

Tony Lippard
Kannapolis, NC

Tony Lippard - August 24, 2018 at 12:50 PM

CH

“ Andrea
I am sorry for your loss
Cherie

Cherie Holderness - August 24, 2018 at 09:07 AM

BL

“ So many fond memories of Jim and Hazel. You could not ask for better people and the absolute best neighbors! We miss them greatly!!!!

Ben Lynch - August 23, 2018 at 08:16 PM