



James "Jim" Telford

September 27, 1936 - October 12, 2025

Services for Jim will be live-streamed at:

<https://www.facebook.com/fumcwenatchee/>

James Allen Telford, a longtime Wenatchee resident, passed away on October 12, 2025, at the age of 89. Jim was born September 27, 1936, in Opheim, Montana, 12 of 13 children. When he was a young boy, the family relocated to Plain, Washington, where they established a family farm. He graduated from Leavenworth HS in 1954, where he played percussion in the marching band. As a young child in Montana, Jim had seen a funeral coach and told his mother he would like to drive one of those one day, and he made that dream come true! He spent two years at Wenatchee Valley College, then continued on to graduate from the San Francisco College of Mortuary Science in 1959. Upon returning to Wenatchee, he worked for the local funeral homes for the next 10 years.

On New Year's Eve in 1963, Jim met his beautiful bride-to-be, Corinne Bellas, on a blind date where they danced the night away. They were wed on August 29th, 1964, and while raising two children, dedicated themselves to serving the Wenatchee Valley through their business and community activism.

In 1969, Jim and Corinne became the proud owners of Telford's Chapel of the Valley funeral home in East Wenatchee. In 1974, they designed and built a

beautiful new building at 711 Grant Rd., with a reader board out front that was available to the community at no charge for posting special occasion messages. In 1987, the East Wenatchee Chamber of Commerce chose TCV for their Small Business of the Year award. Jim and Corinne built their business on the family concept of service over self and treated each family as if it were their own. Jim had a unique gift for offering comfort and guidance to families during their most difficult times. The business flourished under their dedicated care and became a trusted community partner.

To counterbalance the demands of dealing with grief, community activities and service became their second life's work. These activities helped them to revive and refocus. Jim immersed the business and himself in the community, supporting youth sports and service groups, receiving numerous awards for his donations of time, talent, and treasure. He served the East Wenatchee Chamber of Commerce as President for 3 years and board membership 12+ years. East Wenatchee Rotary, as president, was a longtime member and Paul Harris fellow. He was deeply involved with Active 20-30 Club, Camp Fire, Salvation Army, Wells House Committee, CW Hospital Foundation Committee, Wenatchee Valley College Foundation, United Way, American Red Cross, North Central Washington Council on Aging, Senior Task Force, Wenatchee Chamber of Commerce, and the WA State Funeral Directors.

In 1983, Jim served as Director General for the Washington State Apple Blossom Festival. His Board created the prestigious Lehman Johnson award for volunteerism, which he and Corinne were then awarded in 1994. In addition, Jim and Corinne, along with Abby's Pizza and Weinstein Beverage, originated the festival kick-off Pizza Party to honor the royalty and Festival Board, providing an event that their family members could participate in. This has been one of their proudest accomplishments, and he has pledged continued future sponsorship for this event.

Jim and Corinne joined the Applarians in 1971. They excelled as ambassadors for the community and in support of the Washington State Apple Blossom Festival, receiving the Outstanding Member award in 2006. Jim served as Chancellor in 1990 and enjoyed every moment of the 54 years he spent with his Applarian family. Their mission and his sociability were a match made in heaven.

Upon retirement in 1995, Jim and Corinne were lucky to be able to travel extensively throughout the world and the US. But their favorite destination by far was the family cabin at Lake Chelan. Putzing around the yard, a crib game, watching wildlife, and the activity on the lake made for a great day. And even more perfect if grandchildren, family, or friends were also visiting. The Telford Family gathering at the cabin each August, featuring Jim's BBQ steelhead, has become a family tradition which continues to keep generations of the Telford family connected.

The life of the party with his big, loud belly laugh, Jim had a gift for conversation, making those around him feel comfortable and welcome. Sociability was his hobby. Service his passion. He was the definition of a 'people person' and was most content when helping others or singing to his grandchildren.

Jim Telford was a kind and generous man. He lived a life of service that touched so many lives through his work and volunteerism. He was a beloved figure in the community and a respected role model to many. He welcomed everyone with the best hugs and made you feel special and seen. How lucky we have all been to have had this wonderful man in our lives.

Jim's family includes daughter Teri Katzer (Rick) with daughters Jaime (John & Riley) Monnig and Kelli (Brandon) Taylor, son Scott Telford (Pokky), and

sons Dasan and Joshua, sisters Marilyn Crollard and Delta Wood, brother-in-law Norm Bellas, and numerous nieces and nephews. He is preceded in death by his beloved wife Corinne, parents Earnest & Victoria Telford, and siblings Maynard, Vivian, Floy, Hazel, Kenneth, Ernest, Frank, Joanne, Marlys, and Donald.

A Visitation will be held on Friday, October 17, 2:00- 6:00 pm at Chapel of the Valley, 378 Eastmont Ave., East Wenatchee.

A Memorial Service will be held on Saturday, October 18, at 11:30 am at the United Methodist Church, 941 Washington St., Wenatchee, WA.

A family Graveside Service will precede the Memorial Service at the Wenatchee City Cemetery.

Arrangements by Chapel of the Valley, East Wenatchee.

Memorial donations can be made to:

Jim Telford Memorial Fund
c/o North Central Community Foundation
9 S Wenatchee Ave
Wenatchee, WA 98801

https://cfncw.fcsuite.com/erp/donate/create/fund?funit_id=1801

This memorial fund will support the Apple Blossom Festival Princess Scholarships on behalf of Jim and Corinne Telford. Corinne was a princess in 1954 and Jim's kindness, generosity and belief in in the Festival spirit touched so many lives. This scholarship fund will ensure their legacy continues to inspire future generations of young women.

Confluence Health Foundation - Hospice/Home Health

In Memory of Jim Telford

526 N. Chelan Ave Ste A

Wenatchee, WA 98801

<https://confluencehealthfoundation.org/our-impact/donate-online/>

Previous Events

Visitation

OCT 17. 2:00 AM - 6:00 PM (PT)

Chapel of the Valley
378 Eastmont Ave.
East Wenatchee, WA 98802
(509) 884-3561
info@chapelofthevalleyncw.com

Memorial Service

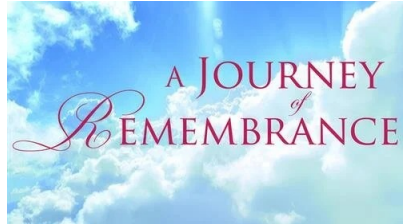
OCT 18. 11:30 AM (PT)

First United Methodist Church
941 Washington St,
Wenatchee, WA 98801

Tribute Wall



“ Chapel of the Valley created a Tribute Video in memory of James "Jim" Telford



Chapel of the Valley - October 16, 2025 at 02:10 PM

SB

Jim. In 1974 at your new building you managed our family's grief. My 31 year old mother died tragically in a bad car wreck. I was only 11 years old. Frightened and sad during the process. You lovingly and calmly held me after an unexpected reaction to my mothers open coffin. She was not here, but you made her look present and peaceful. It confused me. You made sense of my shock and confusion. You were the one who helped me understand. I was so thankful to discover you went to the church I would attend after my life changed forever. I saw you as a loving reminder each Sunday my new life was God's will and gift. I went to confirmation and was in the same graduating class as your son. I saw you multiple times throughout my life. Was a florist and delivered flowers to Telfords very same building I met you in. The invisible presence you had in my life I can't put words to. Thank you for being the angel I needed so desperately that day. And the continuing sporadic visits throughout my life. Im absolutely sure your kindness influenced me and the trajectory of my floral career. I would consult with grieving funeral families their funeral flowers. I would be asked by Co workers and some customers why I wanted to help these sad people. The answer was ALWAYS because of what you did that day. I made sure to tell you this while you were living. But now im telling those that love you as you are only a piece in their hearts. For some reason I did not hear of your passing. But 2 days after your passing a dear friend of mine unexpectedly passed and my overwhelming grief was with me again. Unbeknownst to me, you were my angel of comfort even though you had just left the earth yourself. This is my heartfelt tribute. Jim. You were the best. Your words and kindness are what I return to ateach passing of loved ones. That my dear man, is the best gift one can give and receive. I thank God for your presence on earth and that I was blessed to know you. My dear angel, im sure you'll be there as my guide in passing. See you on that side! Love, Susan Keyes Behrens daughter of Rose Marie Murphy Keyes.

Susan Keyes Behrens - November 14, 2025 at 11:09 AM

YS

“ My deepest condolences to the Telford family. In 1990, I was fortunate enough to meet Mr. James Telford when he visited my hometown of Misawa City in Japan. I was only 14 years old at the time. Meeting such a great and beloved man as your father in my youth was truly a blessing from heaven. Every time I visited Wenatchee, I was deeply moved by his warm character and wise advice. He is my role model and one of the greatest heroes of my life. The time I spent with him is an irreplaceable treasure to me. With deepest respect from Japan to Mr. James Telford.

Yoshifumi Shindo - January 03 at 07:20 PM

BJ

“ Jim was a good friend of my father's, Bill Word. Sr from the old Active club. RIP sir.

Bill Word Jr - November 07, 2025 at 02:17 PM

BJ

“ I remember Jim well. He was a good friend of my father's. Bill Word, Jr. Renton, WA

Bill Word Jr - October 30, 2025 at 02:22 PM

PL

“ A great friend and a wonderful example of living a life in service to others. Everyone he met was a friend. I am sure by now you have found my Louie and are hashing out how you caught your last salmon and reminiscing your high school days. Rest in peace, dear friend and hug my Louie for me 💙

Pat Lowell - October 18, 2025 at 12:24 AM



“ 1 file added to the album *Apple Blossom Festival Princess Scholarship*



Chapel of the Valley - October 15, 2025 at 02:18 PM



“ My sweet Uncle Jim.. one of the nicest human God has created .. going to miss your singing A your adorable and all the other songs you loved and seeing you at Lake Chelan .. see you someday 💙

Kristin Miller - October 14, 2025 at 06:18 PM



“ Oh, Brucie...(mom) where would we be without Jim? In 1996, my sister Danette passed away in Dunsmuir, Oregon....Mom called Jim and met at the Chapel. After that meeting, Jim personally drove to Dunsmuir and brought Danette home...So Much Respect!! The Conrads are grateful for you, Jim Telford❤️.....God Bless you😊.
Allen Conrad- Eastmont 82

allen conrad - October 13, 2025 at 09:45 PM