



James Emory Galford

July 17, 1944 - August 24, 2025

James "Jim" Emory Galford, 81, of 404 Somerset Place, Rustburg died Sunday, August 24, 2025 at his home. He was the husband of Sheila Lemley Galford for thirty-one years.

He was born July 17, 1944 in Marlinton, West Virginia, a son of the late Jim Arnold Galford and Una Marie Gum Galford. He served as pastor at multiple Methodist churches throughout his life, retired from a long career at Babcock & Wilcox, and was an active member of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers as well as the West Virginia University Alumni Association.

Pastor Jim was officially appointed to Mt. Zion UMC on October 15, 2008. Jim's first appointment was to serve Leesville UMC/West Campbell Charge in June 2003 and continued through June 2006. Jim served as Associate Pastor at Rustburg UMC from July 2007 through June 2009.

Jim grew up on a small farm in Green Bank, WV. Looking to the west, from the home place, the Cheat Mountain hides the slopes of the Snowshoe Ski Resort. The phone cell free valley in central Pocahontas County has several radio telescopes which are operated by the federal government as the National Radio Observatory. Jim graduated from West Virginia University with a BS in Mechanical Engineering (67) and a MS degree in Theoretical and Applied Mechanics (69) (structural design and analysis). After employment

with Allegany Ballistics Laboratory (missile propellant design) and Teledyne Materials Research (nuclear power plant piping design), Jim moved to Lynchburg to work for Babcock & Wilcox in November 1972 as a mechanical engineer. Jim retired in July 2004 from AREVA (the evolved company name) after 32 years. Prior to appointment as a Part-time local pastor, Jim participated in United Methodist Lay Speaking and taught classes at CVCC (math, strength of materials, hydraulics).

A five (5) year enrollment in theological, bible study, counseling, and preaching was completed in March 2011 Duke Divinity School. This five-year program provides theological study, pastoral care training, and bible study. This education is a requirement (by Book of Discipline) to appoint a Licensed Local Pastor in the United Methodist Church.

He is survived by two daughters, Denise Jill Galford-Koeppel and her husband, Brent of Natick, MA and Amy Elaine Galford; and three grandchildren, Bryn Elise Koeppel, Holden Pierce Koeppel, and Emory Clark Koeppel.

A funeral service will be conducted at 11:00 a.m., Thursday, August 28, 2025 at Finch & Finch Chapel, Altavista by the Rev. Eddie Maynard.

The family will receive friends one hour prior to the service.

His burial will be conducted at 1:00 p.m., Friday, August 29, 2025 at Riverview Cemetery, 325 South Holiday St., Strasburg, VA 22657 by the Rev. Steve Bird.

The family suggests that those wishing to make memorials consider West Virginia University Foundation - Benjamin Statler College of Engineering & Mineral Resources, P.O. Box 1650, Morgantown, WV 26507.

Cemetery Details

Riverview Cemetery

325 South Holiday St.
Strasburg, VA

Previous Events

Visitation

AUG 28. 10:00 AM - 10:45 PM (ET)

Finch and Finch Chapel
809 Main St.
Altavista, VA 24517

Funeral Service

AUG 28. 11:00 AM (ET)

Finch and Finch Chapel
809 Main St.
Altavista, VA 24517

Graveside Service

AUG 29. 1:00 PM (ET)

Riverview Cemetery
325 South Holiday St.
Strasburg, VA

Tribute Wall

DR

“ I had the good fortune of working with Jim many years ago. What a pleasure he was to work with and to be in the presence of in general. My condolences to Sheila and the Family. May your memories sustain you.

Dixie Reichard

Dixie Reichard - August 28, 2025 at 11:09 AM

TM

“ Sheila, I am so very sorry. Jim was a genius with a razor sharp wit. He was also a terrific teacher, mentoring many young engineers, including me back in the day. I will miss him.

Terr Minnick - August 27, 2025 at 05:02 PM

CM

“ Sheila, my heart goes out to you and family. I have so many fond memories of Jim, his smile and sense of humor especially. I really wish I could be there Thursday but I am now a shut-in and can not get out. Please know that I will be there in spirit. I continue to keep you in my prayers.

Cynthia Metcalf - August 27, 2025 at 03:14 PM

HW

“ Sheila,
So very sorry for your loss. Jim was such a good and kind man.
Sending prayers of comfort and peace to you and the entire family.

Heidi Whatley

Heidi Whatley - August 27, 2025 at 02:53 PM

GH

“ Gary Hack lit a candle in memory of James Emory Galford



Gary Hack - August 27, 2025 at 11:44 AM

GH

“ I'm so sorry for your loss.
I worked with Jim while at B&W/Areva/Framatome, and he was a super nice Man!
Please know that you're in my thoughts during this difficult time.
RIP Jim.

Gary Hack - August 27, 2025 at 11:42 AM



“ Sweet Tranquility Basket was purchased for the family of James Emory Galford.



August 27, 2025 at 09:43 AM

SF

“ I worked with Jim for many years, he was an early to work person like me, and we had many long chats in the morning about life. I am fortunate enough to have a hand made picnic table that still looks like the day I got it from him that has been apart of my family dinner experiences for over 20 years. He always had words of wisdom, a smile and a chuckle to share. A person who truly loved his job, his ministry and his family. Prayers to all of his friends and family and especially Sheila during this hard time. Sherri & Jeff Fleck

Sherri Fleck - August 27, 2025 at 07:12 AM

FC

“ Jim was a very great person. I've only met him and Sheila twice, but they turned out to be life long very very good dear friends. Jim sent me snowmen that he had made and wanted me to have them. They are so beautiful. I will always treasure them. Also he has picked out various frog items that he knew I would love. God Bless Jim and Sheila. We have lost a great friend, but are grateful we crossed paths a few years ago. Jim was a true man of God and we know he is in heaven with Jesus. He was also a very proud Mountaineer fan. A great alumni of WVU and the College of Engineering. God Bless Sheila. Love ya, Frankie and Chuck

Frankie & Chuck - August 26, 2025 at 05:11 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of James Emory Galford.

August 26, 2025 at 08:23 AM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of James Emory Galford.



August 26, 2025 at 08:23 AM



“ 5 files added to the tribute wall



Finch & Finch, Inc. - August 25, 2025 at 03:34 PM



“ 5 files added to the album Photos



Finch & Finch, Inc. - August 25, 2025 at 03:33 PM