



Jay Harper Kemp

November 26, 1957 - March 11, 2026

Coleman Funeral Home of Olive Branch

It is with heavy hearts that we announce the passing of a beloved husband, father, grandfather, brother, and friend, Jay Harper Kemp, 68, who passed away peacefully at home on March 11, 2026. Friends are invited to a visitation with the family on Friday, March 20, 2026 from 12:00 pm until the time of the service at 2:00 pm at Pleasant Hill Baptist Church. Interment will be at Pleasant Hill Cemetery following the service. Bro. Michael Weeks will officiate.

Jay was born in Lawrence, Kansas on November 26, 1957 to the late Thomas Andrew and Evelyn (Nelms) Kemp. He was a man whose life was defined by his deep love for his family, the outdoors, and the simple moments that brought people together.

Above all else, he was devoted to his family. He was a loving husband who shared a special bond with his wife, built on years of commitment, laughter, and unwavering support. Together they created a home filled with love, strength, and memories that will be cherished forever.

He was an incredibly proud father who loved his children beyond measure. His guidance, encouragement, and steady presence shaped their lives in countless ways. Whether offering advice, sharing stories, or simply being

there when they needed him most, he was the kind of father every child hopes to have.

One of the greatest joys of his life was being a grandfather. His grandchildren held a special place in his heart, and he treasured every moment he spent with them. Whether sharing stories, laughter, or simple everyday moments, he loved watching them grow and took immense pride in being their grandfather. The love he had for them was unconditional and will remain a lasting part of their lives.

He also held a special place in his heart for his siblings. The bond they shared was rooted in a lifetime of memories, laughter, and support. Family meant everything to him, and those connections remained important to him throughout his life.

When he wasn't spending time with family, he could often be found outdoors doing what he loved most—hunting and fishing. Those peaceful moments in nature brought him joy and were often shared with family and friends. Whether it was early mornings in the woods or quiet afternoons by the water, those experiences were some of the moments he treasured most.

He will be remembered for his kind heart, his love of the outdoors, and most importantly, the love he gave so freely to his family. His legacy will live on through the lives he touched and the memories he leaves behind.

Though he will be deeply missed, the love he gave and the lessons he shared will remain in the hearts of those who knew and loved him forever.

He is survived by his wife, Susan Rutherford Kemp; children, Chalet Kemp (Craig Kamyszek), Joshua Kemp (Simone), Cody Kemp (Alexandra); seven grandchildren, and one great-grandchild; siblings, Dianne Barnack, Barbara

“Babs” Moore (Jerry), Marilyn “Mari” Craddock (Bill Jr.), Andy Kemp (Paula).

In lieu of traditional flowers, memorials may be made to the animal rescue charity of one’s choice or to Arbor Day Trees in Memory at <https://shop.arborday.org>, or to the charity of one’s choice.

Online condolences can be written on his tribute wall at www.colemanfuneralhomeob.com.

Cemetery Details

Pleasant Hill Cemetery

4046 Pleasant Hill Road
Olive Branch, MS 38654

Previous Events

Visitation

MAR 20. 12:00 PM - 2:00 PM (CT)

Pleasant Hill Baptist Church
4046 Pleasant Hill Road
Olive Branch, MS 38654

Funeral Service

MAR 20. 2:00 PM (CT)

Pleasant Hill Baptist Church
4046 Pleasant Hill Road
Olive Branch, MS 38654

Tribute Wall



“ Coleman Funeral Home of Olive Branch created a Tribute Video in memory of Jay Harper Kemp



Coleman Funeral Home (Olive Branch) - March 17 at 02:42 PM

MC

Always a tender hearted loving son, brother, husband, father, grandfather and friend.

MARILYNN EDITH CRADDOCK - March 17 at 03:31 PM



Sending most heartfelt prayers to Andy & Paula, and Family. The video was a beautiful tribute to Jay. I know he will be missed by everyone who knew him. Godspeed His love to you.....Karen H.

Karen Hamberlin - March 19 at 12:03 AM

BM

Praying for the Kemp family! Truly lost a great man! I knew him personally and I can't imagine the void left behind to be filled!!💔💔💔

Brian Miller - March 19 at 07:42 PM

CK

The Very Best Dad a girl could ask for! I'll love you forever and miss you every single day. Forever your Baby girl.

Chalet Kemp - March 20 at 12:14 AM

TF

“ *The Kappen Families purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of Jay Harper Kemp.*



The Kappen Families - March 19 at 12:52 PM



“ *Pink Tribute Spray was purchased for the family of Jay Harper Kemp.*



March 17 at 03:19 PM

P(

“ *So sorry for your loss Susan & The Families. Prayers For Comfort, Healing, Peace And Strength During This Difficult Time For All The Days, All The Weeks, All The Months And All The Years Ahead. May God Continue To Be With Y'all Always. I Love Y'all 🙏*

🙏 *R.I.P. Jay Kemp* 💔

Patty Harris (Lynch) - March 17 at 11:26 AM

TB

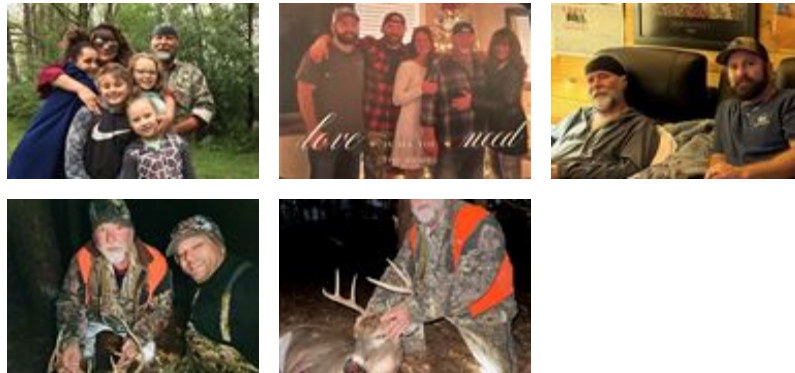
“ *The Beatys purchased the Days of Sunshine Bouquet for the family of Jay Harper Kemp.*



The Beatys - March 16 at 02:34 PM



“ 138 files added to the album *LifeTributes*



Coleman Funeral Home (Olive Branch) - March 16 at 02:00 PM

MM

“ *I have known Jay since the day he was born. There were 3.5 years between us. He would play Barbies with Me and I'd play Tonka trucks with him. 3 years later brother Andy showed up. The 3 of us would build tents between their twin beds with blankets and use our toy boxes to keep them from falling off so we could crawl under inside and pretend we were camping . He loved outdoors ever since he could walk.*

He learned to fish on the St. Croix River in Wisconsin when our parents started going camping.

He was always taking things apart and putting it back together. My fondest memory is seeing him as a father. He loved his children more than anything. Then came his first grandson. Landry who gave him the name PopPop. That was a very proud moment for him.

I will miss you brother and will treasure every memory we shared and the connection we have. Until I see you again, I love you always



Marilynn aka Mimi aka Mari - March 16 at 01:33 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Jay Harper Kemp.*



March 16 at 01:17 PM