

James Lee Gallimore

James Lee Gallimore was the fourth child of Seaph and Alice Gallimore. James was born 16 October 1927 and was named after both of his grandfathers, James Alexander Gallimore and Philip Hosea Lee Snider.



James was born while his parents were still living in Thomasville on Julian Avenue. When James was around five years of age the family moved to the Leach-Lanier home on Crousetown Road near Denton. The house was cold in the winter, with holes in the wall. It was heated by a single fireplace and was not very comfortable to live in.

With Seaph and Alice's large family of seven children there were many chores to do. One of the chores that James remembers was carrying the water 300 feet from the spring to the house. James often accompanied his Grandfather Jim Gallimore to his place of business in Thomasville on Carolina Avenue just east of Randolph Street where he sold fertilizer and seed.

At age 11, James and brother Boyd were playing dog and rabbit with a group of their cousins and friends in the barn. Among the group was his cousin, Vernelle Snider. Vernelle pushed James out of the barn and broke his leg! Vernelle later made up for this childhood accident by giving James his first birthday party ever when he returned home on leave from the service.

James was the first of his brothers and sister to graduate from high school. He attended Denton School for 12 years and graduated in 1945. While in school James received a medal for being a "Good Speaker". This trait has been passed down to his grandson Chase who has also received awards for his speaking. James also received a medal for being "Best All Around."



After James graduated from High School he went to work at Amazon Mill in Thomasville. The job called for him to work third shift and James could not get accustomed to working all night.

He quit his job at the Amazon and, with close friend, Bill Wright, joined the Air Force on 18 September 1946. James was first sent to Pope Air Force Base near Fort Bragg in North Carolina for basic training. Then he was sent to Lackland AFB, San Antonio, Texas for MOS training as a Clerk/Typist. He went on to complete an Air Force career of 20 years, 2 months and 10

days serving stateside in Denver, Colorado; San Francisco; Dayton Ohio; Mitchell Field, New York, West Palm Beach, Florida; Charleston, South Carolina. He served abroad in Hawaii; Guam; Philippines; Tokyo, Japan and Germany. James received the following medals: Japan Occupation Medal, Korean Service Medal, United Nations Service Medal and Good Conduct Medal with one clasp.

On one occasion when James was home on leave in North Carolina, he drove across the United States to San Francisco for his next assignment of duty in his new 1949 Ford which he also took with him overseas.

In 1952, he and a friend were hitchhiking from California to North Carolina. The driver of the car went to sleep and hit a bridge abutment near Salt Lake City, Utah. James who was asleep in the back seat was not hurt; however, his friend in the passenger seat was killed.



James was in West Palm Beach in July 1952 when he met a young lady on a blind date by the name of Violet Lorene Sides. Violet worked at Southern Bell in Alabama but was sent to West Palm Beach to help with the phone calls made by the tourists in the summer. Violet was transferred back to Birmingham, Alabama and James was transferred to Lackland AFB in San Antonio, Texas. The romance continued and after several proposals, James took Violet to the top of Red Mountain overlooking Birmingham, where, at the foot of the Vulcan statue he asked the big question once again. This time Violet said yes. On 7 October 1953 James and Violet were married at Woodlawn Methodist Church in Birmingham.

James and Violet's first four children, James "Jimmy" Lee, Sandra "Sandy" Lorene, Janice Lynette and Frankie Lynn were born while they were stationed in San Antonio, Texas. Jimmy, a junior is named after his father. Sandy's middle name is the same as her mother.

Violet stayed in San Antonio the first year while James was in Germany and then she and Jimmy, Sandy, Janice and Frankie joined James in Germany. While they were in Germany their fifth child, Janet Louise was born on Easter Sunday, 14 April 1963.

After they returned to stateside from Germany, James was stationed at Charleston, South Carolina. While James was looking for housing for his family, Violet and the children stayed with James parents, Seaph and Alice Gallimore, at Ocean Drive Beach for six weeks. It was at Charleston, South Carolina that their last child, John Larry, was born on 12 May 1966. James was stationed at Charleston, South Carolina until he retired from service on 31 December 1966.

When James retired from service the family moved back to Cordova, Alabama to be close to Violet's parents. It is in Alabama that James and five of his children live today with their families. Their youngest son, Larry, lives in Thomasville.

James gives Violet the credit for raising the children. They both did a fine job because they produced six polite and well mannered grown children. These traits can also be seen in James and Violet's grandchildren.

In large families the names of siblings are often confused or forgotten. Sometimes James would forget his children's names, however, since he was a whiz with numbers and birthdates, he would call them by their birth order. Jimmy was # 1, Sandy # 2, Janice # 3, Frankie # 4, Janet # 5 and Larry # 6!

James started bowling while in service and still enjoys it today and carries an impressive average of 208.

Jimmy was in a severe car accident in August, 1995 but with the help of his family and special friend, Sandy Brown, has learned to cope. He serves on a Committee for a Housing Project in Dora, Alabama where he lives.

Sandy married Jeffrey Lynn Rigsby, son of William Orville Rigsby and Annette Rigsby, and they have two children, Matthew Cory and Sarah Jessica. Sandy is employed by the State of Alabama in the unemployment office.

Janice married Ronald Neil Hyche, son of Julius Hyche and Lille Mae Stacks and they have one child Todd Nelson. Janice is a school teacher.

Frankie married Kitty Suzette Young, daughter of William Edward Young and Linda Ann Mays. Frankie and Kitty have two children, Kristin Lynn and Benjamin Chase. Kristin married 3 June 2000 Lee Fudge. Lee has two children Eric and Logan by a previous marriage. Kristin is going to bless Frankie and Kitty with their first grandchild and James and Violet with their first great grandchild in November 2000. Frankie is a district manager for K-Mart and a preacher.

Janet married Timothy Doyle Gay, son of William Doyle Gay and Joyce Ann Martin. Janet and Tim have one son, Martin Andrew, whom they call Drew. Janet is employed as a dental hygienist.

Larry is the only child of James and Violet that does not live in Alabama. Larry lives in Thomasville, North Carolina and is employed at Mickey Body Company.

Children:

1. **James "Jimmy" Lee Gallimore, Jr.**, b. 17 Jan. 1956.
2. **Sandra "Sandy" Lorene Gallimore**, b. 9 Dec. 1956, m. 10 June 1977, Jeffrey Lynn Rigsby b. 22 Jan. 1957.
 - A. Matthew Cory Rigsby, b. 22 Oct. 1979.
 - B. Sarah Jessica Rigsby, b. 2 Aug. 1988.
3. **Janice Lynette Gallimore**, b. 30 Mar. 1958, m. 7 Oct. 1977, Ronald Neil Hyche, b. 15 Nov. 1957.
 - A. Todd Nelson Hyche, b. 3 June 1988.
4. **Frankie Lynn Gallimore**, b. 8 July 1960, m. 20 June 1981, Kitty Suzette Young, b. 26 May 1953.
 - A. Kristin Lynn Gallimore b. 9 Dec. 1981, m. 3 June 2000 Lee Fudge, b. 11 Nov. 1969.
 - B. Benjamin Chase Gallimore, b. 8 Dec. 1982.
5. **Janet Louise Gallimore**, b. 14 April 1963, m. 8 Aug. 1991 Timothy Doyle Gay, b. 8 Oct. 1960.
 - A. Martin Andrew Gay, b. 7 Dec. 1995.
6. **John Larry Gallimore**, b. 12 May 1966.