



## James "Jim" Blount

June 4, 1935 - August 22, 2017

Former Hamilton Journal-News editor and noted historian James "Jim" L. Blount, passed away at Ft. Hamilton Hospital August 22, 2017, where he was born June 4, 1935, the oldest of 5 children of James and Julia (Mignerey) Blount. Jim graduated from Hamilton High in 1953, where he worked on the school newspaper and radio show on WMOH. He was quarterback for the Big Blue in 1952. Jim worked full time for the Cincinnati Enquirer while earning a BS in Education at UC. He earned a Master's Degree in History from Miami in 1965. He taught history at Hamilton High/Taft for six years, where he was an assistant football and head track coach. His 1962 track team won first place district title. In 1963 Jim began working full-time for the Hamilton Journal-News. He became Editor-in-Chief in the early 1970's. Through Journal-News editorials Jim pushed for city improvements, including the connector to I-75, the Jack Kirsch Underpass, low level dam and all things to benefit the city he loved. Jim returned to teaching History and Civics at Wilson Jr. High in 1986. Jim served as the press box announcer and team record keeper for the Cincinnati Bengals for 41 years, from their first game through 2008. Involved with Miami-Hamilton from its start, he promoted growth through editorials and news stories, taught journalism and was very active in the Michael Colligan History Project at the campus. The Jim Blount History Award began in 2005 to recognize outstanding area history teachers. In retirement he served on the Transportation Improvement District board from 1994 till present, as chairman in recent years. He signed the bonds for Ohio Route 129 and contributed to

Bypass 4 improvements, Liberty Center and Union Centre interchanges. For over 50 years he pushed for improvement to the South Hamilton Railroad Crossing, now under construction. The City Council honored him on July 12, naming the overpass for him. He was recognized as Hamilton Citizen of the Year for 2005, Hamilton City Schools Teacher of the Year 1991-1992, inducted into the Hamilton City Schools' Athletic Hall of Fame in 2004 and received the Butler County Historical Society Distinguished Historian Award in 2011. Known as Hamilton's Historian, he wrote the stories on the medallions on the High-Main Bridge, most local Ohio Historical markers and over a dozen books on local history. Jim was an avid reader and student of the Civil War. His files will be donated to the Lane Library's Smith Historical Library. Jim and Jackie (Steigerwalt) married on December 27, 1958. Together they raised two children of whom they are very proud. The couple loved traveling, having visited all 50 states, most National Parks and presidential museums. They also traveled internationally for many years. Trips with their children and later daughter and grandchildren provided wonderful memories. Jim is survived by his wife and best friend, Jackie, who organized family life, enabling him to be active in the city he loved, daughter Lori, grandchildren James (Anabel) and Devin, great grandchildren Ella, Maya and Leo Shook. Siblings include Judy (Ron) Hartman and Jean (Bill) Eads of Hamilton, Jerry (Dorothy) Blount and Joyce Blount of AZ. He also leaves several nieces and nephews including Steve (Jo) Hartman of Hamilton and Jaime (Henry) Chou of CA, cousin Lois Krysiak of PA. Family friends include Hamiltonians Sheilah Hahn Richter and Jerry and Marilyn Furginson, who set up the couple's blind date. Jim will be buried at Rose Hill, next to his son, Brian, who died of GBM (brain cancer) in 1997. Visitation will be held Friday, August 25, 2017 from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at Weigel Funeral Home. 980 N. W. Washington Blvd. A funeral service will be held Saturday, August 26, 2017 at 10:00 a.m. at the funeral home. Memorials may be directed to The Blount Family Scholarship, Miami University-Hamilton, 1601 University Blvd, Hamilton, OH 45011 or the Brian J. Blount Memorial Scholarship, Hamilton Community Foundation, 319 N. 3rd

St., Hamilton, OH 45011. Online condolences are available at [www.weigelfuneralhome.com](http://www.weigelfuneralhome.com)

“When someone you love becomes a memory, that memory becomes a treasure.”

# Cemetery Details

## Rose Hill Burial Park

2421 Princeton Road  
Hamilton, OH 45011

# Previous Events

## Visitation

**AUG 25.** 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Weigel Funeral Home  
980 N.W. Washington Blvd.  
Hamilton, OH 45013  
(513) 892-1524  
<https://www.weigelfuneralhome.com/>

## Service

**AUG 26.** 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Weigel Funeral Home  
980 N.W. Washington Blvd.  
Hamilton, OH 45013  
(513) 892-1524  
<https://www.weigelfuneralhome.com/>

# Tribute Wall



“ Weigel Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of James "Jim" Blount



---

**Weigel Funeral Home** - August 24, 2017 at 02:06 PM

DM

“ From one fellow historian to another, we will miss you, Jim, for your irreplaceable wealth of knowledge and for your great kindness in sharing that knowledge with others. When I was writing my book on Morgan's Raid, it was you who helped lead me to key sources in Hamilton that brought forth new information on the subject. I will always remember you as the true historian you were and are. Part of your legacy is in the history you have rediscovered and have left to us in your many books, articles, and oral presentations. We won't forget you, and we honor the work you have done.



*God speed, Jim.*

*David L. Mowery*

---

**David L Mowery** - August 28, 2017 at 04:53 PM

AT

“ Dearest Blount Family: our sympathies to you all; Jim was a wonderful man and we remember so fondly the wonderful times our family spent with yours. Jim reminded us all of the importance of the history that surrounded us; for that we are all very grateful.  
With love, Mary and Ann Taulbee.

Ann Taulbee - August 25, 2017 at 08:19 AM



“ Serene Reflections Bouquet was purchased for the family of James "Jim" Blount .



August 24, 2017 at 05:23 PM



“ 3 files added to the album Life Tributes



Weigel Funeral Home - August 24, 2017 at 03:35 PM



“ Guiding Light Bouquet was purchased for the family of James "Jim" Blount .



August 24, 2017 at 03:33 PM

DF

“ Jim was my track coach for 3 years and a good friend. He did so much for the city of Hamilton! Dave Francis class of '63 Taft High School

Dave Francis - August 24, 2017 at 01:12 PM



“ 34 files added to the album Life Tributes



Weigel Funeral Home - August 24, 2017 at 12:54 PM

MC

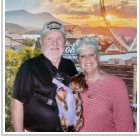
“ Knowing Jim, he is already at work on "The History of Heaven."

*He was and is a city treasure, and a piece of Hamilton has gone with him.*

*But his formidable contributions to the life of the city and its citizens will endure for generations.*

*Michael L. Carrafiello.*

Michael Carrafiello - August 24, 2017 at 11:50 AM



“ *First day of interview at the Journal, I knew i would love working for this man. One of a Kind RIP sweet man. Roseann Smith*

---

**Roseann Smith** - August 24, 2017 at 09:41 AM

KS

“ Jim Blount is largely responsible for hammering, molding and polishing my writing skills while I worked at the Journal News from 1967-1972. His relentlessly accurate editing skills, the slashes through paragraphs, the many question marks, his patient explanations and his "blunt" comments when I made the same mistake twice gave me a different type of journalism "degree", one no amount of college courses could top. Jim, more than anything else, was a teacher, he just couldn't anyhimsself, he seldom make a correction without explaining why. Soon after I started as the religion editor and writer of most daily obituaries, I went to Jim and told him I wanted the same writing opportunities as the male reporters and he gave me what I asked for. But that old saying "Be careful what you ask for" came back and whacked me! I was pregnant with my son Michael and one of my assignments was to walk down to Mercy Hospital admissions department on Saturday mornings to pick up the list of hospital admissions and babies born that week. It was snowing like crazy, a white out. Streets and sidewalks were sheets of ice. I fell on my way back flat on my backside and felt the jolt right up through the top of my head. When I got back to the City Room I shook off the snow and re moved my icy boots. I have never forgotten this exchange with Jim. Me: "Jim I fell really hard on the ice on my way back from the hospital, do you think since I'm pregnant one of the guys could go get the list? Jim (looking up at me from the editors desk, with the beginnings of a sardonic grin crossing his face) "You asked to be be treated as an equal didn't you? Why would I ask a man to do your job?" Me: speechless. Yes he gave me equal opportunities and challenges and assignments. Roe vs Wade dominated the AP wires, women were flying to New York for legal abortions. Outside the gate of each airline terminal abortion clinics hung signs o with the clinic name, indicating which abortion clinic would provide transportation to the women seated in their assigned rows. TWA , American Airlines, United, all the airline's cooperated with the abortion clinics and would quietly provide directons to the women, girls or families who had arrived in New York for legal abortions. It was big business for the airlines and it was something people didn't talk about or possibly know about.

*When Jim found out that in Michigan there were billboards along major highways advertising abortions he decided it was time the paper would address abortion head-on, factually and without editorializing.. Jim wanted a "story", he wanted me to dig deep locally and around the Cincinnati area to bring real women out of the shadows and into some serious writing about this controversial topic. With his support I spent alot of time on the road, traveling, meeting the women and girls and wives and sex workers whose stories and tragedies and secrets and tearful decisions were the fabric of a five part narrative about abortion. As I interviewed women, girls even prostitutes, who had availed themselves of legal or of private illegal abortions. Jim pushed me hard, encouraged me, demanding I give him my best and I learned more about news writing investigating for that series and under his direction, than I could have hoped a college journalism degree would have given me. Jim took chances approving ideas I proposed, like traveling to New York to cover fashion week in '71 and publish flashy two page showcase, in the Hamilton Journal-News. I think he was a bold editor hitting city council and county commissioners issues head on. For one story he sent me to a County Commissioners meeting to take advantage of the time set aside for citizens questions and answers. My question was to ask two of the commissioners to resign and present articles written by the Journal News as proof they were not doing the work our tax dollars were paying them to do. Jim and I had a great time structuring the resulting editorial commentary. Jim aggressively tackled topics even Columbus or Cleveland papers seemed reluctant to publish. Long after I left the Journal News I kept track of how Jim truly was a part of shaping the Hamilton of today. Anyone who knew Jim Blount was privileged to meet a historian keen on exploring Hamilton's historical past, whose impact on Hamilton's historical future is immeasurable. I know I was very blessed 50 years ago to have known Jim and I am sure in some way he played a part in editing my life. I write every day, using the skills I learned from Hamilton's Historian. In closing, I know I was a handful for Jim, a Lois Lane wanna be, who didn't always follow the rules, the kind of student teachers want to rap on their knuckles with a ruler! But since corporal punishment of employees*

*was illegal, Jim fired me instead, and I know it was hard for him to do. In retrospect I'd have fired me too. Mrs. Blount and family, I hope his life will be celebrated, as he was a rare gift to us all. I'm going to make a donation to Habitat for Humanity in his name. I know this was a long memory to share, but Jim Blount contributed greatly to my love for writing. I send my thanks to him and tender Mercies to the family he loved.*

---

**Kathy Smith** - August 24, 2017 at 12:32 AM

D9

“ *Best history teacher I ever had..! Still to this day do I have found memory's of him and playing the on the trail in class..! He will always be remembered and forever missed..! He truly is the person who instilled a deep love of history in me and many others..!*

---

**Duaine J Couch class of 97** - August 23, 2017 at 10:55 PM

EJ

“ *Jim was a truly wise and wonderful person. I was privledged to work with him on a set of local history videos and wish we could have done more. His continued friendship was much appreciated. The breadth and depth of his local history knowledge as well as his commitment to the city of Hamilton will be missed. My heartfelt condolences to the family.*

*Ed Johnson*

---

**Ed Johnson** - August 23, 2017 at 08:58 PM

HS

“ Jim was my mentor in 1960 in his World History class at Taft High school my sophomore year. That's when I decided that I wanted to be a history teacher. Our paths crossed many times when I left my teaching career in New Jersey and became a staff member at Miami University. I wrote some articles on issues of the day when he became the editor at the Journal. Then when I started working for the City of Hamilton in 1972 we had many conversations on city stuff. We attended many Civil War Roundtables in Cincinnati to enjoy more history. Jim did so much for Hamilton and I was still reading his Lane Library articles on Butler County history here in Colorado. He will be missed by many but never forgotten. I'm glad that the City named the South Hamilton Project in his honor for all that he did for transportation. My sincere sympathy to Jackie and the family. Hal Shepherd

-----  
**Hal Shepherd** - August 23, 2017 at 08:25 PM

MS

“ Condolences both to the family and also to the city of Hamilton. He will be missed by all.

-----  
**Marilyn Shearer** - August 23, 2017 at 08:01 PM

RK

Terrible loss for the city of Hamilton. Read everything that Jim penned. Wonderful man.

-----  
**Robert Krause** - August 23, 2017 at 09:27 PM

JB

“ I had the privilege of working with Jim on several committees for HCSD. He was always pleasant, positive, and full of good ideas. He was a credit to the fields of education and journalism

-----  
**John Baird** - August 23, 2017 at 07:57 PM

FS

“ Jackie, my prayers and thoughts are with you and your family during this time. Having lost my husband 9 years ago, I know how tough it can you. Be strong as I know you are and life goes on. Make every day count. You have a lifetime of memories as Jim created many memories for you and your family. Blessings.  
Faye Anderson Smith

---

**Faye Smith** - August 23, 2017 at 07:19 PM

GF

“ What a great teacher who touched so many lives. Lori , so sorry for your loss.  
Gloria Faber.

---

**Gloria Faber** - August 23, 2017 at 06:56 PM

CF

“ Jim took time to help the Big Blue ends by throwing passes to us. He was always willing to help with the history of the area. Jim will be remembered and missed as a good friend to Hamiltom and myself.

---

**Claude Fant** - August 23, 2017 at 06:17 PM

Anne  
Marr

“ Jim was so well respected by my family. My Father Dr. George Edward Marr and Mother Victoria always spoke so highly of Jim. I remember an article about him in Money Magazine. It sounds like they prepared well for their retirement being able to travel on his quest for learning and seeking new adventures. He certainly touched many lives and Hamilton is a better place because of Jim.

My sisters, Elizabeth Marr and Rebecca Miller and I know the sorrow that is in your heart but also that his memory will always live on.

He was a man of immeasurable quality.

Anne V. "Vicky" Marr

---

Anne Marr - August 23, 2017 at 06:10 PM

TC

“ To the Family of James Blount:

So sad to hear the passing of such a well respected man. He loved his City of Hamilton, Ohio and all its memories. Jim will be sorely missed by all. May God bless him and the Blount Family.

---

Teresa and Doug Crawford - August 23, 2017 at 05:26 PM

DH

“ I will always be grateful to Jim and Jackie for the warm welcome and local education when I moved to Hamilton 15 years ago. I enjoyed getting to know him and learning from him in my years as dean of Miami Hamilton, and thereafter. God bless this great man.  
Daniel

---

Daniel Hall - August 23, 2017 at 04:52 PM



“ I will always treasure my memories of time spent with Jim working on a project at my job, or just seeing Jim and Jackie out in the community. I am so grateful to have known this truly kind man.

*Audrey Morrison*

---

**Audrey Morrison** - August 23, 2017 at 03:53 PM

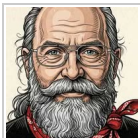


“ God bless you Jim. Butler County will never be the same as we have lost our "historic" voice". You did so much to preserve our history....

*Kathy Creighton*

---

**Kathy Firch Creighton** - August 23, 2017 at 03:27 PM



“ One of the proudest moments of my life was being the recipient of a Jim Blount award. He was always very encouraging, always ready to answer a question.

---

**Richard Jones** - August 23, 2017 at 03:13 PM