



## Sam Southerland

October 8, 1938 - January 31, 2025

Sam Southerland, 86, passed away on the morning of Friday, January 31, 2025, at home surrounded by his loving family.

He was born on October 8, 1938, in Knoxville, Tennessee, a son of the late James Henry and Vinnie Jane (Sexton) Southerland.

Sam attended Cadiz High School and married his high school sweetheart, Rita Harry, on August 21, 1957. He was easygoing and pleasant by nature. Sam had a great sense of humor and would laugh until he couldn't breathe.

He worked at Chrysler Corporation for 32 years, retiring in May 1997. Sam and his wife attended Park Place Free Methodist Church over the years and, more recently, Whittier Lane Baptist Church.

Sam loved sports, played baseball and basketball in high school, and bowled in church leagues over the years. He enjoyed carpentry work and helping his family build and remodel. For the past 21 years, Sam and Rita enjoyed wintering in Lake Placid, Florida.

Those left to cherish Sam's memory include his wife of 67 years, Rita Southerland; two sons, Jody (Chris) Southerland and Jim (Teresa) Southerland, both of New Castle, and a daughter, Kathy (Mark) Colgan of

Muncie; his grandchildren, Ryan, Jeremy, and Brock (Chelsea) Southerland, Lindsey (Beau) Tipton, David Colgan, Katie (Karl) Winters, Adam (Sara) Hollars, Danielle (David) Houser, and Cara (Matt) Huffman; great-grandchildren, Peyton, Parker, Laci, and Gavyn Southerland, Kaylee, and Kayden Tipton, Mark, Ellie, Abby, and Lucy Winters, Addison and Brance Southerland, Jackson and Nova Hollars, Ava Houser, Braedon, Cain, and Bane Huffman, and many special nieces and nephews, including Mary Vitatoe.

In addition to his parents, Sam was preceded in death by a brother, James Franklin Southerland, and a sister, Eula Jean Graham.

Funeral services will be held at 1:00 pm Wednesday, February 5, 2025, at Sproles Family Funeral Home with Pastor Danny Douglas officiating. Burial will follow in Hedricksburg Cemetery.

Friends may call from 11:00 am until 1:00 pm at the funeral home on Wednesday.

Memorial Contributions may be offered to the Autism Society at [www.autismsociety.org/donate](http://www.autismsociety.org/donate).

You may send the family a personal condolence at [www.sprolesfamilycares.com](http://www.sprolesfamilycares.com).

The Sproles family and staff are honored to serve the family of Sam Southerland.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

FEB 5. 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM (ET)

Sproles Family Funeral Home  
2400 S Memorial Dr  
New Castle, IN 47362  
(765) 521-2400  
toms@sprolesfamilycares.com  
<https://www.sprolesfamilycares.com/>

## Funeral

FEB 5. 1:00 PM (ET)

Sproles Family Funeral Home  
2400 S Memorial Dr  
New Castle, IN 47362  
(765) 521-2400  
toms@sprolesfamilycares.com  
<https://www.sprolesfamilycares.com/>

# Tribute Wall

DR

“ Rita, I’m so sorry for your loss, Sam was such a nice man. I’m sorry I’m unable to pay my respect but please know my prayers are with you. 🙏



Donna Ragan - February 14, 2025 at 04:37 PM

TA

“ Tony, Cheri, Tyler & Alyssa purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Sam Southerland.



Tony, Cheri, Tyler & Alyssa - February 04, 2025 at 08:09 PM

MO

“ First thanks for all the pictures allowing us in on the many times of your mom and dad and their lives. My heart goes out to you on watching a parent leave this world to enter into the rewards of heaven. I know it's bittersweet so my prayers are with you. When I think of Sam I always think of a person with a sweet, quiet spirit. He served on committees at our church(FREE METHODIST IN NEW CASTLE, INDIANA)and always with a smile. Thinking of you and your families in the days, weeks, months ahead. In His Love!-Mary

Mary Odom - February 04, 2025 at 07:54 PM



“ 179 files added to the album *LifeTributes*



**Sproles Family Funeral Home** - February 04, 2025 at 04:10 PM



“ *Phil Marsh lit a candle in memory of Sam Southerland*



**Phil Marsh** - February 03, 2025 at 03:59 PM



“ *We are so sorry for your loss sending prayers*



**Rhonda and Jeff Eldridge** - February 03, 2025 at 03:50 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Sam Southerland.*



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February 03, 2025 at 12:28 PM



“ *James & Tammi Nicholson purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Sam Southerland.*



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**James & Tammi Nicholson** - February 03, 2025 at 10:53 AM



“ *Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet was purchased for the family of Sam Southerland.*



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February 03, 2025 at 10:46 AM



“ *To Rita and family: So sorry to learn of the passing of Sammy. Thinking of you at this difficult time; and wishing you well. Doug Fields*

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**Doug Fields** - February 03, 2025 at 08:58 AM