



James "Jim" Clarence Settle

April 3, 1938 - April 14, 2026

James Clarence Settle, a devoted husband, father, grandfather, coach, educator, and man of unwavering faith, entered into the presence of his Lord and Savior on April 14, 2026, leaving behind a legacy defined by service, leadership, and lasting impact. He was born on April 3, 1938, in Inman, South Carolina, to Clarence Howell Settle and Idellis Ballew Settle. During World War II, his family relocated to Charleston, where the roots of his lifelong commitment to faith, community, and mentorship were firmly planted.

Jim graduated from Rivers High School in 1956 before attending Furman University, where he earned his undergraduate degree. It was there he met the love of his life, Elizabeth Kay "Betty Kay" Massie. The two were married in 1960 in Falls Church, Virginia, beginning a marriage of more than 65 years marked by deep devotion, partnership, and shared purpose. He was on active duty with the US Army, as an Officer for 6 months in 1961, continuing his service in the Army Reserves for 7 1/2 years. He later earned his graduate degree from Florida State University.

He began his coaching career at T.L. Hanna High School in Anderson, South Carolina, from 1961 to 1965. In 1965, Jim was selected as a member of the founding faculty of the Baptist College at Charleston—now Charleston Southern University—where he would serve faithfully for 39 years.

As a professor of Physical Education and Kinesiology and Head Coach of Track and Field, Jim built one of the most respected programs in the Southeast. Over the course of his distinguished career, he coached championship teams, developed numerous All-Americans, and mentored an Olympic silver medalist. His influence extended far beyond the track, shaping the character, discipline, and lives of countless student-athletes.

His contributions were widely recognized. In 1990, he was inducted into the Baptist College Athletic Hall of Fame. In 2001, Charleston Southern University honored his legacy by co-naming the university's track facility in his honor. In 2005, he was inducted into the NCAA Big South Conference Hall of Fame and named Big South Conference Men's Cross Country Coach of the Year.

Even after retiring from Charleston Southern in 2004, Jim's passion for coaching never faded. He continued to invest in young athletes as a coach at Goose Creek High School, where he was named Region 7AAAA Boys Track Coach of the Year in 2008, and later served in volunteer coaching roles throughout the community.

A man deeply rooted in faith, Jim was a longtime member of Summerville Baptist Church, where he faithfully served as a deacon for many years. He was a long-time member of the Coastal Carolina Camellia Society—he found great joy in cultivating camellias—a passion that traced back to his childhood home, where rows of flowering bushes first sparked his love for the craft. Many of his award-winning blooms were grown from clippings of those original plants, reflecting his lifelong belief in honoring one's roots and carrying forward a meaningful legacy.

Jim Settle's life was a testament to steady leadership, quiet excellence, and faithful service. Through his work as an educator, coach, mentor, and patriarch, he shaped generations and strengthened the communities around

him. His legacy lives on not only in the records he set or honors he received, but in the countless lives he influenced and the values he instilled.

He was the cornerstone of his family—a devoted husband, loving father, proud grandfather known as “Papa,” and adored great-grandfather. He is survived by his beloved wife, Betty Massie Settle; his four children, J. Todd Settle (Jay), Tim Settle (Rumi), Ross Settle (Christy), and Paige Settle Jones (Tim); five grandchildren, Jordyn, Jacob, Ansley, Mia Nicole, and Trenton; and one great-grandson, Hudson.

The family will receive friends on Saturday, April 18, 2026, from 4:00 PM to 6:00 PM at James A. Dyal Funeral Home 303 S. Main Street Summerville, SC.

Celebration of life service will be Sunday, April 19, 2026, from 2:00 PM until the hour of service at 3:00 PM at Summerville Baptist Church, 417 Central Avenue Summerville Sc 29483.

Previous Events

Gathering of Family and Friends

APR 18. 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM (ET)

James A. Dyal Funeral Home
303 S. Main Street
Summerville, SC 29483
(843) 873-4040
<https://www.jamesadyal.com>

Visitation

APR 19. 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM (ET)

Summerville Baptist Church
417 Central Avenue
Summerville, SC 29483

Celebration of Life Service

APR 19. 3:00 PM (ET)

Summerville Baptist Church
417 Central Avenue
Summerville, SC 29483

Tribute Wall

JJ

“ Papa...

*If you know anything about me, you know I learned how to be long-winded from the master of the craft himself—
taking my time, having one more thing to say, stretching a conversation just a little longer than most.*

*And I would give anything...
for one more of those with you.*

*You were so many things—
steady, wise, a leader, a teacher, a man of deep, unwavering faith...
the kind of man people leaned on without even realizing it.*

*But to me, you were something even more—
you were my steady place.*

*The place I returned to.
The place that grounded me.
The place that showed me, without ever needing to say it, what love
is supposed to look like.*

*Some of the most meaningful moments I have with you...
they weren't big or extraordinary.*

They were simple.

*Walking behind you in the yard, just to be near you.
Long days at the beach—sun on our skin, salt in the air, waves
rolling in—learning how to find sand dollars with my toes, how to
body surf...
and how to dance with you on the pier, barefoot and laughing, like
time didn't matter. Where nothing had to be said for everything to be
felt.
Sitting at the piano, singing hymns while Grandma Bet played.*

*Nothing about those moments needed to be big—
because they were full.*

*Full of faith.
Full of family.
Full of you.*

*You didn't just teach, Papa—
you poured into people.*

*You saw them.
You remembered them.
You believed in them.*

*You had a way of calling something out in people
that they didn't even know was there yet.*

*And your faith...
you didn't just talk about it...*

You lived it.

*In how you loved.
In how you showed up.
In how you never stopped growing.*

*There was a steadiness to you—
a presence that made everything feel a little more grounded, a little
more sure.*

*And somehow...
even now...I still feel that.*

*I'm still not sure there's a way to make sense of a world that doesn't
have you in it.*

But I do know this—

*You didn't just leave me memories.
You left me a way to live.*

*A way to love people—fully, fiercely, without condition.
A way to stand steady when life feels anything but.
A way to keep going... even when it hurts.*

*Papa...
you were my steady place in this life.*

And I know you always will be.

*I love you—with a love you built,
a love you lived,
and a love that doesn't end, ever.*

*It carries on—
in me, in all of us, in everything you poured into this life.*

*And because of you...
I always will.*



Jordyn Jones - April 28 at 09:00 PM

SS

“ Susan S. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of James "Jim" Clarence Settle.

Susan S. - April 19 at 11:09 AM

LR

“ Coach Settle was somewhat responsible for Rock, a senior track star at the Baptist College of Charleston (later Charleston Southern University), dating a lowly freshman girl starting her college courses in the summer immediately after her high school graduation. He knew my family and thought I'd be good for Rock. 😊 He had convinced Rock, the highly recruited NC state champion miler, to come to a small Baptist college that was still a dream in the minds of Dr. Hamrick and so many who had almost brought the dream to fruition. (The campus was still an empty field off of Highway 78.) Rock was the first scholarship athlete who signed.

Through the decades that followed, Jim and Betty Settle became close mentors and friends to us both. They were at every important event throughout those years. I think Coach was with us during every hospitalization Rock endured, encouraging him to accept every setback or physical loss he had to endure, while always finding a way to persevere and move on. He and Rock frequently shared long phone conversations, especially during the last couple of years after Rock had to quit coaching. He drove to our house to meet John Harper and Buddy Britt on Valentines Day this year. Coach and the “boys” he had faithfully kept up with since they were on his team all those decades before had such a great visit that day. I will always be so grateful for that Saturday. Rock had a serious brain bleed the following Tuesday from which he could not recover. Coach Settle spoke at his memorial service.

Coach Settle's memory will endure in the countless lives he touched.

With love,
Lynn Riggs Reese





Lynn Riggs Reese - April 18 at 02:17 PM



“ 109 files added to the album LifeTributes



James A Dyal Funeral Home - April 18 at 02:05 PM

LL

“ Love, Your Flowertown Perio Ladies purchased the Ringed by Love for the family of James "Jim" Clarence Settle.



Love, Your Flowertown Perio Ladies - April 17 at 10:06 PM

JP

“ A cherished friendship with the Settles has made our lives richer and much more exciting! We are so grateful that they accepted us into their lives over 55 years ago. We hope our heavenly mansion is next to Jim's!!

Jon Phelps - April 17 at 08:36 PM

OL

“ Our warmest condolences, Legacy Lawns planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of James "Jim" Clarence Settle.

Our warmest condolences, Legacy Lawns - April 17 at 02:20 PM

OL

“ Our warmest condolences, Legacy Lawns purchased the Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet for the family of James "Jim" Clarence Settle.



Our warmest condolences, Legacy Lawns - April 17 at 02:20 PM

TO

“ The Summerville Orchestra planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of James "Jim" Clarence Settle.

The Summerville Orchestra - April 17 at 01:45 PM

TO

“ The Summerville Orchestra purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of James "Jim" Clarence Settle.



The Summerville Orchestra - April 17 at 01:45 PM

JK

“ Jim snd mary kenney planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of James "Jim" Clarence Settle.

Jim snd mary kenney - April 17 at 12:32 PM

JK

“ Jim snd mary kenney purchased the Enchanted Cottage for the family of James "Jim" Clarence Settle.



Jim snd mary kenney - April 17 at 12:32 PM

MM

“ Martha Muncrief purchased the Fairest of All for the family of James "Jim" Clarence Settle.



Martha Muncrief - April 17 at 10:12 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of James "Jim" Clarence Settle.

April 17 at 09:12 AM

TF

“ The Touchberry Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of James "Jim" Clarence Settle.

The Touchberry Family - April 17 at 09:10 AM

TF

“ *The Touchberry Family purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of James "Jim" Clarence Settle.*



The Touchberry Family - April 17 at 09:10 AM

KG

“ *Ken and Berna Gambil planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of James "Jim" Clarence Settle.*

Ken and Berna Gambil - April 16 at 04:54 PM

KG

“ *Ken and Berna Gambil purchased the Cherished Memories for the family of James "Jim" Clarence Settle.*



Ken and Berna Gambil - April 16 at 04:54 PM

KV

“ *Jim Settle was the stability I didn't know I needed growing up, and a huge part of who I am today. He was so loved and will be missed so much by the beautiful family he cultivated. I know I will see him again in Heaven. I can think of no better fitting scripture to share with everyone than 2 Timothy 4:7 - "I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith." Well done, good and faithful servant of God. Love you.*

Krista Vaughan - April 16 at 03:51 PM

ME

“ Mark G., Michael, & Eddie purchased the Strength & Solace Spray for the family of James "Jim" Clarence Settle.



Mark G., Michael, & Eddie - April 16 at 03:27 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of James "Jim" Clarence Settle.

April 16 at 01:39 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of James "Jim" Clarence Settle.



April 16 at 01:39 PM



“ Enduring Grace was purchased for the family of James "Jim" Clarence Settle.



April 16 at 01:23 PM

LL

“ Lee and Kara Luxmore purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of James "Jim" Clarence Settle.



Lee and Kara Luxmore - April 16 at 12:01 PM

MM

“ Though I only knew Jim for a short while, it was very obvious that he was a man of strong faith and great character. He will be missed by many, but his legacy will last throughout the people whose lives he touched. Jim has "fought the good fight, finished the race and kept the faith." He has now received a "crown of righteousness" from the Lord. (2 Tim 4:8)

Mike Metz - April 16 at 11:04 AM

JP

“ Jon & Jo Phelps purchased the Sacred Duty Spray for the family of James "Jim" Clarence Settle.



Jon & Jo Phelps - April 16 at 10:26 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of James "Jim" Clarence Settle.

April 15 at 03:17 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue* was purchased for the family of James "Jim" Clarence Settle.



April 15 at 03:17 PM