



James Malcom Hodges Sr.

December 10, 1949 - August 26, 2025

James Malcom Hodges, Sr. of Newark, DE passed away on Tuesday, August 26, 2025, at the age of 75. He was a beloved husband, father, grandfather, and friend. James was born on December 10, 1949, in Burlington, NC to James William and Lena Cleo (Lakey) Hodges.

James, known by many as Malc, Benson and Duke, lived a life full of love, hard work, and devotion to his family. Born with a love for fast cars, James grew up with the classic greaser's style—slicked-back hair, a leather jacket, and a passion for the open road. That same spark led him to meet the love of his life, Carol (Messick) Hodges, with whom he shared 57 beautiful years of marriage built on love and partnership.

James dedicated 34 years of service to Chrysler, where his loyalty, work ethic, and solidarity earned the respect of all who worked alongside him. After retirement, he poured his energy into what mattered most—his home, his family, and the four-legged companions he cherished deeply, his beloved dogs, Tinkerbelle and Lacey.

He is survived by his devoted wife of 57 years, Carol; his daughters, Tina Hodges and Amanda Hodges of Newark; and his grandchildren, who were the joy of his life—Cameron Szymanski, Heather Hodges, Joey Hodges, and Liam Szymanski. His legacy also lives on in the love and memories held by all who

knew him. James was reunited in heaven with his sons, James Jr. and Joseph, who preceded him in death.

His presence will be forever missed, but his spirit will live on in the laughter, love, and strength of his family.

A visitation will be held Saturday, September 6, 2025, from 9-10:30 AM at Asbury United Methodist Church, 300 E. Basin Rd. New Castle, DE 19720 followed by a service in celebration of James's life at 10:30 AM. Burial will follow in Gracelawn Memorial Park. For directions or to send an online condolence, visit www.stranofeeley.com.

Cemetery Details

Gracelawn Memorial Park

2220 N. DuPont Highway
New Castle, DE

Previous Events

Visitation

SEP 6. 9:00 AM - 10:30 AM (ET)

Asbury United Methodist Church
300 East Basin Road
New Castle, DE

Service

SEP 6. 10:30 AM (ET)

Asbury United Methodist Church
300 East Basin Road
New Castle, DE

Tribute Wall

EM

“ Evelyn M. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of James Malcom Hodges Sr..

Evelyn M. - September 01, 2025 at 02:47 PM

JA

“ Jeff Argo planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of James Malcom Hodges Sr..

Jeff Argo - August 31, 2025 at 09:10 PM

JA

“ Jeff Argo purchased the Crystal Cross Bouquet for the family of James Malcom Hodges Sr..



Jeff Argo - August 31, 2025 at 09:10 PM

KH

“ I met "Duke" while working at Chrysler in Trim shop, he was my repairman for a few years. I have not seen Carol or Duke in many years but, the picture is totally how I remember him...I am sure he didn't change much...We used to talk about the cruises they were always going on, his dogs and of course Carol...It was way too soon for his journey on this Earth to end but, God has a plan for all of us even when we don't understand. Love and Prayers to the family



Kathy Helsel - August 30, 2025 at 06:19 PM

TG

“ Carol, I am so sorry to learn of this. My thoughts are with you at this time. May your years of memories bring you comfort.

Terri Gavin - August 30, 2025 at 05:25 PM

BR

“ My name is Barbara Rhoades . My memory is when I met this amazing family ❤️ I was in high school and I was looking for a childcare job . I had wrote out my name and age my phone number on postcards and I had written I was looking for a childcare job . I had went to the development name Scottfield located in Newark Delaware and place them in the mailboxes of the homes . Some time passed then Mrs Carol Hodges had called me for a chat and interview . I was hired , they are a beautiful family . I stayed with them for many years . We are still in touch when I see her post I pop on and chat . I am sorry for your loss . My condolences to your family ❤️🙏

Barbara Rhoades - August 29, 2025 at 07:06 PM

CH

“ We have so many wonderful memories of time spent with Malc and family. He will be greatly missed by all that knew him.
Love and prayers for you all.
Charles and Frances Hylton



Charles and Frances Hylton - August 29, 2025 at 04:56 PM