



James Frederick Spann

July 19, 1933 - April 11, 2026

On April 11, 2026, at the age of 92, James Frederick Spann—known to us simply as Fred, and to many in Brazil as Pastor Fred—went home to be with the Lord. For years, he spoke of writing a book about the music of heaven; today, he is no longer wondering about it but experiencing it for himself. Fred lived a life of ministry with every breath, every conversation, and in every place, God led him. His legacy extends far beyond his family, reaching into the countless lives he touched over more than nine decades of faithful discipleship. From his years as a pioneering music missionary in Recife, Brazil, to his decades of service in the community of Colt, Arkansas, Fred was a steward of the harvest, fully surrendered to Christ.

His ministry was deeply rooted in Christian choral music, a calling through which he didn't just lead worship, but expressed his profound love for the Lord. Fred's passion for sacred music shaped students, missionary kids, choirs, and congregations. Generations of believers were moved by his artistic musicianship and his heart for worship.

Fred leaves behind an enduring example of what it means to be a devoted husband, a loving father, a patient teacher, and a loyal friend. To his grandchildren and great-grandchildren, he was affectionately known as Vovô. The love he poured into each generation remains a treasured part of his legacy.

A prolific writer, Fred leaves behind thousands of pages of Christ-centered devotionals and reflections that will continue to shape hearts for years to come. While we deeply miss his presence, his legacy lives on through the mentorship, kindness, and gentle humor that touched everyone who knew him.

His family is profoundly grateful for the gift of his life and for the enduring example he set by walking with Christ in humility and joy. He fought the good fight, he finished the race, and he has kept the faith.

Fred is survived by his children, James F. Spann, Jr. of Washington, Edward Clay Spann and wife Patricia of Colt, Grady Brawner Spann and wife Josefina of Farmington, Suzanne Davia Brown and husband Kenneth Earl of Greenbriar, and brother, F. Dee Spann of Searcy. He is also survived by grandchildren, Charles Spann, Hannah Wheeler, Ben Spann, Cheree Lamb, Joshua Spann, Kendra Cox, Anthony Spann, Davia Brown, Paul Spann, Andrew Spann, Daniel Spann, Lenzie Brown, Trine Holt and Patrick Dean. He was preceded in death by his wife, Betty Clay Spann in 2023.

Visitation will be held on Tuesday, April 14, 2026, at Kernodle Funeral Home from 10 until 11 AM. Funeral services will follow with Rev. Clint Haynes officiating. Burial will be in Loughridge Cemetery.

Kernodle Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements. You may sign an online guestbook at www.kernodlefh.com

Cemetery Details

Loughridge Cemetery

Hwy 284
Colt, AR 72326

Previous Events

Visitation

APR 14. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

Kernodle Funeral Home
315-325 E. Union Avenue
Wynne, AR 72396
(870) 238-2323
kernodlefuneralhome@gmail.com
<https://www.kernodlefh.com/>

Funeral service

APR 14. 11:00 AM (CT)

Kernodle Funeral Home
315-325 E. Union Avenue
Wynne, AR 72396
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Interment

APR 14 (CT)

Loughridge Cemetery
Hwy 284
Colt, AR 72326

Tribute Wall



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of James Frederick Spann.

April 16 at 10:22 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of James Frederick Spann.

April 13 at 02:56 PM



“ Serene Retreat was purchased for the family of James Frederick Spann.



April 13 at 02:56 PM