



Deacon James Thomas Elam

December 18, 1946 - January 11, 2026

ELAM, Mr. James - Age 79, passed away Sunday, January 11, 2026 at McLaren. Family hour 10:00 AM, Saturday January 24, 2026, at St. Paul Baptist Church, 2115 Coldwater Rd., Flint, Michigan with funeral service commencing at 11:00 AM. Rev. Dr. Michael Pettigrew, Host Pastor. Interment Sunset Hills Cemetery, G-4413 Flushing Road. Friends and pallbearers will assemble at the church 10:00 AM Saturday. Mr. Elam will lie in state in the Chapel of Lawrence E. Moon Funeral Home, 906 W. Flint Park Blvd. and may be viewed from 12:00 PM - 6:00 PM Friday, with family present from 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM to receive friends.

Deacon James T. Elam was born on December 18, 1946, in Humboldt, Tennessee, the son of Robert Lee Elam Sr. and Edna McCurry. At a young age Deacon James T. Elam was a regular attendee of Sunday school. Deacon James T. Elam greatest joy as a child was having dinner with the family and saying, "Jesus Wept".

Deacon Elam's family relocated to Champaign-Urbana, Illinois where he attended Urbana Jr. and Urbana Sr. Schools. He discovered a passion for softball and was interested in playing professionally. He had the prettiest hook slide as some would say.

Deacon Elam's gifts exploded in Sunday School, teaching Bible Class, ministering at nursing homes, leading roles in acting, "From Rags to Riches", going fishing, restoring old golf carts, loved having rummage sales and telling

jokes. He was an impeccable dresser. His favorite sayings was “Oh My God” “Hold Up”, “Pardon Me”

Deacon James T. Elam moved to Racine, Wisconsin where he was hired as a forklift driver at Case Company as CNH. He retired in the year of 2000 with 38 years of service. He began driving school buses for Durham School Services. Deacon Elam confessed, in Jesus Christ and united with The New Omega M. B. Church in Racine, Wisconsin under the leadership of Pastor Rev. Fred Lee Richmond Sr., where he served faithfully for more than 20 years in multiple ministries. On January 26, 1992, he received his Certificate of Ordination. Moreover, God closed the door and opened another at The Greater Mt. Eagle MB Church Racine, WI under the leadership of Pastor Keith Evans where he continued to be faithful as a Deacon in different ministries.

Wherefore, in the year 2005, Deacon James T. Elam and Ms. Cynthia F. Smith were united in Holy Matrimony. While being a member of True Light Missionary Baptist Church, Deacon James T. Elam was the Chairman of the Deacon Board, President of the Golden Voices, Mission and Sunday School Teacher. He was in the Male Chorus and ministered at Bentley Manor Home. Deacon James T. Elam was devoted to reading, studying the Bible and praying. He also enjoyed reconditioning his personal school bus to be driven in the Back to the Bricks, Woodward cruise and the Juneteenth parade every year.

Deacon James T. Elam was employed by the Clio Area Schools Transportation for 8 years. He loved his job, bus riders and everyone that he came in contact with. When that door opened, he was always looking for that opportunity to mention the word of God to someone. He never met a stranger. He loved the Lord, and the Word of God.

Deacon James T. Elam leaves to cherish memories: Wife of 20 years, Cynthia F. Elam; Sons: Keith Elam, Columbus, GA, Val Seward, Racine, WI, James T. Jr (Regina) Elam, Vine Grove, KY, Jacques (Jackie) Thomas, Colorado Springs, Co, Chris Manley, Atlanta, GA, Andre Elam, Racine, WI; Daughters, Nichole (Mike) Wagner, Racine, WI, Cicely Elam, Racine, WI, Grandchildren;

Eva Elam, Brienna Moore, Kendra Levels, Quinten Seward, Dre Seward, Janaye Elam, Raven Elam, Jacques Thomas II, Chetorie Hardrick, Jahniqua Thomas, Cheri Coates, Telisha Thomas, Jackson Trujillo, Jordyn Trujillo, Chris Manley Jr., Sydney Manley, Jalyn Harris, Star Stevens, Camron Elam, Shakayla Elam, Avianna Elam, Elisse Elam, Amillo Elam, Denim Hicks, Jace Mayfield, Cai'ryn Mayfield; Brother, Rev. Edward (Dorris) Elam; Sisters, Edna Maxine Brown, Ann Louise Elam, Deborah Ann; 4 sisters-in-law; 3 brothers-in-law; a host of great grandchildren, many loving nieces and nephews; and many friends.

Deacon James T. Elam was preceded in death by parents Robert and Edna Elam, brothers Robert Lee Elam Jr., Malcolm Bernard Elam; sister Mary Elizabeth Clark; son, Brian Thomas Jr.; granddaughter, Jerzi Mayfield
Well done, thy good and faithful servant God is good!

Cemetery Details

Sunset Hills Cemetery

G-4413 Flushing Rd.
Flint, MI 48504

Previous Events

Public Viewing

JAN 23. 12:00 PM - 6:00 PM (ET)

Lawrence E. Moon Funeral Home, Inc., Flint
906 W. Flint Park Blvd.
Flint, MI 48505
(810) 789-6666
lemoonfhflint@gmail.com
<https://lawrenceemoonfuneralhome.com>

Family Present

JAN 23. 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM (ET)

Lawrence E. Moon Funeral Home, Inc., Flint
906 W. Flint Park Blvd.
Flint, MI 48505
(810) 789-6666
lemoonfhflint@gmail.com
<https://lawrenceemoonfuneralhome.com>

Family hour

JAN 24. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church
2115 Coldwater Rd.
Flint, MI 48505

Funeral Service

JAN 24. 11:00 AM (ET)

St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church
2115 Coldwater Rd.
Flint, MI 48505

Tribute Wall

TH

“ I attended New Omega Baptist Church with Deacon Elam Talking About A Sharp Dresser, He Was A Really Good Man

Therita Bogan Harris - January 29 at 06:40 PM

T-

“ Toni Peet -Vaughn lit a candle in memory of James Elam



Toni Peet -Vaughn - January 26 at 10:10 PM

GL

“ Mr James was know as a bus driver, I had the privilege for him to be mine, but he was so much more then that he was a grandparent to every child on that bus, he would go to are game for any child. He truly was a friend I stopped going to clio school about a year ago and I had Mr James on messenger and we would still continue to talk every few months and he would check up on me. He would listen to whatever I had going on good or bad and would always cheer me on. He taught me many life lessons on life and always told me "people come for a season and to live in the moment" I guess are season is over for now until next time when we can meet in heaven. I still have the hat you gave to me in 6th grade I'm a junior now I miss you Mr James love you always

Giselle Lockwood - January 24 at 04:39 PM

DS

“ Cynthia, im so sorry for your loss. Deacon Elam was definitely in a class by himself. He was a faithful man of God, a great husband, a sharp dresser, a kind man, a giving man and he was funny. He gave from the heart and not expecting anything in return. I'll never forget when I started a small business He VOLUNTEERED to give me merchandise to help me in my journey. He was actually my inspiration for starting my business. I remember always seeing him at the market selling stuff. I told my mother, I wanna sell the merchandise like Deac Elam does. My husband loved him and really enjoyed their conversations. He will be missed. His job here was well done. We love you Cynthia. God has you covered.

Donna Seay - January 24 at 09:57 AM

WP

“ Cuz, please accept our sincere condolences. James will be remembered by us as a man of God, your loving husband, and a gentleman. Sorry we can't attend his life celebration but we'll be there in spirit. May you find comfort through Christ. Love and hugs to you!
Willie and Trish

Willie and Trish Poole - January 23 at 07:17 PM

CW

“ Clare Welch lit a candle in memory of Deacon James Thomas Elam



Clare Welch - January 23 at 10:28 AM

MW

“ We extend our heartfelt condolences to Cynthia and the Elam family. He was a joyful man of God whose laughter, warmth, and contagious smile touched so many lives. We thank God for the time He blessed us with Deac., and he will be dearly missed.

Please know you are in our prayers during this time of sorrow. May God continue to comfort and strengthen you.

“The Lord is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit.”

— Psalm 34:18

*With love and prayers,
Mike & Melody West*

Melody West - January 22 at 09:48 PM

KM

“ Wow! This is unreal! when I was just a child at St. Paul he embedded so much wisdom and the word of God in me! I use to really look forward to him teaching bible study on Wednesday's! One of the funniest men of God I knew! Rest in love Deacon Elam!!!

Kennedi Munn - January 22 at 08:55 PM

JR

“ Mr James (AKA LEGS) Elam my big brother or my uncle i had great respect and love for him. I work with him at a company for many years, but biggest enjoyment being around Jim was playing softball we had many fun years playing softball and learned a lot from Jim and my other brother or uncle Harvey that game .going to miss you guys . Hit one big one for the team ❤️🙏

joey riley - January 22 at 02:06 PM

BP

“ I thank God for blessing my wife and I with the opportunity to befriend Deacon and Sister Elam. You've prayed for us, conversed with us, and have been loyal friends since we met. What a team! "His Lord said unto him, Well done, thou good and faithful servant....." (Matthew 25:21)
God bless you
Walter & Betty Paxton

Betty Paxton - January 21 at 04:20 PM

FJ

“ To Cynthia, James jr. & Regina and the entire Elam family. Deacon Elam was loved by many and had such a loving spirit and a smile that could warm the coldest heart. Take refuge in knowing that he is now resting in the presence of God. May God comfort and keep you during this difficult time.
With loving care,
Ken & Fern Johnson
Hardin County, Kentucky



Fern Johnson - January 21 at 10:55 AM

AE

My brother, Deacon James Thomas Elam, was someone who gave you lots to remember, to laugh 😂 about, to be grateful for and to love. I can smile, through my tears, how truly blessed I was to have him for a brother for Seventy-Nine, impeccable years and what he meant to me, then, now and forever! With sincere deepest love and sympathy, sister, Annie Louise Elam. ❤️🙏

Annie Elam - January 21 at 09:21 PM

MW

“ *Maggie Little Williams*



Maggie Little Williams - January 21 at 10:04 AM

NP

“ *Natalie Patterson sent a virtual gift in memory of Deacon James Thomas Elam*



Natalie Patterson - January 21 at 08:45 AM

JR

“ *Our prayers and condolences to the entire family. Cynthia, don't let go of your precious memories. they'll get you through this difficulty time. always remember that what is lovely never dies, but passes into another loveliness, star-dust or sea-foam, flower or winged-air. Bro. / Sis. Rawls*



Johnnie Rawls - January 21 at 12:14 AM

MR

“ *Marsha Ross lit a candle in memory of Deacon James Thomas Elam*



Marsha Ross - January 20 at 06:13 PM

TF

“ *The Pica Family purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Deacon James Thomas Elam.*



The Pica Family - January 20 at 12:01 PM

TF

“ *The Pica Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Deacon James Thomas Elam.*

The Pica Family - January 20 at 12:01 PM

SH

“ *My Deepest Sympathy and Prayers for You and Your Family.*



Sandra Hughes-Hatter - January 20 at 12:19 AM

GL

“ *Gloria sent a virtual gift in memory of Deacon James Thomas Elam*



Gloria - January 19 at 05:08 PM

DK

“ My condolences to you Cynthia and the family. Deacon Elam was a presence in the world. You could count on a conversation about the God's Word and His people, sprinkled with a little humor. I can see him now raising those elbows, rocking back and forth in a dance, singing "Somebody Prayed For Me." Servant, take your rest.



Davina Koger - January 18 at 11:14 PM

JT

“ Jesse Thompson lit a candle in memory of Deacon James Thomas Elam



Jesse Thompson - January 18 at 12:59 PM



“ Extending my deepest condolences to the Family. My late husband Deacon Lester Earl Buckley admired Deacon Elam. A Structured and Sound Man of God! He will be missed. Rest Well Deac! Family, I'm Praying for Comfort and Strength needed in the days ahead.



Sabrina Carr-Buckley - January 18 at 07:29 AM

JR

“ James & Elwanda Ray lit a candle in memory of Deacon James Thomas Elam



James & Elwanda Ray - January 18 at 06:48 AM

JR

“ James & Elwanda Ray lit a candle in memory of Deacon James Thomas Elam



James & Elwanda Ray - January 18 at 06:45 AM

SM

“ Our sincerest condolences to the family and friends of Mr James, my grandson Dominic rode his bus from kindergarten to 6th grade. He was always so kind and will be missed. Prayers for comfort and peace in this most difficult time.
Shalla Martin



Shalla Martin - January 17 at 06:58 PM

FB

“ Fulton & Iris Bell lit a candle in memory of Deacon James Thomas Elam



Fulton & Iris Bell - January 16 at 09:47 PM

JG

“ Jeanette Grady sent a virtual gift in memory of Deacon James Thomas Elam



Jeanette Grady - January 16 at 08:01 PM

AS

“ Aileen Spence sent a virtual gift in memory of Deacon James Thomas Elam



Aileen Spence - January 16 at 06:24 PM

AS

“ Aileen Spence lit a candle in memory of Deacon James Thomas Elam



Aileen Spence - January 16 at 06:24 PM

AS

“ Aileen Spence sent a virtual gift in memory of Deacon James Thomas Elam



Aileen Spence - January 16 at 06:24 PM

MD

“ *Mary Dantzler-Grace lit a candle in memory of James Elam*



Mary Dantzler-Grace - January 16 at 09:49 AM

LL

“ *I have so many memories watching my big cousin play ball at Island Park and just being at his house as a young girl He was so funny He will be truly missed*

Latasha Love - January 15 at 09:34 PM

CE

“ *Caroline Miller Caroline & Onda Elliot lit a candle in memory of Deacon James Thomas Elam*



Caroline Miller Caroline & Onda Elliot - January 15 at 08:39 PM

DN

“ RIP Legs (as he was known to many back in Wisconsin). Got to know Jim Elam through work at Case Corporation and playing ball. Jim had the prettiest hook slide I'd ever seen and could really hit. We had many great times back in the day. He had such a great voice and laugh too. He will be missed by many that knew him as the true gentleman he was. The last time I saw him he was back in Racine, WI for a funeral we attended and we had some good chats and I found out then his birthday was the same as my father's. I sent him a Happy Birthday message this past December and he responded "thanks brother". Keep making em happy up in Heaven Legs you certainly deserve it. Hall of Fame person in my book!

Dan Nicholson - January 15 at 03:11 PM

RW

“ To his family sorry for yall loss my kids grandfather I will never forget how he all ways welcome me haven't seen him since he moved praying for the family and my kids .

Rahmour Williams - January 15 at 12:20 PM

MB

“ I'm not sure what to say in this time of such difficult loss. Just want you to know that I care about you and I share in your sadness. In time God will give you the strenght to endure. Keep the faith and continue to be strong.
Sis Martha Buckley

Martha Buckley - January 15 at 11:47 AM

ME

So sorry for your loss. A good friend of mine with one of my sister friend. He was the photographer for my wedding. Always a lot of fun and talking crazy. Elam, Legs! You surely will be missed. May you rest in peace my friend .

Maybelle Easley - January 15 at 05:09 PM

JC

“ My condolences to sister Elam and family
Deacon Elam we loved him dearly and he will
be missed keeping you in our prayers 🙏🙏
🙏



Jovetta Campbell - January 15 at 05:38 AM

TC

“ Tonya Clark lit a candle in memory of Deacon
James Thomas Elam



Tonya Clark - January 14 at 11:36 PM

JP

“ James Powell lit a candle in memory of
Deacon James Thomas Elam



James Powell - January 14 at 10:41 PM

JS

“ Jacqueline Scott lit a candle in memory of
Deacon James Thomas Elam



Jacqueline Scott - January 14 at 10:11 PM

WD

“ Prayers Flowing For The Entire Elam Families. Sincere Condolences and Sympathy. God Bless With Much Love For Mrs Cynthia Elma. Love Ms Wanda Davis.



Wanda Davis - January 14 at 08:32 PM

VJ

“ Sending my deepest condolences, prayers and love to Cynthia and the family during your loss of Deacon Elam.



Valerie Jones - January 14 at 07:44 PM

KA

“ We are going to miss you Mr. James you was a great Man love Ka'mayra, Brinson and family. Love you!!



Karneishia - January 14 at 05:45 PM

NL

“ Cynthia, I am so very sorry for your loss. My heart aches for you and your family. All the good memories you have made together and with others will help celebrate his life. He was a good christian man and will be missed by many.

Nora Limron - January 14 at 12:59 PM

ET

“ *Mr. James was my daughter's bus driver from kindergarten through 7th grade. He was so kind and generous. We loved him! He will be missed. Rest in heaven Mr. James!*

Elizabeth Train - January 14 at 08:55 AM

SM

“ *I'm so very sorry to hear of Mr. James's passing. My condolences. My children and I absolutely adore him, he was the best bus driver they ever had. He was very kind and understanding of my son's disability. He will be missed.*
The McHone Family

Sara McHone - January 14 at 08:37 AM

DH

“ *Deacon JR Holmes & Sis. Nadie Holmes lit a candle in memory of Deacon James Thomas Elam*



Deacon JR Holmes & Sis. Nadie Holmes - January 14 at 07:59 AM

JJ

“ *Sending prayers of comfort to my Elam family.*



JEAN JOHNSON - January 14 at 06:46 AM

KM

“ James was the best bus driver every Christmas he'd give everyone money if you were running late he would wait for you until you got there sitting there talking to you everyone morning waiting to go into the school was amazing we would talk about some crazy stuff his laugh was amazing love you James rest easy up there in heaven



Karlie Metcalfe - January 14 at 06:25 AM

CB

“ I sure will miss hearing "Hello Sister Bell" everytime I saw him, his smile, the long talks that James, Kristen and I had in the lounge. You will be deeply missed by all. Till we meet again Mr. James

Christine Bell - January 13 at 07:54 PM



“ My thoughts and prayers are with you Cynthia during these trying times. Deacon Elam was such a caring and down to earth person.



Shereka Harvey - January 13 at 06:33 PM

TF

“ Teresa Anthony & Family lit a candle in memory of James Elam



Teresa Anthony & Family - January 12 at 11:31 PM

LR

“ *Mr. Elam I am going to miss you. You were a very nice, funny, respectful person to known and I was happy to known you. Rest in paradise!*



Loudean Ricks - January 12 at 09:45 PM

SA

“ *Prayers and condolences to the Cynthia and family.*



Sandy Atwell - January 12 at 08:28 PM

AU

“ *anita utter lit a candle in memory of James Elam*



anita utter - January 12 at 08:16 PM

CB

“ *My sincere condolences to the family of Deacon Elam. I will miss the jokes and laughter you brought everytime i saw you. Continue to SIP my friend. 🕊️🕊️*

Cynthia Ballard - January 12 at 08:06 PM

DF

“ *Deborah Funches lit a candle in memory of James Elam*



Deborah Funches - January 12 at 03:34 PM

AT

“ *Alfred Thompson sent a virtual gift in memory of Deacon James Thomas Elam*



Alfred Thompson - January 12 at 12:11 PM