



## Deacon James Ragston

October 25, 1941 - January 19, 2024

RAGSTON, Deacon. James - Age 82, passed away Friday, January 19, 2024, at his residence. Family hour 10:30 AM Saturday, February 3, 2024, at Mt. Carmel Missionary Baptist Church 1610 W. Pierson Rd., with Funeral service commencing at 11:00 AM, Pastor Raphael Read, officiating. Interment Flint Memorial Park Cemetery, G-9506 N. Dort Hwy, Mt. Morris, MI. Friends and pallbearers will assemble at the Church 10:30 AM Saturday, February 3, 2024. Deacon Ragston will lie in state in the Chapel of Lawrence E. Moon Funeral Home, 906 W. Flint Park Blvd. and may be viewed from 2:00 PM-6:00 PM. Friday. Deacon James Ragston was born October 25, 1941 in Prairie View, Texas, the son of the late John Henry and Earnestine (Reynolds) Ragston. James was discharged from the United States Army and moved to Flint, Michigan. He worked as a Machinist at Buick City, a division of General Motors Corporation. James was a member of Antioch Missionary Baptist Church for many years. In June of 1994, Deacon Ragston earned a Bachelor Degree in Industrial Management from Baker College. In January of 2019, he became a member of Mt. Carmel Missionary Baptist Church, he loved his Pastor. James served the Lord as an Ordained Deacon, Sunday School Teacher and Bible Study Teacher. He enjoyed playing Dominos, cards, cooking and watching professional sports. Deacon James Ragston leaves to cherish his memory: wife of 28 years, Gayle (Cooper) Ragston of Otisville, MI; daughter, Sophia Ragston; son, Rev. Frederick Ragston, both of Hempstead, TX; 13 grandchildren; 19 great-grandchildren; 2 sisters, Velma White of

Hempstead, TX and Lannie Loving of New Caney, TX; brother, Roger Ragston of Houston, TX; a host of sisters-in-law, brothers-in-law, cousins, nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends. Deacon Ragston was preceded in death by his daughter, Arvis Ragston; daughter-in-law, Abigail (Thomas) Ragston; great-grandson, Fredarian Tompkins; parents, John Henry and Earnestine (Reynolds) Ragston; 3 brothers, Earnest, Lester and Joe Ragston; 2 sisters, Margaret Jordan and Mary Ragston-Thompkins. The family would like to express special thanks to Ascension Genesys Hospital, Regency of Grand . Deacon Ragston was Honorably Discharged from the United States Army.

# Cemetery Details

## Flint Memorial Park Cemetery

G-9506 N. Dort Hwy.  
Mt. Morris, MI 48458

# Previous Events

## Public Viewing

FEB 2. 2:00 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

FEB 3. 10:30 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Mt. Carmel Baptist Church  
1610 W. Pierson Rd.  
Flint, MI 48504

## Funeral Service

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FEB 3. 11:00 AM (ET)

Mt. Carmel Baptist Church  
1610 W. Pierson Rd.  
Flint, MI 48504

# Tribute Wall

LK

“ James Ragston, the Angel by my side, we worked together as machinists for years, you always walked me out at night in the dark Buick parking lot, always my guardian, may God hold you dearer, than our hearts ever could. Loved you then, love you always, Laura

Laura Vander Kuur - February 05, 2024 at 09:54 PM

RT

“ Rev. Sis. Freelon Threlkeld sent a virtual gift in memory of James Ragston



Rev. & Sis. Freelon Threlkeld - February 03, 2024 at 09:30 AM

CB

“ Colette Brown sent a virtual gift in memory of James Ragston



Colette Brown - February 03, 2024 at 07:41 AM

BD

“ Betty Deloach lit a candle in memory of James Ragston



Betty Deloach - February 03, 2024 at 12:10 AM

RH

“ Robert Howard lit a candle in memory of James Ragston



Robert Bob Howard - February 02, 2024 at 08:53 PM

RH

“ My sincere condolences to the Ragston family

Robert Bob Howard - February 02, 2024 at 08:45 PM

AH

“ Anita Harris lit a candle in memory of James Ragston



Anita Harris - February 02, 2024 at 04:54 PM

JG

“ Jeanette Grady sent a virtual gift in memory of James Ragston



Jeanette Grady - February 01, 2024 at 12:37 PM

DQ

“ *Dea. Bill & Ruthy Quarles sent a virtual gift in memory of Deacon James Ragston*



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**Dea. Bill & Ruthy Quarles** - February 01, 2024 at 07:58 AM

MD

“ *The Ragston Family, you have our sincere condolences.  
The Roscoe Parks Family*



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**Mary Parks Deason** - January 31, 2024 at 07:23 PM

EH

“ *In 1984.. Mr Ragston and his than spouse helped me and my than husband AL Hatter grow in our 33 years of marriage. He as his eela with 1st wife, Frances was a fine example to myself and his nephew AL Hatter. I wish I'd had spoken to him more recently to let him know how much we respected him and love him for taking out time with two young people like myself and my husband. I have nothing but Good Memories of Mr. James Ragston. Sleep on in peace. Your niece, Evelyn Hatter* ❤️💋

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**Evelyn Hatter** - January 31, 2024 at 12:26 PM

MM

“ *The loss of Jim was a sad day, but all who knew Jim knows exactly where he is now. Praise God for our time with him ! Worked with Jim as machinist at Buick and he was a good one. When he had idle time, he always had his bible open or was practicing singing for the next service. Always has a big smile and kind to everyone ! Prayers for his family... Mike McNamara (Mac)*

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**MICHAEL G MCNAMARA** - January 31, 2024 at 11:33 AM

EG

“ *Eleanor Goodman lit a candle in memory of Deacon James Ragston*



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**Eleanor Goodman** - January 30, 2024 at 10:32 PM

SH

“ *Sending prayers and condolences to my cousin Gail aka Gigi, praying for your strength and comfort in the name of Jesus.*

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**Stephanie Hall** - January 30, 2024 at 05:08 PM

LM

*Gail I am hot broken to hear that my longtime friend has passed away. We had a lot of good, laughs together much love always take care. Call me if you need anything. We did get a chance to exchange Christmas cards this year before he passed.*

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**Larry melchor** - January 31, 2024 at 12:25 PM



“ *Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Deacon James Ragston.* ”



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January 29, 2024 at 06:30 PM



“ *Verma Rosborough lit a candle in memory of James Ragston* ”



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**Verma Rosborough** - January 29, 2024 at 02:41 AM



“ *Lois Cunningham lit a candle in memory of James Ragston* ”



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**Lois Cunningham** - January 28, 2024 at 07:22 PM



“ *Velver Jean Henry lit a candle in memory of Deacon James Ragston* ”



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**Velver Jean Henry** - January 27, 2024 at 03:55 PM

RM

“ *Rev. Phyllis McCree lit a candle in memory of Deacon James Ragston*



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**Rev. Phyllis McCree** - January 27, 2024 at 03:35 PM

RL

“ *Ruth Lott lit a candle in memory of Deacon James Ragston*



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**Ruth Lott** - January 27, 2024 at 03:31 PM

AH

“ *Angela Hughes lit a candle in memory of Deacon James Ragston*



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**Angela Hughes** - January 27, 2024 at 03:28 PM

KM

“ *Kenneth and Patricia Marks family*



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**Kenneth Marks** - January 27, 2024 at 01:26 PM

EC

“ *Earl Diane Crowder sent a virtual gift in memory of James Ragston*



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**Earl and Diane Crowder** - January 26, 2024 at 09:09 PM

EM

“ *Eric Mems lit a candle in memory of James Ragston*



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**Eric Mems** - January 26, 2024 at 06:55 PM

TH

“ *Tina Houze*



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**Tina Houze** - January 26, 2024 at 04:42 PM

MC

“ *Marla Cooper*



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**Marla Cooper** - January 26, 2024 at 01:27 PM

RS

“ *Rosetta Spencer lit a candle in memory of James Ragston*



Rosetta Spencer - January 25, 2024 at 11:14 PM

LB

“ *Loretta Black lit a candle in memory of James Ragston*



Loretta Black - January 25, 2024 at 08:48 PM

LL

“ *Having the same blood running through my soul gives me comfort knowing that you was and is loved by so many I know the gates of heaven open up with mom,daddy,jack Margaret,Lester,Joe boy ,mary and Reina welcoming you home Rest in peace my brother*

Lannie Loving - January 25, 2024 at 08:26 PM

LL

“ *Lannie Loving lit a candle in memory of James Ragston*



Lannie Loving - January 25, 2024 at 08:17 PM

BC

“ *SENDING MY DEEPEST SYMPATHY AND PRAYERS TO MS. GAYLE AND THE RAGSTON FAMILY LOVE YOU. BETTY AND DR. BHATTI MD*

BETTY L COLLINS - January 25, 2024 at 02:42 PM

SE

“ *Sending my deepest sympathy to Gayle and the entire Ragston Family & Friends.*

*I'm praying that God will give you His peace and comfort you during your time of bereavement.*

*Rest well Brother Ragston* 🙏



Shirley Edwards-Jackson - January 25, 2024 at 11:53 AM

DH

“ *Deborah H. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Deacon James Ragston.*

Deborah H. - January 25, 2024 at 11:53 AM



“ *Sheila Johnson-Toins lit a candle in memory of Deacon James Ragston*



Sheila Johnson-Toins - January 24, 2024 at 02:56 PM

MM

“ Dear Gayle May God bless you with peace during this season. We are praying for you, knowing that God is the true comforter you need and he is with you. Marie and Arthur McGee

Marie McGee - January 24, 2024 at 11:42 AM

JK

“ Jocelyn Knox lit a candle in memory of Deacon James Ragston



Jocelyn Knox - January 24, 2024 at 11:34 AM

KC

“ My sincere condolences to the Ragston family,



Katherine Callaway - January 24, 2024 at 07:20 AM

RS

Deacon Ragston will be missed. Gayle you are always in my prayers. You are just like a sister to me. I know how much you love your James, just know that God will be your comforter through it all.

Rosetta Spencer - January 25, 2024 at 06:16 PM



“ *Sending our Condolences to the Ragston family. From C.L. Bridges family. You always checked on my Dad & you were so thoughtful & we all thank you! RIH.* 🙏❤️🌺



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**Jacqueline Bridges** - January 23, 2024 at 07:56 PM

ED

“ *Praying for your strength and understanding, during these trying times.*



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**Evangeline Dixon** - January 23, 2024 at 07:35 PM

CK

“ *Prayers, comfort and condolences*



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**Cheryl King** - January 23, 2024 at 05:33 PM

PP

“ *PJ Glenda Pointer lit a candle in memory of James Ragston*



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**PJ & Glenda Pointer** - January 23, 2024 at 03:31 PM

EC

“ Our Condolences to Sis. Gail and Family. Deacon Ragston was a true man of God, and Gentle Soul. He had a quite Sweet Spirit. He and Gail were the cutest couple. He will be Missed. RIH

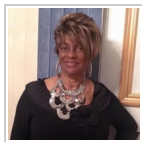
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**Evangelist-Dr. Carolyn Davis & Children** - January 23, 2024 at 01:13 PM

BB

“ Birdie Brooks lit a candle in memory of Deacon James Ragston



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**Birdie Brooks** - January 23, 2024 at 08:27 AM



“ Lula Lewis sent a virtual gift in memory of Deacon James Ragston



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**Lula Lewis** - January 22, 2024 at 10:49 PM

TJ

“ Tanya Jefferson sent a virtual gift in memory of Deacon James Ragston



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**Tanya Jefferson** - January 22, 2024 at 07:35 PM

FR

“ *Freda Ratliff-Williams lit a candle in memory of Deacon James Ragston*



**Freda Ratliff-Williams** - January 22, 2024 at 07:26 PM



“ *RIP Uncle James. On behalf of your brother Roger and his family, we are saddened to hear of your passing, but we know that you are free and rejoicing with so many of our loved ones. Sending extending prayers to your wife, children, extended Ragston family, and all those that loved you!*



**Chenadra Washington** - January 22, 2024 at 06:21 PM



“ *Wanda Baker sent a virtual gift in memory of Deacon James Ragston*



**Wanda Baker** - January 22, 2024 at 01:36 PM

AC

“ *Adrian Cooper lit a candle in memory of Deacon James Ragston*



**Adrian Cooper** - January 22, 2024 at 01:00 PM

BT

“ Betty Tipper lit a candle in memory of Deacon James Ragston



Betty Tipper - January 22, 2024 at 09:30 AM

FS

“ Faye Starling sent a virtual gift in memory of Deacon James Ragston



Faye Starling - January 22, 2024 at 08:53 AM

JC

“ Joycelyn Cooper lit a candle in memory of Deacon James Ragston



Joycelyn Cooper - January 21, 2024 at 09:02 PM

RG

“ Reverend John W Gray lit a candle in memory of Deacon James Ragston



Reverend John w Gray - January 21, 2024 at 09:00 PM

JB

“ *Jeanette Brown sent a virtual gift in memory of Deacon James Ragston*



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**Jeanette Brown** - January 20, 2024 at 08:50 PM

JB

“ *My condolences to Sis. Gayle Ragston and the entire Ragston family. Bro. Ragston was a very kind giving . And he was truly a servant to God. He will truly be missed.*



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**Jeanette Brown** - January 20, 2024 at 08:50 PM