



Former Mayor James A. Sharp Jr.

May 28, 1933 - July 2, 2023

SHARP, Mr. James A. Jr., - Age 90, was called home on July 2, 2023, in Avondale, Arizona. Family hour 10:00 AM Thursday, July 13, 2023, at Quinn Chapel AME Church, 2101 Lippincott Blvd., with a Celebration of Life Service commencing at 11:00 AM Pastor Lynn Jackson, officiating. Interment 11:00 AM Monday, August 21, 2023, at Arlington National Cemetery, Arlington, VA. Friends and pallbearers will assemble at the church 10:00 AM Thursday. Mr. Sharp will lie in state in the Chapel of Lawrence E. Moon Funeral Home, 906 W. Flint Park Blvd., and may be viewed Tuesday, July 11, 2023, from 3:00 PM - 6:00 PM and Wednesday, July 12, 2023, from 12:00 PM - 6:00 PM.

Services can be live streamed at: <https://www.facebook.com/ExperienceTheQ/>

With his passing, the world has lost a great husband, father, grandfather, great-grandfather, great-great-grandfather, brother-in-law, uncle, friend, mentor, and leader.

James was born on May 28, 1933, in New York City to James Alfred Sharpe Sr. and Clementine Banks Sharpe. In 1951, he joined the U.S. Marine Corps serving with honor until his retirement in 1971. During his military service, he served with Fox 2/7 in Korea (1952-1953) and in Vietnam (1965-1966, 1968-1969, 1971). He was awarded the Purple Heart for wounds received in

Vietnam and three Navy Commendation Medals, all with the combat “V” for “Valor” during battles in Korea and Vietnam.

After retiring from the Marine Corps, James served as principal aide to U.S. Senator Donald W. Riegle from 1971-1983 managing constituent services for six offices in Michigan. In 1983, he was elected Mayor of Flint, Michigan, the first African-American elected to the office in city-wide elections. He honorably served as Mayor through 1987 and was a member of Quinn Chapel A.M.E. Church. James was frequently acknowledged for his ability to work with people in other levels of governments to bring about consensus and work together for the benefit of the citizens of Flint and Genesee County. Based on successes noted during his administration including his role in the creation of the Bishop International Airport Authority, the Bishop Airport Commission dedicated the Mayor James A. Sharp, Jr. Conference Room at Bishop Airport in his honor in 2007.

Following his mayorship, James continued his public service in many ways. He served as Vice President of Governmental Relations for City Management Corporation. Additionally, he was appointed by two governors to the Oakland University Board of Trustees (1988-1999) where he served as Board Chair from 1992-1994. He and his wife also established a scholarship to benefit students studying abroad. James was awarded an honorary degree of Doctor of Humanities Honoris Causa in 2017 for his contributions to the intellectual, cultural, commercial and civic betterment of the Oakland University community. He also served on the Board of the Detroit Institute of Arts, the Community Resource Council of the College of Public Programs at Arizona State University, and numerous other community-based organizations.

Despite these many accomplishments, if you asked James, he would say that his family was his greatest accomplishment. James served as the patriarch and dispenser of wisdom for his family and his loss will be felt deeply. He is

survived by his loving wife of 56 years, Tessie Baltrip Sharp of Avondale, Arizona. James was preceded in death by two sons, Owen Quentin Sharpe of Flint, Michigan, and James Alfred Sharp, III of Royal Oak, Michigan. He leaves behind two daughters, Dolly Sharpe-Barney (David Barney) of Oak Park, Michigan and LaTanya "Tangie" Sharp of Phoenix, AZ. He is also survived by eight grandchildren, twenty-four great-grandchildren, and four great-great grandchildren, many of whom were honored to join James in celebration of his 90th birthday. He will also be dearly missed by many other extended family members and friends. His generosity, loyalty, and love will be forever in our hearts.

A celebration of James's life will be held in Flint, Michigan (details to follow). In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in James's honor to the James A. Sharp, Jr. and Tessie Baltrip Sharp Endowed Fund c/o Oakland University (<http://bit.ly/SharpMemorial>) or The Black Theatre Troupe, Inc., 1333 E Washington St., Phoenix AZ 85034 (<https://www.blacktheatretroupe.org/donations>).

Previous Events

Public Visitation

JUL 11. 3:00 PM - 6:00 PM (ET)

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

Public Visitation

JUL 12. 12:00 PM - 6:00 PM (ET)

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

Family hour

JUL 13. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Quinn Chapel AME Church
2101 Lippincott Blvd.
Flint, MI 48503

Celebration of Life Service

JUL 13. 11:00 AM (ET)

Quinn Chapel AME Church
2101 Lippincott Blvd.
Flint, MI 48503

Tribute Wall



“ *Lawrence E. Moon Funeral Home created a Webcast in memory of Former Mayor James A. Sharp Jr.* ”



Lawrence E. Moon Funeral Home - July 11, 2023 at 03:11 PM

1A

“ *1 file added to the tribute wall* ”



1st Marine Division Association - November 14, 2023 at 12:38 PM



“ *Former Mayor James A. Sharp Jr.* ”

October 09, 2023 at 07:02 AM

KR

“ *Kimberly Ross lit a candle in memory of Mayor James Sharp Jr.* ”



Kimberly Ross - July 19, 2023 at 07:52 PM



“ *Jacqueline Bridges lit a candle in memory of Former Mayor James A. Sharp Jr.*



Jacqueline Bridges - July 18, 2023 at 06:02 PM

MW

“ *Maggie Williams lit a candle in memory of Former Mayor James A. Sharp Jr.*



Maggie Williams - July 16, 2023 at 04:28 PM

PN

“ *We knew Jim when he and Tess had their retirement home in Goodyear, AZ. He loved his golf game, his friends and civic activities. Everybody loved him.*

Priscilla and Joe Naworski

Priscilla Naworski - July 13, 2023 at 07:39 PM

BP

“ *I can remember Mayor Sharp, his mom & Tessie attending church together. He was such a kind, personable person & did a good job serving as Mayor. To Tessie & the family God Bless & hang on to all those precious memories. Deepest Condolences The Chambry Family.*



Betty Perkins - July 13, 2023 at 11:25 AM

JP

“ *Uncle Jim, as the Phillips referred to him was a title my dad gave to him when they both served. My dad and mom loved Jim and Tessie! Uncle will be missed, yet we know Our Redeemer lives and Jim with Him! We have another Heavenly advocate!! Fair winds Marine, Sempre Fi!*

James Phillips - July 13, 2023 at 10:46 AM

VH

“ *Valerie Humphries sent a virtual gift in memory of Former Mayor James A. Sharp Jr.*



Valerie Humphries - July 12, 2023 at 11:11 PM

AP

“ *My prayers are with you.*

april wright



april - July 12, 2023 at 08:06 PM

SS

“ *A candle is sent in your honor (Former) Mayor James A. Sharp, Jr. - to a man of integrity, a distinguished leader, a kind and caring person.*

You will always have my greatest respect.

Wishing you peace and extraordinary success in your future endeavors above!

Wishing your wife, Tessie, and family many happy memories and blessings!

*Warmest Regards,
Sheila Smith*

Sheila Smith - July 12, 2023 at 04:46 PM

GS

“ *The Honorable Dr. James A. Sharp, Jr. was a man of dignity, integrity, kindness, intellect, humor, and love to name a few attributes. He was quick to put anyone at ease or help, his hand extended. It's as if he were born to lead, he was so effortless. I extend my condolences to the entire Sharp family on losing your giant, may your memories warm you in the days to come.*



Gloria Scruggs - July 12, 2023 at 02:01 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Former Mayor James A. Sharp Jr..*



July 12, 2023 at 11:09 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Former Mayor James A. Sharp Jr..

July 12, 2023 at 11:09 AM



“ Vivian Kelley lit a candle in memory of Former Mayor James A. Sharp Jr.



Vivian Kelley - July 12, 2023 at 10:05 AM



“ Kyle McCree lit a candle in memory of Former Mayor James A. Sharp Jr.



Kyle McCree - July 11, 2023 at 09:19 PM



“ Monica Davis sent a virtual gift in memory of Former Mayor James A. Sharp Jr.



Monica Davis - July 11, 2023 at 06:09 PM

DW

“ *Dandre & Freda Williams lit a candle in memory of Former Mayor James A. Sharp Jr.*



Dandre & Freda Williams - July 11, 2023 at 10:01 AM

YF

“ *Yvonne Tucker And Family lit a candle in memory of Former Mayor James A. Sharp Jr.*



Yvonne Tucker and family - July 10, 2023 at 07:51 PM

KR

“ *Kendall E. Reaves lit a candle in memory of Former Mayor James A. Sharp Jr.*



Kendall E. Reaves - July 10, 2023 at 04:47 PM

SJ

“ *Shalese Jarrett lit a candle in memory of Former Mayor James A. Sharp Jr.*



Shalese Jarrett - July 10, 2023 at 03:34 PM

NW

“ *Norma Wells lit a candle in memory of Former Mayor James A. Sharp Jr.*



Norma Wells - July 10, 2023 at 11:19 AM

FT

“ *Sincere condolences to Mrs. Tessie Sharp and the entire family. Mr. Sharp looked into an issue that I had while serving in the military. He did this at the request of Mrs. Nancy West while working at the office of Rep. Donald W. Riegler, Jr. Years later, he worshipped next to us at church, along with his mother and wife. They were always gracious and kind.*

Fred Tarver - July 10, 2023 at 09:17 AM

DH

“ *Deborah H. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Former Mayor James A. Sharp Jr..*

Deborah H. - July 10, 2023 at 12:22 AM

IG

“ *Ira Gilbert lit a candle in memory of Former Mayor James A. Sharp Jr.*



Ira Gilbert - July 09, 2023 at 11:46 AM

DK

“ *Delores Keith sent a virtual gift in memory of Mayor James Sharp Jr.*



Delores J. Keith - July 08, 2023 at 07:30 PM

MW

“ *Monique Williams sent a virtual gift in memory of Mayor James Sharp Jr.*



Monique Williams - July 08, 2023 at 06:08 PM

LC

“ *Lois A Cunningham lit a candle in memory of Mayor James Sharp Jr.*



Lois A Cunningham - July 08, 2023 at 03:48 PM

EW

“ *Evelyn Ward lit a candle in memory of Mayor James Sharp Jr.*



Evelyn Barbee Ward - July 08, 2023 at 03:48 PM

EW

“ Evelyn Ward lit a candle in memory of Mayor James Sharp Jr.



Evelyn Barbee Ward - July 08, 2023 at 03:47 PM

JG

“ Julia Gamble sent a virtual gift in memory of Former Mayor James A. Sharp Jr.



Julia Gamble - July 08, 2023 at 01:44 PM

CV

“ Carol VanBuren lit a candle in memory of Mayor James Sharp Jr.



Carol VanBuren - July 08, 2023 at 07:37 AM



“ T Marie Marshall lit a candle in memory of Mayor James Sharp Jr.



T Marie Marshall - July 08, 2023 at 07:34 AM

KS

“ *Kay Stewart lit a candle in memory of Mayor James Sharp Jr.*



Kay Stewart - July 08, 2023 at 07:29 AM

TP

“ *Tiny Presnall lit a candle in memory of Mayor James Sharp Jr.*



Tiny Presnall - July 07, 2023 at 11:55 PM

AS

“ *Aileen Spence lit a candle in memory of Mayor James Sharp Jr.*



Aileen Spence - July 07, 2023 at 10:40 PM

AS

“ *Aileen Spence sent a virtual gift in memory of Mayor James Sharp Jr.*



Aileen Spence - July 07, 2023 at 10:40 PM

AS

“ *Aileen Spence sent a virtual gift in memory of Mayor James Sharp Jr.*



Aileen Spence - July 07, 2023 at 10:39 PM

EC

“ *Evangelist-Dr. Carolyn Davis & Children lit a candle in memory of Former Mayor James A. Sharp Jr.*



Evangelist-Dr. Carolyn Davis & Children - July 07, 2023 at 09:53 PM

ME

“ *Mary L. Evans lit a candle in memory of Former Mayor James A. Sharp Jr.*



Mary L. Evans - July 07, 2023 at 09:13 PM

PM

“ *Sending condolences and prayers to the Sharp Family.
Phillip and Gloria Morgan*



Phillip and Gloria Morgan - July 07, 2023 at 08:36 PM

SP

“ *Sgt. Anthony C Pittman lit a candle in memory of Former Mayor James A. Sharp Jr.*



Sgt. Anthony C Pittman - July 07, 2023 at 08:35 PM

KM

“ *Kellie Manning lit a candle in memory of Former Mayor James A. Sharp Jr.*



Kellie Manning - July 07, 2023 at 07:05 PM

SH

“ *Sondra Huddleston sent a virtual gift in memory of Former Mayor James A. Sharp Jr.*



Sondra Huddleston - July 07, 2023 at 06:58 PM



“ *Debra Miller lit a candle in memory of Former Mayor James A. Sharp Jr.*



Debra Miller - July 07, 2023 at 12:45 PM

DS

“ *Doreatha Denise Swift lit a candle in memory of Former Mayor James A. Sharp Jr.*



Doreatha Denise Swift - July 07, 2023 at 12:40 PM

DT

“ *James A sharp whom i called Marine 1 was a true humanitarian and stood in the gap like a father figure.to me a sounding board for guidance on how to navigate the world's trials and tribulations. my heartaches and to his phenomenal Wife thank you for adding me to your family*

Dianne Tabron-Felder - July 07, 2023 at 09:04 AM

MM

“ *Mayrene C McGruder lit a candle in memory of Former Mayor James A. Sharp Jr.*



Mayrene C McGruder - July 07, 2023 at 08:31 AM

RT

“ *Luke 10:25-37
To know, Mr. Sharp is to know the scripture and parable of the good Samaritan.*



Rev. Peter Tabron - July 07, 2023 at 08:29 AM

RT

“ Luke 10:25-37
To know, Mr. Sharp is to know the scripture
and parable of the good Samaritan ❤️🙏



Rev. Peter Tabron - July 07, 2023 at 08:14 AM

AP

“ Arnenia Peoples-Odum lit a candle in memory
of Former Mayor James A. Sharp Jr.



Arnenia Peoples-Odum - July 07, 2023 at 06:02 AM

EW

“ Elder Charles Woods lit a candle in memory
of Former Mayor James A. Sharp Jr.



Elder Charles Woods - July 07, 2023 at 04:01 AM

EL

“ Elder Michael & Phyllis Leslie lit a candle in
memory of Former Mayor James A. Sharp Jr.



Elder Michael & Phyllis Leslie - July 07, 2023 at 01:18 AM

MP

“ James Sharp was my Dad’s closest friend. I knew him as my Uncle Jim. He was one of the greatest men I ever had the pleasure of knowing. God speed Marine!

Mark Phillips PhD - July 06, 2023 at 10:00 PM

PW

“ Pam Williams lit a candle in memory of Former Mayor James A. Sharp Jr.



Pam Williams - July 06, 2023 at 09:08 PM

SD

“ Tangie - My condolences on the passing of your father. I can still remember when he became Mayor. My prayers are with your entire family.

Steve Dufon - July 06, 2023 at 08:59 PM

BB

“ Barbara McFarland Brown lit a candle in memory of Former Mayor James A. Sharp Jr.



Barbara McFarland Brown - July 06, 2023 at 08:00 PM

AA

“ Anthony F. Alexander, Sr



Anthony Alexander - July 06, 2023 at 06:08 PM

JJ

“ He and Tessie were a joy to be around. He was loved by my Dad. Uncle Jim will be missed, but he has gone home to see his Mom. Sempre Fi Marine!

James N. Phillips Jr - July 06, 2023 at 05:57 PM

EW

“ Elder Charles Woods lit a candle in memory of Former Mayor James A. Sharp Jr.



Elder Charles Woods - July 06, 2023 at 05:08 PM

SP

“ Sheila Phillips lit a candle in memory of Former Mayor James A. Sharp Jr.



Sheila Phillips - July 06, 2023 at 03:33 PM



“ *Marjorie Chapman sent a virtual gift in memory of Former Mayor James A. Sharp Jr.*



Marjorie Chapman - July 06, 2023 at 02:39 PM

LB

“ *Lois Bell lit a candle in memory of Former Mayor James A. Sharp Jr.*



Lois Bell - July 06, 2023 at 02:30 PM

VM

“ *Vickie Manning*



Vickie Manning - July 06, 2023 at 11:09 AM

TC

“ *Tanya Carlisle lit a candle in memory of Former Mayor James A. Sharp Jr.*



Tanya Carlisle - July 06, 2023 at 09:20 AM

LW

“ *Linda Miller Wilkerson lit a candle in memory of Former Mayor James A. Sharp Jr.*



Linda Miller Wilkerson - July 06, 2023 at 08:44 AM



“ *Wanda Baker lit a candle in memory of Former Mayor James A. Sharp Jr.*



Wanda Baker - July 06, 2023 at 08:11 AM

RJ

“ *Romi Jean Jones sent a virtual gift in memory of Former Mayor James A. Sharp Jr.*



Romi Jean Jones - July 06, 2023 at 08:06 AM



“ *Kimberly Hall-Miller sent a virtual gift in memory of Former Mayor James A. Sharp Jr.*



Kimberly Hall-Miller - July 06, 2023 at 07:41 AM

SN

“ *Sandy Neal lit a candle in memory of Former Mayor James A. Sharp Jr.*



Sandy Neal - July 05, 2023 at 11:26 PM

SN

“ *My Sincere Condolences to Tessie and Jim entire family. It was truly a pleasure working on your Mayoral campaign and getting the win! Thank you for the friendship and the wonderful memories! Rest peacefully in God loving arms Mayor Sharp*



Sandy Neal - July 05, 2023 at 11:26 PM

JB

“ *Prayers of condolences to the families of Mr James Sharper Jr.*



Joyce Bah - July 05, 2023 at 10:11 PM

RA

“ *Rosia Anderson sent a virtual gift in memory of Former Mayor James A. Sharp Jr.*



Rosia Anderson - July 05, 2023 at 09:47 PM



“ *Hope Veasley lit a candle in memory of Former Mayor James A. Sharp Jr.*



Hope Veasley - July 05, 2023 at 09:41 PM

MW

“ *Maggie Williams lit a candle in memory of Former Mayor James A. Sharp Jr.*



Maggie Williams - July 05, 2023 at 08:30 PM

ED

“ *Eddie&PaulettenMcGhee lit a candle in memory of Former Mayor James A. Sharp Jr.*



Eddie&PaulettenMcGhee - July 05, 2023 at 07:36 PM

J(

“ *James & Sharon Owensby (Arizona) lit a candle in memory of Former Mayor James A. Sharp Jr.*



James & Sharon Owensby (Arizona) - July 05, 2023 at 07:22 PM

RD

“ *Lit a candle for Mr James A. Sharp Jr. My condolences to the family.*



Rudolph Wheaton, DDS,MPA - July 05, 2023 at 06:17 PM

KC

“ *Kim E. Carpenter lit a candle in memory of Former Mayor James A. Sharp Jr.*



Kim E. Carpenter - July 05, 2023 at 08:32 AM

BT

“ *Betty Tipper lit a candle in memory of Former Mayor James A. Sharp Jr.*



Betty Tipper - July 05, 2023 at 08:05 AM

TJ

“ *Tanya Jefferson lit a candle in memory of Former Mayor James A. Sharp Jr.*



Tanya Jefferson - July 04, 2023 at 10:43 PM



“ Robbie Grier sent a virtual gift in memory of Former Mayor James A. Sharp Jr.



Robbie Grier - July 04, 2023 at 07:38 PM

VK

“ Vivian Kelley lit a candle in memory of Former Mayor James A. Sharp Jr.



Vivian Kelley - July 04, 2023 at 03:12 PM

DF

“ Driskell Family lit a candle in memory of Former Mayor James A. Sharp Jr.



Driskell Family - July 04, 2023 at 12:29 PM

CD

“ Cheryl Price Dickson lit a candle in memory of Former Mayor James A. Sharp Jr.



Cheryl Price Dickson - July 04, 2023 at 11:51 AM

JA

“ *Jerome Adams lit a candle in memory of Former Mayor James A. Sharp Jr.*



Jerome Adams - July 04, 2023 at 05:22 AM

BK

“ *Brenda Kimble lit a candle in memory of Former Mayor James A. Sharp Jr.*



Brenda Kimble - July 03, 2023 at 06:30 PM

RM

“ *Rosie McFadden lit a candle in memory of Former Mayor James A. Sharp Jr.*



Rosie McFadden - July 03, 2023 at 04:28 PM