



Mr. Ruford Earl James

September 1, 1957 - September 20, 2023

JAMES, Mr. Ruford Earl - Age 66, passed away Wednesday, September 20, 2023, at Hurley Medical Center. Family Hour 10:00 AM Friday, September 29, 2023, at New Jerusalem Full Gospel Baptist Church, 1035 E. Carpenter Rd., with funeral service commencing at 11:00 AM, Pastor Alfred L. Harris Jr., officiating. Interment Sunset Hills Cemetery, G-4413 Flushing Rd. Friends and pallbearers will assemble at the Church 10:00 AM Friday. Mr. James 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 Thursday. Mr. Ruford Earl James was born September 1, 1957 in Jackson, Mississippi, the son of Nathaniel and Amanda (Benson) James. Ruford was a resident of Mt. Morris, Michigan and a member of New Jerusalem Full Gospel Baptist Church where he served on the Deacon Board, sang in the Men's Choir and served on the Kitchen Committee. He attended Flint Beecher Community Schools until the 11th grade and transferred to Flint Northwestern High School for his senior year where he graduated. Ruford was employed by General Motors Corporation for 30 years until he retired. He was a member of UAW Local #599. Ruford was a part-time Farmer for over 30 years. He planted a variety of crops, owned various farm animals and enjoyed being in the garden. Ruford also enjoyed fishing and spending time with his granddaughter, and visiting family in Mississippi. Mr. Ruford Earl James leaves to cherish his memory: wife, Diane James of Mt. Morris, MI; 2 daughters, Elizabeth James and Nina James, both of Burton, MI; son, Rafeal Deonte James of Flushing, MI;

granddaughter, Braelyn Williams of Burton, MI; 5 sisters, Ida Hill of Kentucky, Gloria Jean Benson of Gaines, MI, Sheila James of Texas, Mary James of Flint and Sarah James of Texas; 2 brothers, Melvin (Mary Ann) James of Texas and Nathaniel James Jr. of Michigan; a host of nieces and nephews including special nephew, Melvin James Jr.; a host of other relatives and friends including special friends, the Wiley family, Jeffery Blount, Clarence Wheeler; a host of farmer friends, the Beecher Community and the Mississippi family. Mr. James was preceded in death by his parents, Nathaniel and Amanda James; grandparents, Floyd James and Elizabeth James, Mack Arthur Benson and Sarah Benson; niece, Leishei Holly; and nephew, Nathaniel James. The family would like to express special thanks to Hurley Medical Center nurses on the CCU floor, New Jerusalem Full Gospel Baptist Church family, and all the family and friends for their support

Cemetery Details

Sunset Hills Cemetery

G-4413 Flushing Rd.
Flint, MI 48504

Previous Events

Public Viewing

SEP **28**. 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 hour

SEP **29**. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

New Jerusalem Full Gospel Baptist Church
1035 E. Carpenter Rd.
Flint, MI 48505

Funeral Service

SEP **29**. 11:00 AM (ET)

New Jerusalem Full Gospel Baptist Church
1035 E. Carpenter Rd.
Flint, MI 48505

Tribute Wall



“ *Sandy Neal lit a candle in memory of Mr. Ruford Earl James*



Sandy Neal - October 10, 2023 at 08:08 PM



“ *Mr. Ruford Earl James*

October 09, 2023 at 07:02 AM



“ *Corliss A Dunn Gaines lit a candle in memory of Mr. Ruford Earl James*



Corliss A Dunn Gaines - October 05, 2023 at 11:13 PM

LR

“ *EARL: what else can I say: "THE MAN". A Man of Integrity, A Man who ALWAYS kept His Word. A Man who LOVED His Wife and Children. It was truly a Pleasure to work with you as you Plowed your Soybean Crop on Our Land. My ONLY REGRET is that when you stopped by My Home to check on Me, September 12, 2023 I was in the Hospital. HOW WAS I TO KNOW THAT 8 DAYS LATER YOU CLOSED YOUR EYES IN PEACE. However My Ring Bell captured your IMAGE and YOUR VOICE WHICH i WILL ALWAYS CHERISH. Dina and I convey Our Sincere Sympathy, Compassion, and Love to your Wife, Children, Granddaughter, and Family. You Are Missed!!!*

Lavarne Ross - October 03, 2023 at 04:21 PM

SP

“ *Sheryl Payton sent a virtual gift in memory of Ruford James*



Sheryl Payton - September 29, 2023 at 05:38 PM

MP

“ *Melinda Pitts lit a candle in memory of Ruford James*



Melinda Pitts - September 29, 2023 at 03:17 PM

SH

“ *Shelia Phondria Hayman sent a virtual gift in memory of Mr. Ruford Earl James*



Shelia Phondria Hayman - September 29, 2023 at 01:32 PM

GU

“ *Gale Utsey sent a virtual gift in memory of Ruford James*



Gale Utsey - September 29, 2023 at 12:19 PM

EU

“ *Earl Utsey lit a candle in memory of Ruford James*



Earl &Gale Utsey - September 29, 2023 at 12:17 PM

TM

“ *Tracey Miller lit a candle in memory of Ruford James*



Tracey Miller - September 29, 2023 at 11:47 AM

DR

“ *DEXTER Roach lit a candle in memory of Mr. Ruford Earl James*



DEXTER Roach - September 29, 2023 at 10:34 AM

MV

“ *Thoughts and Prayers to The Family, Earl will be truly missed. From Myra and Reggie*



Myra and Reggie V - September 28, 2023 at 07:36 PM

TP

“ *Tonya Price sent a virtual gift in memory of Mr. Ruford Earl James*



Tonya Price - September 28, 2023 at 04:10 PM

BT

“ *Bridget Thomas lit a candle in memory of Mr. Ruford Earl James*



Bridget Thomas - September 28, 2023 at 03:53 PM

KR

“ Our thoughts and prayers are with you, Diane, and your family.

Your friends at Krapohl Senior Center.

Karen Reid - September 28, 2023 at 12:36 PM

BB

“ *Beatrice B. purchased the Simply Elegant Spathi
phyllum for the family of Mr. Ruford Earl James.*



Beatrice B. - September 28, 2023 at 11:52 AM

CA

“ *Sending our deepest sympathy to the James
family* 🌹



Crystal Ashburn - September 28, 2023 at 10:40 AM

AW

“ *Antionetta Williams lit a candle in memory of
Mr. Ruford Earl James*



Antionetta Williams - September 28, 2023 at 12:29 AM

FL

“ Our heartfelt prayers and love to Diane and the entire family. Praying Gods strength and peace to you all.



Freda, Gene Leverette - September 27, 2023 at 10:18 PM

PG

“ Pastor & Lady Adolphus Glaspie lit a candle in memory of Mr. Ruford Earl James



Pastor & Lady Adolphus Glaspie - September 27, 2023 at 09:54 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Mr. Ruford Earl James.



September 27, 2023 at 08:55 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Mr. Ruford Earl James.



September 27, 2023 at 07:19 PM



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

September 27, 2023 at 07:19 PM



“ Ida hill and Billy The Hill Family purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of Mr. Ruford Earl James.



Ida hill and Billy The Hill Family - September 27, 2023 at 06:29 PM



“ Ida hill and Billy The Hill Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mr. Ruford Earl James.

Ida hill and Billy The Hill Family - September 27, 2023 at 06:29 PM



“ Earl and I were classmates at Beecher Schools as children. RIP EARL

Vanessa Braddock Morris - September 27, 2023 at 06:05 PM



“ Katrina Brantley lit a candle in memory of Mr. Ruford Earl James



Katrina Brantley - September 27, 2023 at 05:54 PM

MM

“ Margo McQuiddy lit a candle in memory of Mr. Ruford Earl James



Margo McQuiddy - September 27, 2023 at 05:48 PM

SC

“ Samantha Caldwell lit a candle in memory of Mr. Ruford Earl James



Samantha Caldwell - September 27, 2023 at 02:45 PM

DS

“ Dixie Smith lit a candle in memory of Mr. Ruford Earl James



Dixie Smith - September 27, 2023 at 10:11 AM

CM

“ Cheryl McKinney lit a candle in memory of Mr. Ruford Earl James



Cheryl McKinney - September 27, 2023 at 09:18 AM

DS

“ *Debora Stitt lit a candle in memory of Mr. Ruford Earl James*



Debora Stitt - September 26, 2023 at 07:46 PM

CG

“ *Corliss A Dunn Gaines lit a candle in memory of Mr. Ruford Earl James*



Corliss A Dunn Gaines - September 26, 2023 at 04:08 PM

CG

“ *My sincere condolences to Diane and family. Praying for your strength and comfort.*



Carol (Taylor) Gardner - September 26, 2023 at 02:22 PM

DO

“ *Doris Birikorang Okraku lit a candle in memory of Ruford James*



Doris & Birikorang Okraku - September 26, 2023 at 01:55 PM

ST

“ So very sad to learn of Earl gaining his Angel Wings. We were friends since 2nd grade. Many days we played marbles with the ones we searched for over at the train tracks. He looked out for me during those days. Was so happy to re-connect via Cornell Avenue and him working at Beecher - spent many hours discussing many things 😎
May God wrap his arms around all Earl's family giving them peace, strength and much comfort.
Until we met again my friend ~ Fly High
Sincerely with much condolences,
Sheila (Middleton) Thorn-Rueda



Sheila (Middleton) Thorn-Rueda - September 26, 2023 at 01:12 PM

LS

“ Diane, Elizabeth and Nina,
We are so sorry to hear of your husband and father's passing. May the lord comfort and keep you at peace during this difficult time.
The Sollund and Homant Families (Bill, Laurie, Lindsey and Eric)

Laurie Sollund - September 26, 2023 at 10:43 AM

FR

“ Felicia (Lisa) Reeves-Nunn lit a candle in memory of Mr. Ruford Earl James



Felicia (Lisa) Reeves-Nunn - September 26, 2023 at 01:43 AM

NL

“*Nanette M Lancaster lit a candle in memory of Mr. Ruford Earl James*



Nanette M Lancaster - September 25, 2023 at 07:44 PM

LM

“*Diane, my most sincere prayers and condolences are truly extended to you, Elizabeth, Nina, Grands and Family. Earl will truly be missed. Upon each and every class reunion we've all organized together, as a committee, I was always graced with the presence of seeing you and Earl as if you two were still as an afresh newlywed couple; so vibrantly in love! Always immensely happy together! May the Lord, God Almighty, give you and the family His glorious grace, mercy, and peace and hold you all close with His righteous right hand...*



“So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.”

Isaiah 41:10 NIV

Lord, You are “close to the brokenhearted and [You rescue] those whose spirits are crushed,” (Psalm 34:18). Draw close to me and rescue me. Help me not to grieve like those who haven't discovered Your kindness and mercy, who have no hope (1 Thessalonians 4:13)—lift me up and give me hope once more....

With all my love, Diane, my beloved friend....

Laverna

Laverna Murphy - September 25, 2023 at 06:20 PM

MO

“ *Marcella Oden lit a candle in memory of Mr. Ruford Earl James*



Marcella Oden - September 25, 2023 at 05:45 PM

VR

“ *Van Roberts sent a virtual gift in memory of Mr. Ruford Earl James*



Van Roberts - September 25, 2023 at 03:53 PM

AH

“ *Anita Harris sent a virtual gift in memory of Mr. Ruford Earl James*



Anita Harris - September 25, 2023 at 03:52 PM

LG

“ *Earl you know I love you and will miss you and your trips to Mississippi. We know how you loved the south. Rest on my dear cousin, you were my cousin, but you thought you were Green's, until we meet again.
I love you, Lillie*

Lillie Green - September 25, 2023 at 03:10 PM

SB

“ Diane I am sorry for the loss of your husband, I did not know his first name only Earl but know the last name James and someone was asking prayer for him, I was hoping and praying this was not your husband, Called Connie and she confirmed. This is heart breaking, you have my prayers condolences for your family, daughters and granddaughter. You are always in my heart, Diane you and Earl are caring people both of you looks out and love my sister Connie always gratefull too you both.



Shirley Blassingame - September 25, 2023 at 01:43 PM

AG

“ Alvin Gayden lit a candle in memory of Mr. Ruford Earl James



Alvin Gayden - September 25, 2023 at 08:26 AM

TS

“ With deepest condolences rest in peace Stella Miller and family



Terri Seaton - September 25, 2023 at 06:48 AM

RF

“ *Rice/Croom Family lit a candle in memory of Mr. Ruford Earl James*



Rice/Croom Family - September 25, 2023 at 04:07 AM

SS

“ *Dearest Diane, I'm truly sorry to hear of your loss. I'm thinking and praying for you and your family.* 🙏



Sheronica Stirton - September 24, 2023 at 10:23 PM

JT

“ *Jerome Threlkeld lit a candle in memory of Mr. Ruford Earl James*



Jerome Threlkeld - September 24, 2023 at 10:14 PM

DE

“ *Deacon Elam And Edna sent a virtual gift in memory of Mr. Ruford Earl James*



Deacon Elam and Edna - September 24, 2023 at 10:03 PM

BW

“ *My heartfelt condolences to the family. Deacon James was a special man and I am happy that we became acquainted this past year. God has brought one of his angels home.*

Brenda R. Williams - September 24, 2023 at 08:27 PM

BW

“ *Brenda R. Williams lit a candle in memory of Mr. Ruford Earl James*



Brenda R. Williams - September 24, 2023 at 08:22 PM

CD

“ *Charles Dixon lit a candle in memory of Mr. Ruford Earl James*



Charles Dixon - September 24, 2023 at 08:20 PM

JW

“ *May God give you the strength during this difficult time. Love Larry and Jeanette Wiley and Family*



Jeanette Wiley - September 24, 2023 at 07:46 PM

BM

“ *Bertha Moses lit a candle in memory of Mr. Ruford Earl James*



Bertha Moses - September 24, 2023 at 07:38 PM

BS

“ *Praying for you and family Diann I am so sorry*



Barbara Sykes - September 24, 2023 at 07:01 PM

JB

“ *Jeanette Brown lit a candle in memory of Mr. Ruford Earl James*



Jeanette Brown - September 24, 2023 at 06:29 PM

MA

“ *Melinda M. Anderson sent a virtual gift in memory of Mr. Ruford Earl James*



Melinda M. Anderson - September 24, 2023 at 05:07 PM

PN

“ Pamela Nealy lit a candle in memory of Mr. Ruford Earl James



Pamela Nealy - September 24, 2023 at 04:22 PM

SW

“ Shirie Wade sent a virtual gift in memory of Mr. Ruford Earl James



Shirie Wade - September 24, 2023 at 03:53 PM

F1

“ Flint Northwertern Alumni C/o 1974 lit a candle in memory of Mr. Ruford Earl James



Flint Northwertern Alumni c/o 1974 - September 24, 2023 at 01:15 PM

RS

“ Rosalind Smith lit a candle in memory of Mr. Ruford Earl James



Rosalind Smith - September 24, 2023 at 12:50 PM

JT

“ *Jessie Todd lit a candle in memory of Mr. Ruford Earl James*



Jessie Todd - September 24, 2023 at 12:12 PM

TH

“ *theresa harrison sent a virtual gift in memory of Ruford James*



theresa harrison - September 24, 2023 at 08:53 AM

GJ

“ *Our dearest condolences to the James family rest in Heaven from Gary and Marcia Jackson 🙏*

Gary, Marcia Jackson - September 23, 2023 at 11:06 PM

AF

“ *Annette Jarrett and family lit a candle in memory of Ruford James*



Annette Blackwell Jarrett and family - September 23, 2023 at 09:52 PM

MH

“ *Michael & Sheryl Hightower,
Your family have our sincere heartfelt condolences. 🙏
Earl truly, will be missed!*



Michael & Sheryl Hightower - September 23, 2023 at 09:16 PM

CD

Rest in peace my brother 🙏! Charles Dixon

Charles Dixon - September 24, 2023 at 08:23 PM

EB

Rest in Peace classmate , neighbor and friend 🙏🙏🙏

Erwin Brown - September 29, 2023 at 09:46 AM

HF

“ *I Lenny Hemphill used to work at Buick City on the line right next to Earl James. We worked together for years & had an awesome time everyday talking & laughing. I must say that some days I could not wait to get to work to have a good time with Earl & our other work buddy James. After we retired & we used to see each other out somewhere & the first thing we did was laugh before we even said hello. I will forever remember the great conversations & times that we had at Buick City. I pray for the Love & strength of God to keep Diane & the family! I will always remember my buddy, Mr. Earl James... He was a wonderful person...R.I.H. Hemphill & Pennymon Families!*



Hemphill Pennimon Family - September 23, 2023 at 08:29 PM

SL

“ *Sheila Lomax lit a candle in memory of Ruford James*



Sheila Lomax - September 23, 2023 at 07:53 PM

RB

“ *Rosa Burnett lit a candle in memory of Ruford James*



Rosa Burnett - September 23, 2023 at 06:51 PM

GJ

“ *Our dearest condolences to the James family from Gary and Marcia Jackson Rest in Heaven*

Gary, Marcia Jackson - September 23, 2023 at 06:18 PM

CD

“ *Praying for you and your family in this time of your loss*



Cindy I Duncan - September 23, 2023 at 03:19 PM

LJ

“ *Lisa Johnson lit a candle in memory of Ruford James*



Lisa Johnson - September 23, 2023 at 02:50 PM

LN

“ *Lara Nkume lit a candle in memory of Ruford James*



Lara Nkume - September 23, 2023 at 01:40 PM

NB

“ *NORMAN BOOKER lit a candle in memory of Ruford James*



NORMAN & SHARON BOOKER - September 23, 2023 at 12:54 PM

NJ

“ *Nancine Jackson sent a virtual gift in memory of Ruford James*



Nancine Jackson - September 23, 2023 at 12:52 PM

MC

“ *My thoughts and prayers are with Earl Family I remember him working at Beecher school him and Sam Bell was a lot of fun.*

Mama cunningham - September 23, 2023 at 12:20 PM

MC

“ *Mama cunningham lit a candle in memory of Ruford James*



Mama cunningham - September 23, 2023 at 12:13 PM

BW

“ *BRIDGETTE WATKINS sent a virtual gift in memory of Ruford James*



BRIDGETTE WATKINS - September 23, 2023 at 10:40 AM

SJ

“ *Senita Jackson lit a candle in memory of Ruford James*



Senita Jackson - September 22, 2023 at 08:13 PM

LW

“ To Diane and the girls, I was saddened to learn of the passing of Earl. In the few years that I have know Earl and Diane, they have become one of my favorite couples. It is my prayer that you will find peace and comfort in the memories you have. May you receive all God has for you as you go through the days to come.

Linda F Winfrey - September 22, 2023 at 08:03 PM

KW

To Diane I send my deepest condolences to you Elizabeth and Nina and Family

kaye L Williams - September 23, 2023 at 08:18 PM

LP

“ Lisa Payton sent a virtual gift in memory of Ruford James



Lisa Payton - September 22, 2023 at 03:33 PM

NC

“ NewJ F G B Church lit a candle in memory of Ruford James



NewJ F G B Church - September 22, 2023 at 01:33 PM

SC

“ My sympathy and condolences go out to the family for the loss of their loved one he will be truly missed. 🙏



Sharon Cotton - September 22, 2023 at 12:33 PM

KC

“ Kim E. Carpenter lit a candle in memory of Mr. Ruford Earl James



Kim E. Carpenter - September 22, 2023 at 10:15 AM

RL

“ Rene, Devon Ann, Tony, Lynn lit a candle in memory of Mr. Ruford Earl James



Rene, Devon Ann, Tony, Lynn - September 22, 2023 at 09:31 AM

CS

“ Cinio Jadyne Shauntiere lit a candle in memory of Mr. Ruford Earl James



Cinio Jadyne Shauntiere - September 22, 2023 at 09:06 AM

ER

“ *Erika lit a candle in memory of Ruford James*



Erika - September 22, 2023 at 08:56 AM

BB

“ *Sending love and prayers to Diane and the family. Earl was a great friend and classmate. Earl will be missed dearly. May God provide you all with strength during this difficult time. Much sympathy.*



Bonnie Bowman - September 22, 2023 at 08:51 AM

YC

“ *Yolonda Cross lit a candle in memory of Mr. Ruford Earl James*



Yolonda Cross - September 22, 2023 at 12:09 AM

PG

“ *Pamela Gibson lit a candle in memory of Mr. Ruford Earl James*



Pamela Gibson - September 21, 2023 at 10:01 PM

RR

“ Rodney Richardson lit a candle in memory of Mr. Ruford Earl James



Rodney Richardson - September 21, 2023 at 09:46 PM

BA

“ Barbara Applewhite sent a virtual gift in memory of Mr. Ruford Earl James



Barbara Applewhite - September 21, 2023 at 08:45 PM

LF

“ Lois Bell & Family lit a candle in memory of Mr. Ruford Earl James



Lois Bell & family - September 21, 2023 at 08:10 PM

CC

“ Cabrina Clarke lit a candle in memory of Mr. Ruford Earl James



Cabrina Clarke - September 21, 2023 at 07:41 PM

NB

“ *NJFGBC DEACON BOARD lit a candle in memory of Mr. Ruford Earl James*



NJFGBC DEACON BOARD - September 21, 2023 at 06:58 PM

PW

“ *Patricia Williams lit a candle in memory of Mr. Ruford Earl James*



Patricia Williams - September 21, 2023 at 04:09 PM

CB

“ *To Ms Diane and the entire James Family, Earl was just like my Uncle. Earl and my Uncle Joe were the BEST of friends and my grannies treated him like a son. He will be missed. My condolences, you're in my PRAYERS.*



Colette Brown - September 21, 2023 at 01:54 PM

JM

“ *Jeannie Mayberry sent a virtual gift in memory of Mr. Ruford Earl James*



Jeannie Mayberry - September 21, 2023 at 01:47 PM

DW

“ *Diane Williams lit a candle in memory of Mr. Ruford Earl James*



Diane Williams - September 21, 2023 at 01:28 PM



“ *My heart is broken again for the passing of Earl. James Earl is a childhood friend and a church member. That I will truly truly miss. Diane and girls and Gloria all the family. You have my deepest sympathy I Love you all.*



Carolyn Mayo - September 21, 2023 at 11:36 AM

DW

“ *Dandre' & Freda Williams lit a candle in memory of Mr. Ruford Earl James*



Dandre' & Freda Williams - September 21, 2023 at 11:14 AM