



## Mr. James E. Washington Sr.

May 23, 1940 - August 28, 2016

Mr. James Edward Washington Sr. passed away quietly at home after battling a hard strong fight with cancer on August 28th, 2016. He was born on May 23rd, 1940 to the late Arthur and Frankie Riley Washington in Springfield, Ill.

James was the youngest of eleven children was affectionately known as “ the baby, of the family”. He loved hanging with his older sisters and brothers and was spoiled by each of them. James and his brothers had a singing group and were known to sing around town at different events.

At a young age, James accepted Christ as his personal Savior at St. John AME Church, in Springfield, Ill.

After graduating from Lanphier High School in Springfield, Ill, James moved to Kalamazoo with his brother, Arthur Washington Sr. to attend Western Michigan University. James worked and marched alongside his brother with the Washington Band also known as the Kalamazoo Bombardiers.

James met the love of his life, Arlene Elliott and they united in marriage on August 20th, 1960.

James joined Galilee Baptist Church, under the leadership of Rev. Mabry Gardner. He was a faithful member who served in many capacities, which included: being a member of the GBC Choir and teaching Sunday school alongside his wife. Later in life, James became a trustee of the church and worked tirelessly with the building committee to construct the new church building.

After coming to Kalamazoo, he worked several different jobs before becoming a police officer for the Kalamazoo Public Safety during the 1960's. In the 1970's, he went into the real estate business as a realtor for Pierson Realtors. James also worked for First Federal Savings and Loan Association of Kalamazoo, where he worked tirelessly until he became the Vice President of the Mortgage Department. After retiring from First Federal Savings and Loan in the early 1980's, James decided to open up his own business, the famous

What Not Box on Douglas Avenue. After running the What Not Box for 10 years plus, he decided to sell his business in order to start another adventure where he went back into real estate and became the owner of Gold Key Realtors. After James retired he decided he was not ready to sit down, and he went to work at Lincoln Elementary as a Lunch Supervisor, where he became the “cool old dude” of the playground.

James and Arlene decided that Kalamazoo needed a way to get information out to the community, so they started Community Voices. As Arlene worked putting the newspaper together, James made sure of delivery and outreach by marketing to get the word out to the community.

James also loved playing cards with his card buddies. He also loved singing to his grandchildren as he cooked on the grill. James enjoyed hanging with his nieces and nephews during family reunions. Singing along with his brother, William “One More Time”, one more time, He allowed us to come together--one more time”.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Arthur and Frankie Washington; 3 brothers, Arthur Washington Jr., Richard and Bobby Washington; and 2 sisters, Ester Davenport and Mildred Osbey.

He leaves to cherish his memories, his loving wife of 56 years, Arlene D. Washington; two daughters, April (Vance) Goodwin, and Suzen Washington; one son, James (Amy) Washington Jr. all of Kalamazoo; two brothers, William (Oshia) Washington of Springfield, Ill and Michael Washington of Houston, TX; three sisters, Clarissa Hale, Diane Hammuck and Lillian Woodson of Springfield, IL; one brother-in-law, Charles (Judy) Elliott of Kalamazoo, MI; seven grandchildren, Me’Shale (Byran) Hinton of Cheasapeake, VA., Ra’Shel (James) Abbott, Ryan (Elizabeth) Washington, Vance Goodwin II, Dawnielle Goodwin, Brooklyn Washington and Taylor Washington all of Kalamazoo, M; 5 great-grandchildren, and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.

# Cemetery Details

## Mt. Ever-Rest Cemetery

3941 S. Westnedge Avenue  
Kalamazoo, MI

# Previous Events

## Visitation

SEP 2. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Harper Funeral Home - Chapel  
521 Douglas Avenue  
Kalamazoo, MI

## Visitation

SEP 3. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

The Galilee Baptist Church  
1216 North Westnedge Avenue  
Kalamazoo, MI 49007

## A Service in Loving Memory

SEP 3. 12:00 PM (ET)

The Galilee Baptist Church  
1216 North Westnedge Avenue  
Kalamazoo, MI 49007

# Tribute Wall



“ Harper Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Mr. James E. Washington Sr.



Harper Funeral Home - September 01, 2016 at 09:42 PM



“ Mr. James E. Washington Sr.

October 23, 2023 at 06:06 AM



“ Mr. James E. Washington Sr.

October 06, 2023 at 10:42 AM



“ In loving memory of our old neighbor on Nichols Rd. Sending prayers and condolences for the Washington family.



Weatherspoon-Williams Family - September 12, 2016 at 08:47 AM



“ Carolyn McGrew Jackson lit a candle in memory of Mr. James E. Washington Sr.



Carolyn McGrew Jackson - September 07, 2016 at 05:35 PM

FL

“ Fred Lawrence lit a candle in memory of Mr. James E. Washington Sr.



Fred Lawrence - September 05, 2016 at 04:46 PM

OA

“ Mr Washington you were a great man and role model thank you for the positive impact you made in my life .



Orville Alexander - September 03, 2016 at 09:11 PM

EF

“ Earline Fields And Family sent a virtual gift in memory of Mr. James E. Washington Sr.



Earline Fields and Family - September 03, 2016 at 03:09 PM

RS

“ Ramona S.Lumpkin lit a candle in memory of Mr. James E. Washington Sr.



Ramona S.Lumpkin - September 03, 2016 at 09:38 AM

AC

“ Amerriel Overton Cunningham lit a candle in memory of Mr. James E. Washington Sr.



Amerriel Overton Cunningham - September 03, 2016 at 09:37 AM

CG

“ *C & B Gardner lit a candle in memory of Mr. James E. Washington Sr.*



**C & B Gardner** - September 03, 2016 at 07:29 AM



“ *Sally Bradshaw lit a candle in memory of Mr. James E. Washington Sr.*



**Sally Bradshaw** - September 02, 2016 at 10:36 PM



“ *Sally Bradshaw lit a candle in memory of Mr. James E. Washington Sr.*



**Sally Bradshaw** - September 02, 2016 at 10:35 PM

DF

“ *Dallas Boards And Family lit a candle in memory of Mr. James E. Washington Sr.*



**Dallas Boards and Family** - September 02, 2016 at 05:26 PM

NW

“ *May you find comfort in memories and strength in each other's love throughout this difficult time. With caring thoughts and heartfelt sympathy.*

*Love and blessings, Nell and Robert Wilson*



**Nell and Robert Wilson** - September 02, 2016 at 12:36 PM

TG

“ *Arlene, so sorry for your loss. You are in our prayers!*

Tom & Pat Glerum - September 02, 2016 at 09:37 AM

BB

“ *Beverly Bizzell-McCall lit a candle in memory of Mr. James E. Washington Sr.*



Beverly Bizzell-McCall - September 02, 2016 at 08:50 AM

TY

“ *Loving you all and sharing in your grief. James loved jazz and I wanted to share a little with you to let you know just how much Jesus loves you and is wrapping his arms around you. Love, Tammy and Deon*

Tamara Yates - September 02, 2016 at 08:47 AM

LC

“ *Lillie Cotton lit a candle in memory of Mr. James E. Washington Sr.*



Lillie Cotton - September 02, 2016 at 07:48 AM

SG

“ *Shirley Gordon lit a candle in memory of Mr. James E. Washington Sr.*



Shirley Gordon - September 01, 2016 at 06:24 PM

MJ

“ *Mary Johnson lit a candle in memory of Mr. James E. Washington Sr.*



Mary Johnson - September 01, 2016 at 01:20 PM

JC

“ *Judy And Jerry Clark lit a candle in memory of Mr. James E. Washington Sr.*



**Judy and jerry clark** - September 01, 2016 at 11:13 AM

RW

“ *R.J. And Anita Wilkerson lit a candle in memory of Mr. James E. Washington Sr.*



**R.J. and Anita Wilkerson** - September 01, 2016 at 10:24 AM

AR

“ *Abdul-R Rashid lit a candle in memory of Mr. James E. Washington Sr.*



**Abdul-R Rashid** - September 01, 2016 at 09:46 AM

HW

“ *Helen McPherson Word lit a candle in memory of Mr. James E. Washington Sr.*



**Helen McPherson Word** - September 01, 2016 at 08:42 AM

ME

“ *I am sorry to hear about your lost. I lost my mother donna mae 3 weeks ago.. There is no greater lost then a parents. You are in our prayers. .John Green daughter Marsha and Willie Mayberry. Willie would talk to him when he was outside.*

**marshaa emoey** - September 01, 2016 at 08:26 AM

PG

“ *Pauline Gardner lit a candle in memory of Mr. James E. Washington Sr.*



Pauline Gardner - September 01, 2016 at 07:33 AM

GG

“ *Guenetta Gordon lit a candle in memory of Mr. James E. Washington Sr.*



Guenetta Gordon - September 01, 2016 at 05:07 AM

AB

“ *Arlene Buchanan sent a virtual gift in memory of Mr. James E. Washington Sr.*



Arlene Buchanan - September 01, 2016 at 01:36 AM

AS

“ *Alma M Snell lit a candle in memory of Mr. James E. Washington Sr.*



Alma M Snell - August 31, 2016 at 08:47 PM

GS

“ *Gwendolyn Smith lit a candle in memory of Mr. James E. Washington Sr.*



Gwendolyn Smith - August 31, 2016 at 08:36 PM

GS

“ Gwendolyn Smith lit a candle in memory of Mr. James E. Washington Sr.



Gwendolyn Smith - August 31, 2016 at 08:34 PM

GS

“ Gwendolyn Smith lit a candle in memory of Mr. James E. Washington Sr.



Gwendolyn Smith - August 31, 2016 at 08:30 PM

FS

“ Frances, Linda and R. Duane Scott purchased the Sentiments of Serenity Spray for the family of Mr. James E. Washington Sr..



Frances, Linda and R. Duane Scott - August 31, 2016 at 06:44 PM

PB

“ Paul & Margaret Best lit a candle in memory of Mr. James E. Washington Sr.



Paul & Margaret Best - August 31, 2016 at 09:03 AM

GF

“ Green Family lit a candle in memory of Mr. James E. Washington Sr.



Green Family - August 31, 2016 at 08:26 AM



Michael Echols

“ *Michael Echols lit a candle in memory of Mr. James E. Washington Sr.*



Michael Echols - August 31, 2016 at 12:07 AM



“ *Erik Nord lit a candle in memory of Mr. James E. Washington Sr.*



Erik Nord - August 30, 2016 at 08:10 PM



“ *Vera sent a virtual gift in memory of Mr. James E. Washington Sr.*



Vera - August 30, 2016 at 05:01 PM



“ *Eddie And Bernadette Reid lit a candle in memory of Mr. James E. Washington Sr.*



Eddie and Bernadette Reid - August 30, 2016 at 03:47 PM



“ *Sending prayers and Love to the Washington Family!*

*Johnnie, Ashley & Pat Davis*

Patricia Davis - August 30, 2016 at 01:23 PM

MB

“ *Mr. & Mrs. Hal Buchanan lit a candle in memory of Mr. James E. Washington Sr.*



Mr. & Mrs. Hal Buchanan - August 30, 2016 at 01:09 PM

AS

“ *Alma M Snell lit a candle in memory of Mr. James E. Washington Sr.*



Alma M Snell - August 30, 2016 at 12:06 PM

NS

“ *Naomi Franks Shotwell sent a virtual gift in memory of Mr. James E. Washington Sr.*



Naomi Franks Shotwell - August 30, 2016 at 11:48 AM

DB

“ *Deacon Frank And Helen (Mills) Brooks lit a candle in memory of Mr. James E. Washington Sr.*



Deacon Frank And Helen (Mills) Brooks - August 30, 2016 at 09:58 AM

CS

“ *CINDY SMITH lit a candle in memory of Mr. James E. Washington Sr.*



CINDY SMITH - August 30, 2016 at 09:39 AM

WJ

“ *William & Laverne Jones lit a candle in memory of Mr. James E. Washington Sr.*



**William & Laverne Jones** - August 30, 2016 at 07:49 AM

FR

“ *Frank&BettyFord lit a candle in memory of Mr. James E. Washington Sr.*



**Frank&BettyFord** - August 29, 2016 at 10:03 PM

DB

“ *Dallas Blocker lit a candle in memory of Mr. James E. Washington Sr.*



**Dallas Blocker** - August 29, 2016 at 07:23 PM

DJ

“ *DaNetta Julian lit a candle in memory of Mr. James E. Washington Sr.*



**DaNetta Julian** - August 29, 2016 at 05:34 PM