



## Mr. Lessie T. Owens

March 24, 1937 - December 11, 2016

Mr. Lessie T. Owens, affectionately called by many "T", passed away suddenly on Sunday, December 11, 2016 in Kalamazoo, Michigan. He was born on March 24th, the son of Willie and Blanche Owens in Prairie Point, MS. He has been a resident of Kalamazoo for 64 years.

"T" was united into Holy matrimony to Mrs. Lavada I. (Lockett) Owens on November 12, 1960 and to this union they have four loving children, seven grandchildren and three great grandchildren. On their 25th wedding anniversary the couple renewed their vows, with each of their children as attendants.

Lessie Owens graduated from Kalamazoo Central High School, where he excelled in academics and athletics. He attended Kalamazoo Valley Community College in 1983.

Lessie was employed by Pre-Cast for a short period of time. He began working at General Motors in 1968. He was presented with several awards of recognition during his years at GM. He retired in 1993 as a Journeyman and Tool & Die Maker.

Lessie joined Galilee Missionary Baptist Church in 1968 and was ordained as a Deacon. He also served on several other auxiliaries such as The inspirational Choir, The Male Chorus, an instructor for Adult & Intermediate

Sunday School and various other aspects of the church. Galilee awarded Deacon Owens the following awards 1994 Man of the Year during the Men's Annual Day Program, The Outstanding Service & Dedication Award for Sunday School in 2004, and The Emeritus Deacon Award (Highest Rank) in 2014.

Lessie was recognized by the Kalamazoo Gazette for his accomplishments as an avid sportsman, excelling in track, football, tennis, wrestling, golf, basketball, hunting, fishing, gardening and landscaping. He was one of the founders along with the late Nathaniel White Sr., of the Northside Rocket Football team, which established the team in 1976.

Lessie continued to coach the 8-9 year old team until his sight failed him in 2003. The Northside Rocket Football Association (located within the Douglass Community Center) recognized Lessie Owens, along with the late Nathaniel White Sr.

Lessie was preceded in death by his loving wife, Lavada I. Owens; his parents, Willie and Blanche Owens; his aunt and uncle Sherrod and Rosalee White Jr.; uncle, Mr. John Green; father and mother-in-law, Joe and Hiawatha Lockett; sister-in-laws, Josie and Phyllis Lockett; brother-in-law, Daniel Thurmond and one friend, Donald West.

T leaves to cherish his loving memory: three daughters, Ms. Cynthia M. Owens-White, Ms. Teresa V. Owens-Baker and Ms. Allisha B. Gray; one son, Mony S. Owens all of Kalamazoo; seven grandchildren, Keyontae Owens, Ar'rel Baker, Montrell Baker, Alexander White Jr., Imogene'Gray, Ane'ah Reason, and Latrell Owens; three great grandchildren, Toshanae Owens, Luke Baker and Navayla White; four sisters, Minnie Thurmond, Lula (Curtis) Ivy, Barbara (James) Vallar, Jessie Owens and one brother, Johnnie Owens; aunts, Mrs. Corine Green, Ms. Beverly Lucas; one sister-in-law, Loistine

Owens; three brother-in-laws, Roy (Jodie) Lockett, Larry Davis and Jasper (Melva) Williams; one son-in-law, Alexander White Sr. He had the honor of caring for 2 nieces, Yolanda Wilson-Latty and Amin Finch; and two nephews, Nigel Lockett and Jor Dan Finch; 2 god-children, Shondale Brown and Vicki Lynn DeVauld-Cohn. He was also a great inspiration to Tommie Turner. He also leaves behind special neighbors, Robert Bownes and Alton Miles; a special pet, Chubbz and a host of family, buddies and pals.

# Cemetery Details

## Mount Ever-Rest Memorial Park

4037 South Westnedge Avenue  
Kalamazoo, MI

# Previous Events

## Visitation

DEC 19. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Harper Funeral Home - Chapel  
521 Douglas Avenue  
Kalamazoo, MI

## Visitation

DEC 20. 11:30 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

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

## A Service in Loving Memory

DEC 20. 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. Lessie T. Owens



Harper Funeral Home - December 18, 2016 at 07:40 PM

BH

Our condolence goes out to the Owens family, from the Hill family

Belinda Hill - December 20, 2016 at 10:47 AM



“ Mr. Lessie T. Owens

October 23, 2023 at 06:06 AM



“ Mr. Lessie T. Owens

October 06, 2023 at 10:42 AM

DP

“ Uncle Lessie you will be missed  
Diana and Toney Patterson



Diana Patterson - December 29, 2016 at 05:58 PM

AR

“ Abdul-R Rashid lit a candle in memory of Mr. Lessie T. Owens



Abdul-R Rashid - December 24, 2016 at 01:54 PM

MR

“ Mamie Hines- Richardson lit a candle in memory of Mr. Lessie T. Owens



Mamie Hines- Richardson - December 23, 2016 at 10:35 PM

BP

“ Barbara Phillipsg lit a candle in memory of Mr. Lessie T. Owens



Barbara Phillipsg - December 23, 2016 at 05:27 PM

PH

“ Pamela (Johnson) Hudson lit a candle in memory of Mr. Lessie T. Owens



Pamela (Johnson) Hudson - December 22, 2016 at 06:53 PM



“ *To the Owens family,  
may God wrap you in his arms and comfort  
you in your time of need and gives you  
Peace.*



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**Merita Wilson** - December 21, 2016 at 11:52 PM



“ *Bridget Richardson lit a candle in memory of  
Mr. Lessie T. Owens*



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**Bridget Richardson** - December 21, 2016 at 06:05 PM



“ *Les , you will be missed by many . I will never forget working with  
you at G M and laughing and having a good time at work . Lois  
Williams*

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**Delores (Lois) Williams** - December 21, 2016 at 01:11 PM



“ *Karest Willis-Brown lit a candle in memory of  
Mr. Lessie T. Owens*



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**Karest Willis-Brown** - December 20, 2016 at 04:29 PM

SH

“ *Allisha,*

*Please know, that you are not alone, during your loss. as you know,  
My family's hearts are too, with you, during your moment of sorrow.*

*Lovingly*

*Sheila R/ Pratt & Family*

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**Sheila** - December 20, 2016 at 02:32 PM

SH

“ *Sheila lit a candle in memory of Mr. Lessie T.  
Owens*



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**Sheila** - December 20, 2016 at 02:29 PM

DP

“ *DENISE PEAKE lit a candle in memory of Mr.  
Lessie T. Owens*



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**DENISE PEAKE** - December 20, 2016 at 02:07 PM

RF

“ Robin Jones & Family lit a candle in memory of Mr. Lessie T. Owens



Robin Jones & Family - December 20, 2016 at 08:14 AM

RF

“ Robin Jones & Family lit a candle in memory of Mr. Lessie T. Owens



Robin Jones & Family - December 20, 2016 at 08:13 AM

RB

“ My deepest condolence to you all, sorry for your lost prayers for strength for the family!!!



Rhonda Baker-Smith - December 20, 2016 at 04:37 AM

MR

“ Maxine McMillon Roberts lit a candle in memory of Mr. Lessie T. Owens



Maxine McMillon Roberts - December 19, 2016 at 10:17 PM

CF

“ Calmarsha Hayes And Family lit a candle in memory of Mr. Lessie T. Owens



Calmarsha Hayes and family - December 19, 2016 at 06:08 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Mr. Lessie T. Owens.



December 19, 2016 at 03:45 PM

GM

“ George Mcillon lit a candle in memory of Mr. Lessie T. Owens



George Mcillon - December 19, 2016 at 02:27 PM

AO

“ Angie OBryant lit a candle in memory of Mr. Lessie T. Owens



Angie OBryant - December 19, 2016 at 02:09 PM

GA

“ Condolences to the family. May God Keep you strong during this time.

*From Mary L Stewart and the Anderson family.*

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**Gennett Anderson** - December 19, 2016 at 01:25 PM

EM

“ God Bless the Family



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**Evelyn McCoy** - December 19, 2016 at 01:18 PM

PT

“ *Lessie has always been a part of the Buchanan children lives since we were young, Mary, Ricky, Patricia, Arlene and Darlene he always had that beautiful smile on his face, he will be miss, rest in peace T.*

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**Patricia Thomas** - December 19, 2016 at 12:54 PM

CF

*Yes he was...Candy Buchanan Brown included T made a huge impact in my life also! Thankyou T. Rest In Peace*

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**Candy Brown and family** - December 21, 2016 at 10:22 AM

TH

“ *My deepest condolences go out to the family, Prayers sent to all.*



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**Tameka Harris** - December 19, 2016 at 12:41 PM

JS

“ *JOANNE & JERRI SMITH lit a candle in memory of Mr. Lessie T. Owens*



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**JOANNE & JERRI SMITH** - December 19, 2016 at 10:51 AM

WS

“ *Wigin & Hilda Snell lit a candle in memory of Mr. Lessie T. Owens*



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**Wigin & Hilda Snell** - December 19, 2016 at 10:44 AM

NG

“ *Natasha Green lit a candle in memory of Mr. Lessie T. Owens*



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**Natasha Green** - December 19, 2016 at 09:43 AM

RL

“ *Ramona Lumpkin lit a candle in memory of Mr. Lessie T. Owens*



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**Ramona Lumpkin** - December 19, 2016 at 09:13 AM

AB

“ I have known T all of my life. He was a wonderful. Husband, Father, Grandfather. He was a man of god. He will be truly miss. RIH

Arlene Buchanan - December 19, 2016 at 07:51 AM

AB

“ Arlene Buchanan sent a virtual gift in memory of Mr. Lessie T. Owens



Arlene Buchanan - December 19, 2016 at 07:45 AM

KO

“ Love u T...ur oldest granddaughter💙💙💙



Keyontae Owens - December 19, 2016 at 02:27 AM

SH

“ Tee was a success –  
who has lived well, laughed often and loved  
much;  
who has gained the respect of intelligent men  
and the love of the community;  
who has filled his niche and accomplished his task;  
who leaves the world better than he found it;  
who has never lacked appreciation of earth's beauty or failed to  
express it;  
who looked for the best in others and gave the best he had.  
Cynthia I love you and I am praying for you and the entire  
Owen's family. Look to the hills which comes your help, your help  
comes from the Lord.



Shorti

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Shorti - December 18, 2016 at 08:39 PM

AT

“ Angela 'Fedee' Buchanan Tabron



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Angela 'Fedee' Buchanan Tabron - December 18, 2016 at 08:04 PM

LO

“ On behalf of the Ollie Family, we seen our condolences to you  
during these times. Men like Lessie Owens is the reason so many of  
us are coaches today We learned so much from him just by being in  
his present. Coach Owens will never be forgotten.

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Larry Ollie - December 18, 2016 at 07:40 PM



“ *Lucile Johnson lit a candle in memory of Mr. Lessie T. Owens*



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**Lucile Johnson** - December 18, 2016 at 04:48 PM



“ *Les has been a part of our family over the years, he loved mom in a way that made us care for him even more. He'll remain in our heart's & lives for years to come. RIP The McCants Hooker Family*

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**Hooker,Ampey Family,** - December 18, 2016 at 03:49 PM



“ *I love you all dearly family! I'm sending my deepest, deepest condolences for the loss of you alls father (cousin Lessie)! He will always be missed and have a very large spot in my heart💕.*

*R.I.H. Cousin Lessie Owens*

*You will be greatly missed and loved!!!*



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**Helen Moore Randle** - December 18, 2016 at 11:50 AM



“ *Kizzy Bradford lit a candle in memory of Mr. Lessie T. Owens*



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**Kizzy Bradford** - December 18, 2016 at 10:45 AM

DF

“ Dallas Boards And Family lit a candle in memory of Mr. Lessie T. Owens



Dallas Boards and Family - December 18, 2016 at 09:17 AM

KF

“ Kevin And Patricia Ford lit a candle in memory of Mr. Lessie T. Owens



Kevin and Patricia Ford - December 18, 2016 at 08:52 AM

JD

“ JoAnn Dixon lit a candle in memory of Mr. Lessie T. Owens



JoAnn Dixon - December 18, 2016 at 07:33 AM

LM

“ Lori Miller lit a candle in memory of Mr. Lessie T. Owens



Lori Miller - December 18, 2016 at 07:00 AM

TH

“ To the Owen's May God Comfort your hearts during your time of sorrow. The love you all showed in the care of your Father was Amazing. Your reward is in Heaven. Your Dad is safe in God's arms. Be blessed.

Tanya Hollin - December 18, 2016 at 04:40 AM

LW

“ Sending my sincere condolences on the loss of your father. He was a great man of our family, his church and the community. Love, cousin Lannie 🌹

lannie williams - December 17, 2016 at 08:46 PM

JB

“ J.L. & Terry Buchanan lit a candle in memory of Mr. Lessie T. Owens



J.L. & Terry Buchanan - December 17, 2016 at 07:38 PM

BH

“ Brenda Henry lit a candle in memory of Mr. Lessie T. Owens



Brenda Henry - December 17, 2016 at 07:26 PM

BP

“ *Barbara McPherson- Phillips lit a candle in memory of Mr. Lessie T. Owens*



Barbara McPherson- Phillips - December 17, 2016 at 06:49 PM

BP

*Our thoughts and prayers go out to the Owens family.*

Barbara McPherson- Phillips - December 17, 2016 at 06:50 PM

GG

“ *Guenetta Gordon lit a candle in memory of Mr. Lessie T. Owens*



Guenetta Gordon - December 17, 2016 at 06:19 PM

GA

“ *Gennett Anderson lit a candle in memory of Mr. Lessie T. Owens*



Gennett Anderson - December 17, 2016 at 04:05 PM

TF

“ Tracey Moore Spencer And Family sent a virtual gift in memory of Mr. Lessie T. Owens



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**Tracey Moore spencer and family** - December 17, 2016 at 11:29 AM

TF

“ Tracey Moore Spencer And Family lit a candle in memory of Mr. Lessie T. Owens



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**Tracey Moore spencer and family** - December 17, 2016 at 11:27 AM

RW

“ Praying for peace and comfort during this difficult time to the Owens family.



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**Remenyi Williams** - December 17, 2016 at 06:36 AM

PG

“ Pauline Gardner lit a candle in memory of Mr. Lessie T. Owens



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**Pauline Gardner** - December 16, 2016 at 09:23 PM

TF

“ *The Banks Family purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of Mr. Lessie T. Owens.*



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**The Banks Family** - December 16, 2016 at 02:53 PM

BB

“ *Our deepest Condolences being sent to the Family.*



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**Birletta Bean-Hardeman** - December 16, 2016 at 02:45 PM

LC

“ *Lillie Cotton lit a candle in memory of Mr. Lessie T. Owens*



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**Lillie Cotton** - December 16, 2016 at 02:33 PM

CS

“ *CINDY SMITH lit a candle in memory of Mr. Lessie T. Owens*



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**CINDY SMITH** - December 16, 2016 at 10:10 AM

VO

“ *Vivian Ollie-O'Neal lit a candle in memory of Mr. Lessie T. Owens*



**Vivian Ollie-O'Neal** - December 16, 2016 at 09:37 AM

VO

*My condolences to the family.*

**Vivian Ollie-O'Neal** - December 16, 2016 at 09:43 AM

MT

“ *Melinda Thomas-Pickett lit a candle in memory of Mr. Lessie T. Owens*



**Melinda Thomas-Pickett** - December 16, 2016 at 08:31 AM

HB

“ *Hal&Janet Buchanan lit a candle in memory of Mr. Lessie T. Owens*



**Hal&Janet Buchanan** - December 16, 2016 at 08:16 AM



“ Elizabeth Tucker sent a virtual gift in memory of Mr. Lessie T. Owens



Elizabeth Tucker - December 16, 2016 at 06:39 AM

MR

“ Modean And Hubert Reeves lit a candle in memory of Mr. Lessie T. Owens



Modean and Hubert Reeves - December 15, 2016 at 09:53 PM

MM

“ Maxine McMillon-Roberts lit a candle in memory of Mr. Lessie T. Owens



Maxine McMillon-Roberts - December 15, 2016 at 09:23 PM

AS

“ Alma Snell sent a virtual gift in memory of Mr. Lessie T. Owens



Alma Snell - December 15, 2016 at 08:43 PM

DA

“ *Duane Alford sent a virtual gift in memory of Mr. Lessie T. Owens*



Duane Alford - December 15, 2016 at 04:22 PM

NH

“ *Nanette Hickman lit a candle in memory of Mr. Lessie T. Owens*



Nanette Hickman - December 15, 2016 at 11:25 AM

FR

“ *Frank&BettyFord lit a candle in memory of Mr. Lessie T. Owens*



Frank&BettyFord - December 15, 2016 at 10:29 AM

HS

“ *My condolences and prayers to you and all your family on the passing of your father. His Knowledge, Strength, and Courage goes a long way with me; his Prayers, Singing, and Great Smiles; I shall honor his memory with I, respect, and gratitude. "Hilda Bradord Snell and family)*



Hilda Snell - December 15, 2016 at 09:18 AM

LP

“ *LaKeysha Pratt lit a candle in memory of Mr. Lessie T. Owens*




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**LaKeysha Pratt** - December 15, 2016 at 08:20 AM

SB

“ *Stephane Brewer lit a candle in memory of Mr. Lessie T. Owens*



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**stephane brewer** - December 15, 2016 at 06:43 AM

  
Corphilia  
Anderson

“ *God have you all in the palm of his hands, A Great man has went home, To God be the Glory love you all, Prayers for strength to all I know it brings back plenty of memories, keep smiling He's Free A lovely Angel!!*



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**Corphilia Anderson** - December 15, 2016 at 05:00 AM

JF

“ *Joy Smith & Family lit a candle in memory of Mr. Lessie T. Owens*



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**Joy Smith & Family** - December 14, 2016 at 08:53 PM

GF

“ *GEORGIA WILLIAMS& THE WILLIAMS FAMILY lit a candle in memory of Mr. Lessie T. Owens*



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**GEORGIA WILLIAMS& THE WILLIAMS FAMILY** - December 14, 2016 at 07:47 PM

TC

“ *Tracy Carter lit a candle in memory of Mr. Lessie T. Owens*



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**Tracy Carter** - December 14, 2016 at 07:28 PM

PF

“ *PATTERSON FAMILY lit a candle in memory of Mr. Lessie T. Owens*



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**PATTERSON FAMILY** - December 14, 2016 at 06:31 PM

JB

“ My condolences to the Owens family. But if you were ever in Deacon Owens Sunday school class you learned the most and if you got out of line he would take you to the bathroom and your attitude would be different when you returned.

Made a bunch of strong and successful Afro American men and women.

RIP DEACON OWENS

JOHN AND JACKIE BUCHANAN AND FAMILY



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**John Buchanan** - December 14, 2016 at 04:17 PM

EF

“ Earline Fields And Family sent a virtual gift in memory of Mr. Lessie T. Owens



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**Earline Fields and Family** - December 14, 2016 at 03:45 PM

DJ

“ Deacon William & Laverne Jones lit a candle in memory of Mr. Lessie T. Owens



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**Deacon William & Laverne Jones** - December 14, 2016 at 03:45 PM

DW

*I had the privilege to work with Les , he was such a kind and caring person , they don t make them like Les anymore . He was a awesome God fearing person . Rest In Peace ! Your friend Lois Williams You will be missed*

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**Delores (Lois) Williams** - December 15, 2016 at 07:49 PM