



## Mr. James A. Dewberry

June 18, 1946 - October 8, 2023

James Arthur Dewberry Sr. was born June 18, 1946, in Guthrie, OK to Carter and Inez Dewberry. He was the fifth of 10 children, and he is preceded in death by his parents, brothers Tacoma Dewberry, Don Dewberry, Robert Dewberry, and sisters Hulda Johnson and Francile Howard.

James accepted Christ at an early age while living in Oklahoma. As a child, he and his family dedicated their time to serving in the church and singing in the church choir. They eventually moved to Kansas City, MO in 1954.

He attended the Missouri School of the Blind (MSB) in St Louis, Mo where he excelled in field and track as well as wrestling. He garnered numerous awards and became a state champion in both sports.

While James was in high school, he formed a singing group along with three of his brothers. The quartet named themselves "The Exclusives" and they performed at many events and venues. The group became known for their exceptional harmony and smooth choreography. One of their most requested songs was a tune made famous by Curtis Mayfield and The Impressions, "People Get Ready."

James married his high school sweetheart Karen Washington on January 29, 1966. They were married for 57 years and from their union five children were born. An infant daughter preceded him in death.

After graduating from MSB, James became employed with the Air Force Civilian Services (AFCS), at Richards-Gebaur Air Force Base, located near Belton Mo. Following his 13-year tenure with AFCS, he made his foray into entrepreneurship, building a successful maintenance and janitorial service that he sustained for over 20 years. He later served as a contractor for various agencies until his untimely death.

James loved the Lord. He joined the Eighth Street Baptist Church in 1982 where he volunteered his time and talent for many church duties including serving in the Sunday School department. He entered Carver Bible College where he spent many hours studying bible scripture and interpretation. Some would say that through his daily bible readings and meditations that he received his Ph. D (Praising Him Daily). He later became a deacon and associate minister. Under the pastorship of the late Reverend T.M. Preston he accepted the call into the preaching ministry. As it states in 1 Peter 3:15, "But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect." James was not ashamed of the gospel of Jesus Christ, and he would take every opportunity to evangelize and share his testimony with anyone.

James was especially known for his gift for cooking. He volunteered many hours, assisting and helping to organize numerous potlucks and meals. He received many compliments on his ability to bake, grill, smoke, and braise. James had a downhome approach to cooking he often attributed to learning from his mother Inez. His family and friends looked forward to one of his many signature dishes, including his gravy and creamy mashed potatoes.

James loved his family as he would go out of his way to ensure that his family was safe and well fed. He frequently enjoyed his cup of coffee, his coffee mug constantly within reach. His quick wit and humor endeared him to many friends and strangers alike. You could often catch James at any of the local QuikTrip stores, sharing a smile and complimentary cup of coffee where most QT employees knew him by name.

James Dewberry was a prayer warrior who loved and served the Lord. His life has been a blessing to those he loved and to those who loved him. We will miss him deeply.

James is survived by his wife Karen Dewberry, children Lassandra Cole (Victor), Kimberly King (Steven), James Dewberry Jr., and Crystal Dewberry-Jones (Ayinde "KG"). He leaves to cherish 16 grandchildren and 11 great grandchildren. He is survived by three brothers, Leroy Dewberry, Charles Dewberry (Betty), Marquette Dewberry, and one sister Mona Talifero (Jerome). He is also fondly remembered by his former sisters' in-law, Barbara Dewberry, and Christine Dewberry, as well a host of nieces, nephews, family, and friends.

Funeral Services will be held Saturday, October 21, 2023, 11am at Eighth Street Baptist Church. Interment Forest Hill Cemetery. Visitation will be from 9am-11am at the church. Services conducted by Lawrence A. Jones & Sons Funeral Chapel. Condolences may be shared on our website [lawrenceajones.com](http://lawrenceajones.com)

# Previous Events

## Funeral Service

OCT **21**. 11:00 AM.

Eighth Stret Baptist Church

# Tribute Wall



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

---

October 16, 2023 at 01:51 PM



“ Enduring Grace was purchased for the family of Mr. James A. Dewberry.



---

October 16, 2023 at 01:51 PM