



Mr. Willie J. Tanner

February 18, 1948 - February 21, 2026

Willie James Tanner was born on February 18, 1948, to the proud parents of Emmie Baskin-Tanner and Henry Lee Tanner in Winona, Mississippi. He attended Manuel High School in Kansas City, Missouri. James loved dressing up being sociable. He had a life-long passion for having fun, cooking, and fishing.

Willie began working for Lincoln Mercury as a Porter where he worked there for many years. He also worked for BMW Gallery, then refired from Century Dodge.

Willie was a member of New Hope Baptist Church. He enjoyed singing alongside his father and older brother. As a Deacon at New Hope Baptist Church in Kansas City, Missouri, where he married Linda Diane Tanner in 1969. They were married for 16 years.

Willie James Tanner, passed away on February 21, 2026, at his home in Kansas City, Kansas

Willie was preceded in death by his parents; his sisters, Ailean McGowan; Jeweleen Roberts; and Mary Delorees Tanner; brothers, Dennis; George; and Larry Tanner.

He is survived by two daughters, Lorinda Rolle; and Rufin Nelson; son-in-law, Eugene Rolle who's near a dear to his heart; two honorary daughters, Muriel Williams; and Patricia Brock; four granddaughters, Ronielle Tanner; Eugena Rolle; Treawna Nelson; and Carmisha Harlin; one honorary granddaughter, Chawntez Rodriguez-Charnes; one honorary grandson, Mathias Wade; five honorary great grandsons; and two great grandsons, Robert Martin III; and Carter Hall. He is also survived by four sisters, Rosie Crawford; Shirley Douglas; Lisa Dillard; and Emma Tanner; a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, one Aunt Judy Banks, and several uncles.

Funeral Services will be held on Friday, March 6, 2026, at 12:00 p.m. at Watkins Heritage Chapel 4000 Emanuel Cleaver II Blvd. KCMO 64130. Private Disposition. Visitation: 11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. at the Church. Arrangements entrusted to Lawrence A. Jones & Sons Funeral Chapels. Condolences may be shared on our website lawrenceajones.com.

Previous Events

Visitation

MAR 6. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (CT)

Watkins Heritage Chapel
4000 Emanuel Cleaver II Blvd.
Kansas City, MO 64130

Funeral Service

MAR 6. 12:00 PM (CT)

Watkins Heritage Chapel
4000 Emanuel Cleaver II Blvd.
Kansas City, MO 64130

Tribute Wall

MB

“ *Praying for the Tanner Family, who lived right around the corner from us for many years.* ”



Melvin Brown - March 06 at 12:23 PM