



James Oswald Bowser Jr.

November 2, 1943 - September 13, 2017

A Time to Be Born...

On September 13, 2017, God called home His servant, James "Jim" Oswald Bowser, Jr. Born on November 2, 1943 in Richmond to the late James O. Bowser, Sr. and the late Edna Green Bowser, he was the third of six children.

A Time to Know Christ...

Having accepted Christ as his Savior at a very early age, James became a member of the Moore Street Baptist Church family. He later joined the First Baptist Church family where he thoroughly enjoyed a worshipful service. You would often find him sitting on the same pew each Sunday with his sister, Geraldine; brother, George, and brother-in-law, Sonny.

A Time to Learn...

James attended the Richmond Public Schools and graduated with the Class of 1962 from Maggie L. Walker High School. He furthered his education at Kittrell Junior College in Henderson, North Carolina and then Norfolk State College (now Norfolk State University) earning a Bachelor's degree. In May 1975, he received a Master's in Social Work from Fordham University in New York.

A Time to Work...

While in New York, James held several employment positions including

Executive Director of Clinton YMCA, and a Sales Representative with Westvaco Corporation (renamed to Mead Westvaco). James returned to Virginia and began employment with the Commonwealth of Virginia at Central State Hospital. In 1984, he became a Human Rights Regional Advocate with the Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services (currently named the Department of Behavioral Health & Developmental Service). James loved his job and had a passion for assuring that individuals obtaining services from providers received the highest level of treatment possible. After 25 years of committed work, James retired from State service.

A Time to Love...

After retirement, James found more time to do what he loved, such as fishing with his good friends; Thornton Giles, Irving Mines, James Taylor, Jimmy Frazier and Reginald Daye. Before his health began to fail, he also enjoyed playing golf. He will be remembered by his friend, Gilbert Young, for sinking those 15 foot putts on the 18th hole, thus winning the match and bragging rights.

A Time for Family...

James had a love for cooking, going to the movies and was an avid shopper with a special affinity for shoes. He was known for his fashion sense and will long be remembered for his debonair ways and beautiful salt and pepper hair. He loved life, and his favorite moments were spent with his family. James enjoyed sharing quality time with Lynette, his wife of 21 years. He was a very proud father and a doting grandfather. Granddaddy James, as he was fondly called by his grandchildren, had a special way of spoiling each of them. He will be truly missed by all who knew and loved him.

A Time to Remember...

Although God had dismissed our loved one from this place to dwell in his

house, never will James be dismissed from our hearts. He leaves to cherish his precious memories, his wife and best friend, Lynette Thornhill Bowser; daughters, Dawn Bowser Gilliard (Keith), Loren Bowser White and Jamie A. Bowser; grandchildren, Javon, Camryn, Kyle and Miles; sisters, Delores "Tootsie" Bowser Burton (Alexander), Geraldine Bowser Simmons (Sonny) and Christine Bowser; brothers, George "Lil William" Bowser, Sr. (Evelyn) and Raymond Bowser; brothers-in-law, Gary Thornhill (Karyn), Robert Thornhill, Rodney Thornhill and Michael Miller (Barbara); and a host of other relatives and friends.

My life's been full, I savoured much,
Good friends, good times, a loved one's touch,
Lift up your heart and share with me,
God wanted me now, He set me free.

Cemetery Details

Riverview Cemetery

1401 S. Randolph Street
Richmond, VA 23220

Previous Events

Public Viewing

SEP **19**. 9:00 AM - 8:00 PM (ET)

March Funeral Home-Laburnum Ave.
2110 E. Laburnum Ave.
Richmond, VA 23222

Wake

SEP **19**. 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

March Funeral Home-Laburnum Ave.
2110 E. Laburnum Ave.
Richmond, VA 23222

Service

SEP **20**. 11:00 AM (ET)

First Baptist Church of South Richmond
1501 Decatur St.
Richmond, VA 23224

Tribute Wall



“ *James Oswald Bowser Jr.*

October 13, 2022 at 08:33 AM



“ *Dear Lynette and family,*

It is with sorrow that I heard of the recent passing of my old friend and colleague, Jim.

He was such a positive force in the department and a genuine champion of the little guy. I will never forget Jim's laugh and sense of what's right as an advocate. I am proud to have known him and to have worked with Lynette at the department.

*Robert & Vivian Johnson
Charlottesville, VA*



Robert Johnson - September 21, 2017 at 09:04 PM



“ *To Jim's family, I send belatedly my deepest sympathy. I knew Jim for many years as a Social Worker in Richmond, always respected and admired him as one in turn. Jim will be remembered for his smiles and friendly personality that always kept one laughing and glad to be in his company. Let's not leave out his sense of style which made him stand out among men! Rest in peace, Jim, as your work is done here!*

Stephonia Keys Owolabi, Woodbridge, Va

Stephonia Keys Owolabi - September 21, 2017 at 09:14 AM

JP

“ *Lynette
Praying God's peace and comfort during this time. Cherish all the
memories.
With Christian love
Joslynn Young -Perry*

Joslynn Young - Perry - September 19, 2017 at 05:35 PM

JU

“ *Lynette, thinking of you and the family at this difficult time. May you
find peace in your
shared memories.*

Julie and Bryan Carver

Julie - September 19, 2017 at 11:27 AM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for
the family of James Oswald Bowser Jr..*



September 18, 2017 at 07:33 PM



“ *Please accept my deepest condolences to the family of James
Bowser, Jr. May God's peace be with you now and always.*

C. E. Sandy Gilbert

Sandy Gilbert - September 18, 2017 at 01:45 PM

BT

“ *To The Family: Our Deepest Sympathy to the Family you have our prayers and love at this time.. Dr Daniel N. Thomas and Family.*

BIRDIA THOMAS - September 18, 2017 at 12:04 PM

RD

“ *Reggie and Jonn Daye purchased the Beautiful i
n Blue for the family of James Oswald Bowser
Jr..*



Reggie and Jonn Daye - September 17, 2017 at 04:02 PM



“ *We the March Family and Staff wish to extend our deepest and heartfelt sympathy in the passing of your loved one. Our prayers go out to you and your family in your time of loss. We know and understand that you have received many expressions of love and we will continue to lift you up in prayer. May the memories you cherish of brighter and happier days help to ease your sorrow and comfort you always.*

March Funeral Homes - September 15, 2017 at 01:20 PM