



James Edward Dorsey Jr.

November 7, 1932 - September 17, 2012

James Edward Dorsey (Dad), son and first child of the late James E. Dorsey and the late Pattie O. Dorsey, was born on November 7, 1932 in Baltimore, Maryland. Dad had an outgoing personality and possessed genuine love for people; they were drawn to him. If a friend had a problem, Dad shared that problem and would assist in whatever way he could.

Educated in the Baltimore City Public School System, Jim graduated from Carver Vocational Technical High School in 1949 with a major in radio and television. At the time, many of his friends joked with him about selecting that major. How was he supposed to get a job when no radio and television executives were hiring “Negroes” even when a job was available?

In 1953, at Ceylon Restaurant on West Lanvale Street, Dad met and fell in love with his wife-to-be, the late Mary Perry from Warren County, North Carolina, the eldest daughter of the late John P. Perry and Mary Ann Perry. Jim and Mary were married a year later on November 20, 1954. From this union were born three children: the late Karen D. Knight, James E. Dorsey, Jr. and Brett M. Dorsey. Dad had a phenomenal memory, loved learning, storytelling and listening to jazz. He insisted that his children value hard work and education.

While working at Color Craft Corporation, James attended and received a

certificate in electronics from RETS Electronics School in the 1950's. Upon receiving his diploma from RETS, Jim applied for a position as an air traffic controller at Friendship Airport (now Thurgood Marshall-BWI). Although he passed the test with flying colors, he was not hired because of racial discrimination. He later applied for and passed the test for a position with the United States Postal Service, where he remained until 1972.

As her firstborn grandson, "Jimmy" (as Mama called him) was his grandmother's (the late Annie Wynn's) favorite grandchild. Every summer for nearly four decades (60's, 70's, 80's, 90's) "Jimmy" drove "Mama" to and from her home in Tillery, North Carolina, where she would stay for the entire summer.

In 1972, when Mama discovered that "Jimmy" was leaving his job at the Post Office to become the first African-American engineer at Maryland Public Television, she was livid. How could he possibly give up such a good job with all those benefits for something she considered to be "uncertain." To be sure he was making the right decision, he worked both jobs for about three months before finally resigning his position at the Post Office.

After twenty-four years in 1996, Dad retired from Maryland Public Television as a Master Control Director. For a number of years during retirement, Dad was a substitute teacher at Rognel Heights Elementary School. With the passing of Aunt Willa Mea in 2004, Dad became the family elder as family and friends sought his advice on a wide range of issues. He was respected throughout the Rognel Height's community and well known for his wisdom and experience.

In his later years as Dad's health began to decline, his son, Brett was his primary caregiver. He departed this life early Monday morning, September 17, 2012 and will be sorely missed.

Dad leaves to cherish his memory: sons, James E. Dorsey, Jr. (wife, Rhonda L. Dorsey) and Brett M. Dorsey; grandson, Donald C. Knight, Jr.; sister, Edith Hinton; brother, Glenn Dorsey; son-in-law, Donald C. Knight, Sr.; sister-in-law, Alma Jackson; brother-in-law, Stonewall Jackson; Donna Robinson (nurse for almost ten years); Sophia L. Lewis and Monet Lawrence (friends and caregivers); and his Kevin Road family. He also leaves a host of nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends.

Cemetery Details

Arbutus

1101 Sulphur Spring Rd.
Baltimore, MD 21227

Previous Events

Public Viewing

SEP 20. 11:00 AM - 8:00 PM (ET)

March Funeral Homes - West Baltimore
4300 Wabash Avenue
Baltimore, MD 21215
(410) 542-2400
info@marchfh.com

Wake

SEP 21. 10:30 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Holy Temple Holiness
2016 W. Pratt Street
Baltimore, MD

Service

SEP 21. 11:00 AM (ET)

Holy Temple Holiness
2016 W. Pratt Street
Baltimore, MD

Tribute Wall



“ *James Edward Dorsey Jr.*

October 13, 2022 at 08:33 AM



“ *I am so very sorry that you lost your dear loved one in death. When our loved ones die, many wonder: Will I ever see my loved one again? Which is a very good question. The good man Job who lived long ago asked the same question. He asked: If an able-bodied man dies, can he live again? God inspired him to answer that question for himself. He said this at Job 14:14,15, "You will call, and I myself shall answer you. For the work of your hands you will have a yearning. Yes Job knew that God yearns to see his servants who have died, come to life once again. This is why he promised at 1st Corinthians 15:26: As the last enemy, death will be brought to nothing. Soon all those asleep in the ground of dust will wake up. Daniel 12:2. May these comforting Bible verses help you to endure the loss of your loved one until he awakens again in the promised resurrection.*

R Johnson - September 25, 2012 at 12:48 PM



“ *I am so sorry to hear about the loss of your dear loved one. When a loved one dies the pain, the grief, and the feelings of helplessness can seem unbearable. At such a time we can find comfort in Jesus promise made to all who have loss loved one in death at John 5:28,29 which reads: Do not marvel at this, because the hour is coming in which all those in the memorial tombs will hear his voice and come out."*

Delores Allen - September 20, 2012 at 08:15 AM

KP

“ I am so sorry for your lost. Losing a loved one is never easy. Jehovah God promises to do away with all of our suffering very soon. In Revelation 21:4, it says "And he will wipe out every tear from their eyes, and death will be no more, neither will mourning nor outcry nor pain be anymore. The former things have passed away." I encourage you and your family to read this with your own copy of the bible. I hope this helps in your time of need.

Kevea P. - September 19, 2012 at 08:06 AM



“ 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 18, 2012 at 12:48 PM

RL

I am sorry to here about the loss of Jim Dorsey, he was part of the good memories I had at MPT, he always had good times to share with me and fellow employees. I will never forget him. You and your family will be in my prayers. He was so proud of your decision to go into the business of mortuary sciences.

Roberta Lyles - September 19, 2012 at 12:53 PM

CK

Donnie,
We're so sorry for the loss of your granddad. We'll be keeping you and your family in prayer. Love you,
The Knight family

Cynthia Knight - September 17, 2023 at 08:46 PM