



James Rivers Jr.

October 2, 1941 - May 9, 2019

A Reflection of the Life of James Rivers, Jr.

Sunrise – October 2, 1941 Sunset – May 9, 2019

James Rivers, Jr. was born on October 2, 1941 to James and Naomi Rivers in the oldest city

within the U.S. state of Georgia, the coastal city of Savannah, established in 1733 on the river.

He was the only son and the second of two children. James and his sister Gwendolyn grew up

working in the historic African American owned Bessie's Restaurant, their Family's soul food

restaurant in Savannah, GA, exclusively known for its crispy fried chicken; seasoned collard

greens with hot pepper sauce, red rice served daily, homemade breads, smothered pork chops

with gravy, pig feet, and chitterlings. Notably, James' collard greens recipe exhibits southern

cuisine at its best. Moreover, this invaluable familial experience shaped him into a committed

worker, a man full of strong compassion, and an inherent lover of humbly serving others. In fact,

James would freely give you his very last of anything. He was truly a cheerful giver forsaking

self.

James Rivers, Jr. received his formal education in the Savannah-Chatham County Public School

System and accepted JESUS CHRIST as his personal savior at the New Hope Apostolic Holiness

Church of Savannah, Georgia under the spiritual guidance of Father and Mother McKenzie.

Factually, the Church's history reflects his Family's significance in its organizational founding.

Providentially, James enlisted and served his country first in the United States Army and

received his General Education Diploma while serving. He then enlisted and served his country

faithfully, in the United States Navy inclusive of a foreign active duty deployment during the

Vietnam War, where he witnessed the brutalities of war, which had a lasting effect on his life.

However, James persevered and migrated to the Manhattan borough of New York, New York.

James Rivers, Jr. met and married the former Shirley Ann Ruffin of Portsmouth, Virginia on

December 5, 1969, while both were employees of the United States Postal Service in the

Manhattan borough of New York City and from this marital union, they raised two wonderful

children, Eric Keith Rivers and Craig Lamont Rivers.

James Rivers, Jr. worked for the following employers: the aforementioned United States Postal

Service, General Motors Cadillac, the Norfolk and Southern Railroad, the Norfolk Public School

System, the Henrico Public School System, where he retired, and the Bon

Secours Health

System. James also worked as a Longshoreman at the Savannah ports.

James served his country

again in the United States Navy Reserve. He became a passionate Prince Hall Mason after

returning to Savannah with his wife and children and made a monumental difference in the lives

of so many by serving as a Boy Scout Leader there. Moreover, everyone who knows James coins

him as a strategically avid chess player and a 10,000 – 18,000+ piece jigsaw puzzle genius.

James later joined World Overcomers Family Church of Richmond, Virginia where his wife

Shirley serves, and he participated in the Ushers' Ministry.

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James Rivers, Jr. peacefully transitioned from this earthly life on Thursday, May 9, 2019 at his

home in Walkerton, VA and leaves to cherish his memory, a loving and devoted wife, Shirley

Ann Rivers of Walkerton, VA; two sons, Eric Keith Rivers, Sr. (Carlette) of Prince George's

County, MD and Craig Lamont Rivers of Baltimore, MD; five grandchildren, Imani Rivers, Nyja

Rivers, Eric Keith Rivers, II, Cavion Rivers, and Jordan Rivers; one great-grandchild, Isaiah

Rivers; one sister, Gwendolyn Brown (Willie) of California; three sister-in-laws, Jean Logan (the

late George), Simonee Thomas (Reverend Bernard), Angela Griffin (Theopolis); a special niece,

Wanda Daughtry (Nathaniel); and a host of nieces, nephews, family members,

and friends. His

parents, James and Naomi, preceded him in death.

We thank our ALMIGHTY GOD for sending James our way. We shall never forget James Rivers, Jr., a man who cared.

Cemetery Details

Veterans Cemetery at Amelia

10300 Pridesville Rd
Amelia, VA 23002

Previous Events

Visitation

MAY 16. 9:00 AM - 8:00 PM (ET)

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

Celebration of Life

MAY 17. 11:00 AM (ET)

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

Tribute Wall



“ *James Rivers Jr.*

October 13, 2022 at 08:33 AM



“ *My condolences to the River family. Keeping you all in my prayers.*



Calandra Miller - May 16, 2019 at 08:15 AM



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



May 16, 2019 at 08:12 AM



“ *Leroy Bentley purchased the Simply Elegant Spa thiphyllum for the family of James Rivers Jr..*



Leroy Bentley - May 15, 2019 at 08:05 PM



“ *Large Basket Garden was purchased for the family of James Rivers Jr..*



May 15, 2019 at 02:29 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 - May 10, 2019 at 12:41 PM