



William James, Sr.

April 24, 1950 - February 25, 2026

William Levi James, Sr. was born on April 24, 1950, to the late Taylor James and Clara McAllister James in Richmond, Virginia. Growing up in Southside Richmond, he was blessed to have an older sister JoAnn, an older brother Charles and a younger sister Debbie. Everyone called him Billy or Bill. His life-journey ended when God called him home the morning of February 25, 2026.

Bill was a proud product of Richmond City Schools. After graduating from Armstrong High School in the Class of 1969, he attended Norfolk State College (University) and obtained his bachelor's degree. He was hired by Richmond Public Schools after graduation and taught special education students for many years. Later, he obtained a master's degree from Virginia State University. After which, he was an Assistant Principal at John Marshall High School for several years and then he served as principal of Thomas C. Boushall Middle School. He ended his career in education worked at City Hall in Richmond City Public School's Department of Instruction and oversaw several different programs.

He was also a football coach at John F. Kennedy High School for many years. Often, when out and about in Richmond, he would run into students he had once taught or coached, and they all still affectionately referred to him as "Coach."

Bill came to know Christ at a young age and was baptized at Zion Baptist Church, where he also was an usher. As an adult he was a member of Trinity Baptist Church where he taught Sunday School. And later he was a member of Real-Life Ministries.

After he retired from the school system, he enjoyed vegetable gardening and lawncare. As a lifelong fan of the Washington Redskins/Commanders and the Atlanta Braves, he spent many hours enjoying their games, and arm-chair coaching.

Bill was a devoted and loyal husband, father and grandfather. He will always be remembered for his loving adoration and sense of humor. While he loved his wife and sons, it was his grandchildren that lifted his spirit to the sky!

Left to cherish loving memories of him are: his wife, Cheri Waddell James; his sons: Craig Lamont James (Kacey) of Loudon County, VA; Lt. Col. Franklin Devon Waddell, MD (Monique) of Sanford, NC; Kristopher William James (Crystal) of Powder Springs, GA; and William Levi James, Jr. (Ann Marie) of Richmond, VA; his grandchildren: Cameron Taylor James, Kelby Kirkland James, Issa Husani Taylor-Vaughn James, Franklin Sebastian Waddell, Kennedy Ryan James, Charleigh Madison James, Oliver Devon Waddell, Kaiden William James, Zora Monique Waddell, Iman King Zion William James and Shameilia, Shakya, and Prince; one brother, Charles Taylor James (Laverne); sister-in-love, Michelle R. Jeanpierre and numerous aunts, uncles, cousins, nephews, nieces and special friends.

Humbly submitted in loving memory,

The family of William Levi James, Sr.

Cemetery Details

Private

Previous Events

Visitation

MAR 9. 9:30 AM - 6:00 PM (ET)

March Funeral Homes - Laburnum Chapel
2110 E. Laburnum Avenue
Richmond, VA 23222
(804) 321-4200
info@marchfh.com
<https://www.marchfuneralhomevirginia.com/>

Celebration of life with live streaming

MAR 10. 11:00 AM (ET)

March Funeral Homes - Laburnum Chapel
2110 E. Laburnum Avenue
Richmond, VA 23222
(804) 321-4200
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<https://www.marchfuneralhomevirginia.com/>

Tribute Wall



“ *March Funeral Homes created a William James Sr. in memory of William James, Sr.*



March Funeral Homes - March 03 at 12:32 PM

HS

Rest in Heavenly Peace my P Phi Brother. I have fond memories our time at Norfolk State by way of Armstrong High School. God Bless You Brother.

Harry (Nick) Smith - March 03 at 03:35 PM

RR

Surely to Almighty God we belong; and surely unto Almighty God we shall return.

Billy James and I go back 70 years growing up in the same neighborhood in Southside Richmond, Va.

My Deepest Condolences to his family and the Alumni of Blackwell Elementary and Junior High School Class of 1966, and Armstrong High School Class of 1969.

May Almighty God's Merciful Beneficence Shower his family and the community, who dearly loved him, with Compassion and Tender Mercies during this difficult time.

He most surely will be remembered and greatly missed by all who knew and loved him. ☐ 🍷 🌹 😞

Ronald K Rowe - March 04 at 11:51 PM

WC

Bill was an amazing friend to me. He will be deeply missed.

William Cunningham - March 06 at 04:40 PM

MT

RIH Bill James, my friend from childhood to grownups.

Marcellus Tucker - March 09 at 10:55 AM

KE

“*Sending my deepest condolences for your loss. Mr. James touched the lives of so many and made a lasting impact. It would take me all week to share the memories filled with laughter and support from Mr. James and it is my sincere prayer that his family is strengthened and comforted by memories of your own. May God bless you and keep you in perfect peace. ~Kenya, or as he always called me, “Alice’s Girl”*

Kenya - March 10 at 08:45 AM

BM

“*To the family of my friend Billy James, I offer my sincere condolences. Bill and I worked together at John F. Kennedy High School where he was the Coach and I directed the band. We later worked together as administrators with RPS. Bill was Always cheerful and positive about our mission of helping young people. After retirement we had a fellowship group together online which included P. T. Taylor (RIP), Mel Rose (RIP) and still includes Ethan Pitts, Kacem Brazil, David Franklin, Randy Ashe, and me. We sometimes call ourselves the Ring Doorbell Gang, because many of us got and installed our Ring Doorbells the same week, and kept each other updated on the latest ring devices. We shared great memories with Bill James, P T, , and Mel about our days working at Kennedy and RPS. Bill will truly be missed by all of us. Such a good hearted brother, a loving husband, proud father and grandfather. We always called each other "Billy". So "Billy James" until we see each other again in the presence of the lord. Your friend and colleague Billy McGee!*

Bill McGee - March 10 at 08:28 AM

LR

“ Lloyd, Joyce and Rashad purchased the Large Basket Garden for the family of William James, Sr..



Lloyd, Joyce and Rashad - March 09 at 09:31 AM

MP

“ Marchell Pleasant purchased the Serene Retreat for the family of William James, Sr..



Marchell Pleasant - March 09 at 01:52 AM

MP

“ Marchell Pleasant planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of William James, Sr..

Marchell Pleasant - March 09 at 01:52 AM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of William James, Sr..



March 08 at 10:26 PM



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

March 08 at 10:26 PM



“ Love, Maiesha, Lynn, Jay, and Houston purchased the Serene Retreat for the family of William James, Sr..



Love, Maiesha, Lynn, Jay, and Houston - March 08 at 11:13 AM



“ To the Family of William Levi (Bill) James, Sr. Earth has no sorrow that heaven cannot heal. Bill is at peace with his ☐Bill ☐ wings behind him. To Craig & Kristopher whom we know from Norfolk, VA. Sisters Vernell M. & Esther M. Gray 2026

Sisters Vernell & Esther Gray - March 07 at 09:54 PM



“ Jimmy and Janet James (New Jersey) purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of William James, Sr..



Jimmy and Janet James (New Jersey) - March 07 at 05:40 AM

TB

“ I truly pray for the family. He inspired me to be a better human being. He was an outstanding leader.

Timothy Brown - March 06 at 08:22 PM

XJ

“ Rafael and I were so sorry to hear about the loss of this wonderful man. We will always think of Bill, Cheri and the "boys" as family. Your friendship has meant so much to us. We remember the wonderful times we shared with the boys through the years -- especially sharing Rafael and Billy's birthday dinners and soccer games. Our sincere condolences to the family.

Xochela James - March 06 at 07:35 PM

XV

“ Xochela V. planted a grove of 3 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of William James, Sr..

Xochela V. - March 06 at 07:16 PM



“ Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of William James, Sr..



March 06 at 04:30 PM

IS

“ To the Family of Bill James, please accept our sincere condolences during this very difficult time. I am sorry for your loss. May God comfort and give you peace and strength.
Ivory and Barbara Scott & Family



Ivory C. Scott Sr. - March 06 at 02:16 PM

AJ

“ Anncarol J. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of William James, Sr..

Anncarol J. - March 06 at 08:10 AM

TF

“ The Helm Family purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of William James, Sr..



The Helm Family - March 05 at 09:12 PM

TF

“ The Helm Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of William James, Sr..

The Helm Family - March 05 at 09:12 PM

CH

“ Charlotte B. Hayer purchased the *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum* for the family of William James, Sr..



Charlotte B. Hayer - March 04 at 03:43 PM

CH

“ Charlotte B. Hayer planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of William James, Sr..

Charlotte B. Hayer - March 04 at 03:43 PM

YF

“ Your Insight family purchased the *Medium Dish Garden* for the family of William James, Sr..



Your Insight family - March 03 at 06:33 PM

JB

“ James and Gayle Bynum purchased the *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum* for the family of William James, Sr..



James and Gayle Bynum - March 03 at 12:19 PM

NC

“ My deepest sympathy to the James family on the loss of my cousin Billy. As a kid growing up, when visiting him and his brother Charles it was a highlight for me. His mother and father were very close to my grandparents hailing from South Carolina. I remember Billy as a highly recognized football player at Armstrong High in the days of my youth and he ascended to the ranks of coaching as I grew older. We have not seen each other in a few years, but I had admiration and profound respect for my cousin and his achievements. His earthly life is over, but he leaves great memories for all of us. May God place his protective blanket of love and comfort around his wife, Charles, family and close friends. Sincerely, Neil Christian and the Andrews family.



Neil Christian - March 03 at 09:33 AM

NC

Photo of Billy, mom, (Clarice) and Charles it mom's 80 birthday celebration.

Neil Christian - March 03 at 12:10 PM

NC

See photo

Neil Christian - March 03 at 12:11 PM

RF

Sending heartfelt condolences. I had the pleasure of working with Mr. James at George Mason Elementary. He was retired, yet supported me in an interim position. He brought lots of wisdom and insight to me as a new principal in Richmond Public Schools. After I left Virginia, he would often send inspirational texts. When we talked via phone, he never complained. He was a God fearing man that loved his family. Family, he often talked about each of you. May God continue to strengthen you and give you peace. God bless.

Rose Ferguson - March 05 at 10:14 AM

CE

Our prayers and condolences are with the James family. May God continue to strengthen and sustain you during your time of bereavement.

*Your cousin
Curtis Jr. & LaMaris Eagleton*

Curtis Eagleton - March 09 at 10:01 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 - March 03 at 08:51 AM