



Irene F. "Momma Rene" James

July 15, 1937 - July 27, 2013

JAMES, Ms. Irene "Momma Rene" "Granny Rene" - Age 76, passed away Saturday July 27, 2013 at St. Joseph Mercy Oakland Hospital. Family hour 11:00AM Saturday August 3, 2013 at Welcome Missionary Baptist Church, 143 Oneida St., with funeral service commencing immediately at 11:30AM. Interment Perry Mount Park Cemetery, 878 N. Perry St. Friends and pallbearers will assemble at the church 11:00AM Saturday. Mrs. James will lie in state in the Chapel of Lawrence E. Moon Funeral Home, 268 N. Perry St., and may be viewed from 2-8PM Friday.

Irene Francis James was born to the late Robert Brown and Mamie L. McElroy Brown on July 15, 1937 in Pontiac, Michigan. God called her home to be with him on Saturday, July 27, 2013 surrounded by her loving family and friends. She confessed to Christ at an early age while attending New Hope Missionary Baptist Church. She graduated from Pontiac High School and then from the McAuley School of Practical Nursing in January of 1958. She was a LPN at Clinton Valley State Hospital and retired after 30 years of service and continued practicing nursing through home health care.

In 1958, she married John Walter James Jr. To this union was born four sons, Kurt James of Charleston, SC, John (Karen) James III of Muncie, IN, Jeffrey (Michele) James of Hampton, GA and Kevin (Shannon) James of Grand Blanc, MI, and a special daughter Mary Frances (Larry) James-Campbell of

Columbus, OH. She is blessed with eighteen grandchildren, LaQurshia (Quita), MoniQue (Moie), Kurt James II (KJ), Josiah-Jordan, John Walter IV, King Jaron, Darius, Keshia, Kamry, Kandace, Isiah, Cameron, Ariana, Chandler, Sydney, Isaac and Isaiah and six great-grandchildren, Diamond, Dylan, Denver, Dakota, Antonio, and Karmelo. She is also survived by a brother and sister-in-law, Robert and Inetta Brown of Pontiac, MI; and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins and friends. Irene cherished her lifelong friendships with Gloria Beasley, Edna Williams, Mary Posey, Gwen Slappy, Juanita Warren and Lenora Lighthouse and special relatives, Hazel Brown and Pam Whitters.

Irene loved her family very much. To her children and grandchildren, she was affectionately called “Momma Rene” or “Granny Rene”. She loved planning gatherings (i.e. fish fries) with her family. She really enjoyed the time she spent with her family and grandchildren on holidays and special occasions. Minor aches would suddenly vanish with a visit to the casino, a favorite pastime. Not to mention the much anticipated monthly lunch dates with her “Valley Girls”, a group of ladies that retired with Irene from the State of Michigan. She was a voice of reason and a person that you could always count on to speak the truth. Irene was very dependable and always rescued anyone in distress. She was our WONDER WOMAN!

She was preceded in death by a sister, Lonnie Richards, a brother, Cecil Brown Sr. and a great-grandson, Darrian Daniel. She will be greatly missed, but “never ever” forgotten..

Cemetery Details

Perry Mount Park Cemetery

878 N. Perry St.
Pontiac, MI

Previous Events

Visitation

AUG 2. 2:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Lawrence E. Moon Funeral Home Pontiac
268 North Perry Street
Pontiac, MI 48342
(248) 758-1913
lemoonfhpontiac@gmail.com
<https://www.lawrenceemoonfuneralhomepontiac.com>

Service

AUG 3. 11:00 AM - 11:30 AM (ET)

Welcome Missionary Baptist Church
143 Oneida St.
Pontiac, MI

Tribute Wall

ID

“ IRESHIA DANIEL sent a virtual gift in memory of Irene F. "Momma Rene" James



IRESHIA DANIEL - July 15, 2025 at 08:42 AM

KJ

“ Kurt James lit a candle in memory of Irene F. "Momma Rene" James



Kurt James - November 20, 2013 at 01:59 AM



“ Well Aunt Irene as kids when we came from Milwaukee and Kalli and I went back and forth from Uncle Bob and Tea to your house. I was happy that we came last year to share your birthday with you. The Jenkins girls and Mom love you and we will really miss you. To all my big cousins we love you too!!! Gini and Kalli!!

Jennifer Jenkins - August 02, 2013 at 10:24 PM

DM

“ Well miss James .. We have never meet. But I've heard nothing but great things about your from ur son Kurt and my mother Melonie ... You are now at peace and in the hands of The Lord ... Sending out my prays to the James family ...
Love Danella Metcalf

Danella Metcalf - August 02, 2013 at 04:47 PM

DF

“ Dwayne Willis & Family purchased the Secret Garden Basket for the family of Irene F. "Momma Rene" James.



Dwayne Willis & Family - August 02, 2013 at 10:06 AM

MS

“ Kurt James & Family,

When we lose a loved one here on earth, we gain an angel in heaven that watches over us. May you take comfort in knowing that you have an angel to watch over you now. I extend my most sincere condolences to you and your family. I was deeply saddened by the news of the passing of your mother. My heartfelt thoughts are with you and your family during these difficult times. You are in my prayers.

“And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.” (Revelation 21:4)

*Marrian "TC" James
Charleston, SC*

Marrian James, Charleston, SC - August 01, 2013 at 10:02 PM



“ *My Dearest Aunt Irene*

My heart is so heavy!!!!!! I missed you so much, you were not just an Aunt you were my friend. I am going to miss talking & laughing with you. I used to always ask you "how did you raise 4 amazing sons, as a single Mom and I am struggling with just one son", I would say Hats off too you sister!!!! "You would laugh", oh my I am going to miss that laugh. Aunt Irene, thank you for being a great SISTER to my DAD. Daddy misses you so much and still today awaits your morning phone call. My Dad is having a rough time dealing with your passing, but we got his back!!!!!! I'll see you when I get there Auntie!!!!

*Love your Neice
Yvette*

Yvette Brown - July 31, 2013 at 03:51 PM

NL

My prayers go out to you and your family, especially Mr. Brown. Stay close to God and he will be your rock. Love you guys!!

Natasha Lamb

Natasha Lamb - August 03, 2013 at 08:30 AM

 Bobbie Whitlow

“ TO all of my family on behalf of the Thompson family my dad Claude(Tampa) Thompson I and deeply saden my the death of my cousin from a little girl up until I was grown I all ways thought cousin Irene and cousin Robert was husband and wife they would allways be together at my grandmom Cecile house I remember seeing his wife but noone ever said who she was .I am going to miss the smile and the warmth and the love you flet when you came around. To cousin Irene missed but not forgotten so glad i came to the birthday celebration. Bobbie Thompson Whitlow.

Bobbie Whitlow - July 31, 2013 at 02:58 PM

SC

“ God Handed Her Keys to Her Mansion, Cuz , We will see each other again...and for the Family God makes No Mistakes....Love You All.... Letha Mary



shelia Carter - July 31, 2013 at 02:32 PM



“ Though I did not know your Mom, I am still deeply saddened for your loss. If you all are a reflection of your mother I know she was a wonderful lady. Be strong and let the Lord lift you on days you feel down. God bless you and may He rest her soul.

Connie Vega



Connie Vega - July 31, 2013 at 12:36 PM



Traci
Fletcher

“ Kurt, John, Jeff, and Kevin....I am praying for you and all of your mom's family and friends. May God continue to bless you. I am praying for you and love you dearly. Psalm 9:10

Traci Fletcher - July 30, 2013 at 08:37 PM



NJ

“ Ms. Irene you were a Great Lady and thank you for just being a Special part in my life. I will miss you dearly and keep you close to my heart. I love you MaMa Rene.... NeShel

NeShel Jefferson - July 30, 2013 at 12:18 PM



“ Quita & Moe I'm sorry for your loss, my thoughts and prayers are with u and your families

Rekaiya Simms - July 30, 2013 at 07:00 AM



“ Quita & Moe I'm sorry for your loss, my thoughts and prayers are with u and your families

Rekaiya Simms - July 30, 2013 at 07:00 AM

LI

“ Dear James Family and Friends,
I am so sorry to hear of the loss of your dear loved one. Please accept my sincere condolences. I too have lost several loved ones in death, and the pain is fresh, even with the passage of much time. Thankfully, I have found relief in knowing that "The Most High God" is the "Hearer of Prayer", and a source of tremendous comfort in times of grief and distress. (Psalms83:18,Psalms65:2) Please be assured , death will soon be "swallowed up forever" and we will have the opportunity to see our dead loved ones again.(Isaiah 25:8) My family and I wish you and yours peace.(Phillipians4:7)

Lisa - July 29, 2013 at 11:16 PM

WM

“ Wanda Myers lit a candle in memory of Irene F. "Momma Rene" James



Wanda Myers - July 29, 2013 at 02:19 PM

JF

My heart go out for your loss. I know she will be truly miss. god bless for her heart. Jerry Fletcher

Jerry Fletcher - August 01, 2013 at 09:16 AM