



## Rev. John Walter James, III

July 5, 1960 - January 15, 2017

JAMES, III Rev. John Walter - age 56, passed away, Sunday, January 15, 2017 at Ball Memorial Hospital of Muncie Indiana. Family hour 10:00AM Friday January 20, 2017 at Welcome Missionary Baptist Church, 143 Oneida St., with funeral service commencing immediately at 11AM. Pastor Jeffrey Brown Sr., officiating. Rev. Douglas P. Jones, Host Pastor. Interment Perry Mount Park Cemetery, 878 N. Perry St. Friends and pallbearers will assemble at the church 10:00AM Friday. Rev James will lie in state at Welcome Missionary Baptist Church, and may be viewed from 10AM-11AM Friday.

Reverend John Walter James III known as “Lil John” by his family was born to John Walter James Jr. and the late Irene James on July 5th, 1960 in Pontiac Michigan. God opened Heaven’s door for John to be with him on January 15th 2017. He confessed his belief in Christ at an early age while attending New Hope Missionary Baptist Church in Pontiac MI. Over the past 30 years John attended Calvary Baptist Church in Muncie IN. In 2013 John answered God’s call into The Gospel Ministry and committed himself to faithful study and service. In 2014 John received a Certificate of License certifying him as Reverend John W. James III from Calvary Baptist Church.

Lil John always had a love for basketball from an early age. He attended Pontiac Northern High School where he formed life long relationship with friends but as John would say “his boys”. John’s basketball skills continued to

excel and earned him a scholarship at Ball State University in Muncie IN. After graduating and receiving a Master's Degree in Industrial Technology from Ball State University, John accepted a manager's position at Borg Warner. John was employed with Borg Warner for over twenty three years. Over the past three years John has been working at Mursix in Muncie IN.

Lil John was a faithful father, honorable man and a mentor-hero to many. Everyone loved John and our lives will never be the same without him. John touched so many lives during his lifetime; he was President of the Men's Ministry at Calvary Baptist Church, a Sunday School Teacher, Basketball Coach for his son King's team, and an Alumni at Ball State University.

In 1988, John married his high school sweetheart Karen Annette Bryant. To this union was born two sons, John Walter IV and King Jay'Ron James of Muncie IN; father, Deacon John James II of Muncie, IN; four siblings, Mary Frances (Larry) James-Campbell of Columbus, OH; Kurt James of Charleston, SC; Jeffrey (Michele) James of Hampton, GA; and Kevin (Shannon) James of Grand Blanc, MI; two brothers-in-law, Earnest and Termaine Bryant; two sisters-in-law, Amy and Bay Bryant; along with a host of aunts, uncle, nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.

John was preceded in death by his mother, Irene James; aunt, Lonnie Richards; uncles, Cecil Brown Sr. and Robert Brown.

# Cemetery Details

## Perry Mount Park Cemetery

878 N. Perry St.  
Pontiac, MI

# Previous Events

## Family Hour

JAN 20. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Welcome Missionary Baptist Church  
143 Oneida St.  
Pontiac, MI

## Funeral Service

JAN 20. 11:00 AM - 12:30 PM (ET)

Welcome Missionary Baptist Church  
143 Oneida St.  
Pontiac, MI

# Tribute Wall

LW

“ Laurita Washington sent a virtual gift in memory of Rev. John Walter James, III



Laurita Washington - February 03, 2017 at 09:14 AM

DS

“ Another beautiful limb has broken off the tree.I love my cousin and he will be truly missed.Much love for my family.Karen my heart is with you.Keep the faith.God provides.

Donna Stephens - January 26, 2017 at 04:02 PM

M.

“ M.Hurner sent a virtual gift in memory of Rev. John Walter James, III



M.Hurner - January 25, 2017 at 12:18 AM

LI

“ Lj Carryout Ic lit a candle in memory of Rev. John Walter James, III



lj carryout ic - January 21, 2017 at 08:57 AM

DB

“ *Mr. James and I worked together at Sallie Mae and IBM. Every time we spoke there was warm words and a warm handshake. Thank you Mr. James for being a kind man. My condolences to your family.*

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**Daniel Bouton** - January 20, 2017 at 03:12 PM

RW

“ *Robin White lit a candle in memory of Rev. John Walter James, III*



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**Robin White** - January 20, 2017 at 07:22 AM

RW

“ *Karen, Mr. James, Kevin and Family: My condolences go out to all of you. I was heartbroken to hear the news of Little John's passing. He was such a kindhearted and loving man. Karen, I remember when we used to sit on your porch on E. Wilson back in the day and how you would light up of just the mention of Little John. God blessed you two to become one. You will see him again and he will be watching over you and your lovely family along with the Father. May God continue to strengthen and comfort all of you during this hour. Take each second very slowly and remember all of the memories that each of you shared with him.*

*Love you all dearly,*

*Robin White*

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**Robin White** - January 20, 2017 at 07:21 AM

JH

“ Prayers to Mr. James family in this time of sorrow what a wonderful man so happy for the memories shared at the Borg Warner plant in Muncie with this kind soul. RIP John , Jerry and Karen Henderson fondest memory John would say this is my satchel its not a purse!

Jerry Henderson - January 19, 2017 at 06:59 PM

TF

“ The McCurn Donnell Family purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Rev. John Walter James, III.



The McCurn Donnell Family - January 19, 2017 at 01:22 PM

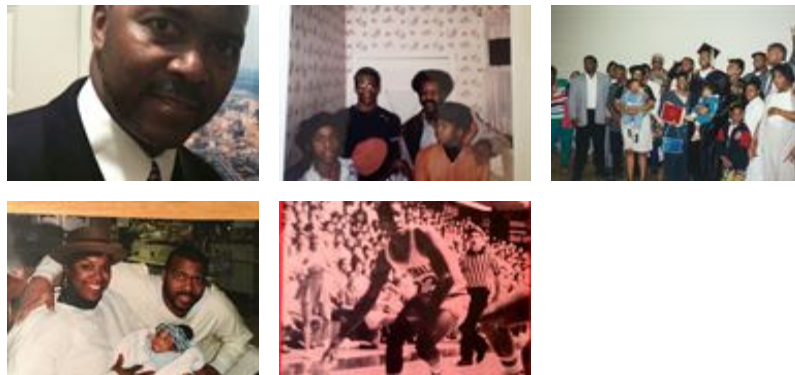
BW

“ To Kurt the James family. Im so sorry to hear of the lost of lil John. Earth has no sorrow that heaven can't heal. Stay strong and encouraged at this difficult time.

Bonnie walker - January 19, 2017 at 01:02 PM



“ 54 files added to the album Life Tributes



Lawrence E. Moon Funeral Home - January 19, 2017 at 12:21 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Rev. John Walter James, III.*



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January 19, 2017 at 11:10 AM



“ *Dear Karen, Kurt and the rest of the James family. I sincerely pray that God will comfort you all during this difficult time. The earthly assignment is complete, but his spirit will live on. Edward Chapple Sr & Family*



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**Edward Chapple Sr** - January 19, 2017 at 07:47 AM



“ *Dear Karen (sons and family),  
I was deeply saddened to hear this news.  
I first met John back when I first started working at Borg Warner in Muncie. He was such a pleasant person to work with and quickly became someone I was proud to call my friend. Eventually, you and John became very close friends to my parents Sandra and Curtis Bell and you both were a bigger blessing to them that you may know. My mother talked about both of you frequently and fondly. Please know you are all in our prayers and will be in our thoughts especially Friday.  
Take Care  
Kristin, Sandra and Tyler Bell  
Indianapolis, IN*

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**Kristin Bell** - January 19, 2017 at 07:16 AM

SD

“ *R.I.P., alway had great memories at family get together*



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**Stephanie & Freddie Daniel** - January 18, 2017 at 09:20 PM

NR

“ *Karen,  
My heart broke when I read that your dear husband had died. I am  
so sorry for you and the boys. Please know that my thoughts and  
prayers are with you during these difficult days and weeks to come.  
May The God of grace grant you comfort and peace.  
Nancy Wean Reece*

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**Nancy Wean Reece** - January 18, 2017 at 08:25 PM



“ **Karen:**

*I thought you might like to have this picture of John and your son. Both of them were such a joy to work with. Your family was one of the Highlights of our program. I haven't been working with them for a few years due to surgeries and age. I would love to see you. I'm not sure when this picture was taken; maybe you can guess.*

*I pray the peace of God be yours in this difficult time.*

*Love and Prayers,*

*Martha Porter*

*P.S. John is singing the Song of the Redeemed now. Praise the Lord. Call me sometime when you need a friend to fellowship with.  
Cell 765-730-6086*



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**Martha Porter** - January 18, 2017 at 06:34 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Rev. John Walter James, III.*



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January 18, 2017 at 05:36 PM

BS

“ Karen, our hearts go out to you and your family in this difficult time. John was a gracious man and wonderful neighbor. Bob remembers John as a former student and basketball player at Ball State. We will miss his gentle spirit in the neighborhood.

*Bob and Ruth South*

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**Bob and Ruth South** - January 18, 2017 at 04:06 PM

SM

“ Prayers to the Family, My heart goes out to Karen, GOD please hold her in your arms, I grew up with Little John @ New Hope Missionary Baptist Church, while going thru my journey, whenever he was in town he would come by and Pray for me, and he also sent another brother in Christ that was local to Pray with me monthly. Little John was a good man, friend, classmate etc., Special Prayer for the boys. My heart is heavy, I miss you and I Thank You for all the Prayers you brought and sent my way. I will especially miss that smile. GOD bless your soul, which is in Heaven.

*Mrs. Shirley Mason-Cooper*

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**Shirley Mason-Cooper** - January 18, 2017 at 03:40 PM

SM

“ Shirley Mason-Cooper sent a virtual gift in memory of Rev. John Walter James, III



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**Shirley Mason-Cooper** - January 18, 2017 at 03:24 PM

AC

“ Anthony & Shirley Cooper lit a candle in memory of Rev. John Walter James, III



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**Anthony & Shirley Cooper** - January 18, 2017 at 03:23 PM

CB

“ May you find comfort in your memories of John. Our deepest sympathies to you and your family. We will miss him very much! Your friends at PrimeTrust Federal Credit Union

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**Carol Bradshaw** - January 18, 2017 at 02:11 PM

DC

“ It is with a sad heart that me and my family send our deepest condolences to Karen, King and the entire family of John W. James III. Mr. James was such an amazing person and never met a stranger. He was such an influential person in my son's life as he was one of King James' friend. He and his wife would encourage me and my son and always treated us like family and opened their home to us. My son Dorian is really upset as am I... Karen we are praying for your comfort and strength. We love you and your family. Heaven has truly gained a servant for the Lord. Condolences... Dana Connell



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**Dana Connell** - January 18, 2017 at 01:56 PM

KG

“ Kimberly Griffin lit a candle in memory of Rev. John Walter James, III



Kimberly Griffin - January 18, 2017 at 01:14 PM

TH

“ 15 files added to the album New Album Name



Theresa - January 18, 2017 at 12:31 PM



“ To everyone you was John John, to me as we brought up together you was are little John!!! you will truly me missed RIH My Southside Brother for Life..LITTLE JOHN



Vanessa Hargo - January 18, 2017 at 12:30 PM

SC

“ *Stephon Cowser sending my condolences to the James Family for the loss of a great friend John James aka Lil John aka Swan one of the best basketball players in Pontiac growing up together as kids God Bless*

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**Stephon Cowser** - January 18, 2017 at 11:48 AM

 Debra Whiting

“ *To. the James Family*

*I'm so sorry for your loss.*

*You are in my thoughts and prayers, may God be with you during this time. Hold on to your faith and it will give you strength, know that God will never leave you nor forsake you. God bless and keep you.*

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**Debra Whiting** - January 18, 2017 at 10:22 AM

CB

“ *We send our condolences and love to cousin Karen and family. God good people loved one gone to soon. But forever in our heart. Fred send his love says to his basketball PNH friend. We love u all. San Daniels and family*



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**Cassandra Bradford** - January 18, 2017 at 09:42 AM

MJ

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



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**myra jones** - January 18, 2017 at 09:37 AM

6C

“ 6th grade basketball team and coaches purchased the Basket Full of Wishes for the family of Rev. John Walter James, III.



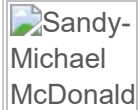
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**6th grade basketball team and coaches** - January 18, 2017 at 08:16 AM



“ Donna Reynolds sent a virtual gift in memory of Rev. John Walter James, III



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**Donna Reynolds** - January 18, 2017 at 05:36 AM



“ Praying as GOD receives him into the Kingdom, that we all reflect and acknowledge that John gave his life to Christ, and he accepted and knew this day would come. I'm praying that his wife Karen and the children find comfort in knowing that he is with the Lord and that they will forever have his memory, love and protection as he now sits high and looks low. I'm thankful to have known him, though thru distance there was not the regular or often breaking of bread or conversation, but I can truly say, he was a Good Man, a Good Father, a Good Brother and a Good Friend to many. I'm thankful to have known him and to have called "Little John", My Friend. GOD Rest His Soul.

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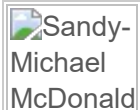
**Sandy-Michael McDonald** - January 17, 2017 at 10:10 PM

“ We are sadden by the loss of our dear cousin John. Family please know you are in our thoughts and prayers.

*John & Becky Randall*

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**John & Becky Randall** - January 17, 2017 at 10:00 PM



“ Praying as GOD receives him into the Kingdom, that we all reflect and acknowledge that John gave his life to Christ, and he accepted and knew this day would come. I'm praying that his wife Karen and the children find comfort in knowing that he is with the Lord and that they will forever has his memory, love and protection as he now sits high and looks low. I'm thankful to have known him, though thru distance there was not the regular or often breaking of bread or conversation, but I can truly say, he was a Good Man, a Good Father, a Good Brother and a Good Friend to many. I'm thankful to have known him and to have called "Little John", My Friend. GOD Rest His Soul.

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**Sandy-Michael McDonald** - January 17, 2017 at 10:00 PM

JD

“ *My prayers and sincerest condolences to the family-John was a great teammate and friend!*  
*Jeff DeYoung*

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**Jeff DeYoung** - January 17, 2017 at 09:25 PM

SD

“ *To my BFF Karen, my heart hurt for you I know that John was the love of your life, I can just see you smiling with just the mention of his name. Know that I am praying for and with you and the boys.*

*I Timothy 4:7*

*I have fought a good fight, I have kept the faith, I have finished the course.*

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**Stephanie & Freddie Daniel** - January 17, 2017 at 07:58 PM


AT

“ *We will miss our wonderful neighbor and friend. Prayers for Karen and their dear boys.*

*Terry, Andrea, Trey, Ty and Alec Thornburg*

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**Andrea Thornburg** - January 17, 2017 at 07:46 PM

 Robin  
Flowers

“ *What a kind and sweet soul. He always spoke so loving and proud of his family. May you all find peace and comfort through God in the days ahead. Thoughts and prayers to you all.*

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**Robin Flowers** - January 17, 2017 at 06:42 PM

MC

“ One of the greatest person in my life who help developed me on the court and in life. He will be truly missed

**milton carthens** - January 17, 2017 at 05:54 PM

RS

“ Rosemary Smith-Jackson lit a candle in memory of Rev. John Walter James, III



**Rosemary Smith-Jackson** - January 17, 2017 at 04:50 PM

BB

“ Let not your heart be troubled, ye believe in God, believe also in me. When you feel worried and full at heart, when your plans are upset and your world falls apart, remember God is ready and willing to share the burden you find too heavy to bear - so with faith, let go and let God lead the way into a brighter day! May God continue to bless you and strengthen you during this difficult time!

*Earnest & Brenda Bryant*

**Brenda Bryant** - January 17, 2017 at 04:44 PM

MM

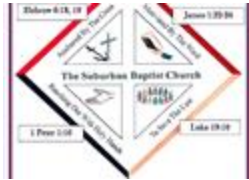
“ Marsha Milton sent a virtual gift in memory of Rev. John Walter James, III



**Marsha Milton** - January 17, 2017 at 03:51 PM

Jeffery  
Quinten

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Jeffery Quinten - January 17, 2017 at 02:57 PM

SB

“ Sharonda Bell lit a candle in memory of Rev.  
John Walter James, III



Sharonda Bell - January 17, 2017 at 02:38 PM

SH

“ Shonita Harris lit a candle in memory of Rev.  
John Walter James, III



Shonita Harris - January 17, 2017 at 01:01 PM

JJ

“ *My beloved Big Brother aka, Lil John and swannie J, I don't know why, but I do know this that our Lord and savior is with you and that he has received you in his loving arms and with that I am at peace. I will forever have you in my heart and in my thoughts everyday of my life. Thank you for being the best Big brother a man could ask for, I will miss talking to you on the weekends, when you are checking on me to see what games I'm officiating and such and I will forever miss the love you had for me. Love you Bro. MUCH LOVE*

*Jeffrey James*

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**Jeffrey James** - January 17, 2017 at 12:09 PM

RA

“ *RODGER & LISA ALEXANDER sent a virtual gift in memory of Rev. John Walter James, III*



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**RODGER & LISA ALEXANDER** - January 17, 2017 at 10:24 AM

JJ

“ *1 file added to the tribute wall*



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**Jeffrey james** - January 17, 2017 at 09:03 AM

JJ

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



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**Jeffrey james** - January 17, 2017 at 09:00 AM

JJ

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



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**Jeffrey james** - January 17, 2017 at 08:59 AM

JJ

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



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**Jeffrey james** - January 17, 2017 at 08:57 AM

JJ

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Jeffrey james - January 17, 2017 at 08:56 AM

JJ

“ 1 file added to the album New Album Name



Jeffrey james - January 17, 2017 at 08:52 AM

SC

“ My beloved cousin Lil John you were more than a cousin to me you was my brother. I love you and I will never forget all the memories that our family shared. We are Mamie's grandchildren and we will always be connected. My heart is so heavy right now but I know that you are watching over us. Your grand personality and beautiful smile lit up every room that you entered. Rest in Peace my sweet Lil John. I will always love you.

Sharon Calhoun - January 16, 2017 at 09:54 PM

RM

“ My condolences to the family. Karen I know you are lost for words at this time I'm also. Peace and love Ronda Mitchell and family

Ronda Mitchell - January 16, 2017 at 07:47 PM