



Mr. James Thomas Goodman Jr.

April 11, 1934 - May 2, 2015

Today we come to celebrate the life of James Thomas Goodman, Jr. He was born April 11, 1934 to his proud parents, Mr. James Goodman, Sr. and Mrs. Ruthie B. Goodman, both of whom preceded him in death. He went home to be with God on May 2, 2015.

Jesus was his savior and his relationship with God was certain and solid. His favorite scripture was "The Lord is my light and my salvation, whom shall I fear." He loved serving God and serving people.

James was proud to be a Lanite. He graduated from Lane College in 1957, and went immediately into the United States Army. During his time at Lane he met the love of his life, Frances Parham.

James loved Frances, and Frances loved James. They were married fifty-eight years. Their love was an example of "to have and to hold, for better or worse, for richer for poorer, in sickness and in health, until death do us part."

James taught his children many lessons. One of the first was, "It is not about you. We are here to help others." We spent many, many, many days going out in the country feeding people. One of his greatest joys was empowering the lives of young men. In the early sixties, James was affiliated with the Boy Scouts of America as Scout Master of Troop 151, sponsored by the Macedonia Baptist Church, Jackson, Tennessee. Being one of the largest troops in Jackson, Troop 151 was the first African American Boy Scout Troop to break the racial barrier by attending summer camp at Camp McMorris, located in Natchez Trace State Park.

In 1965 he was employed as Juvenile Probation Officer with the Tennessee Department of Corrections, where he supervised juveniles placed on probation from the courts to Tennessee Department of Corrections. James was the first African American male in Jackson placed in this capacity. One of his greatest joys was when young men he helped came back and thanked him for helping redirect their lives.

James was employed as a Right of Way appraiser for Tennessee Department of Transportation for over thirty years. He was the first African American appraiser in Jackson, Tennessee, and one of two statewide.

His love was Macedonia Baptist Church where he was a member for over fifty-five years. He was a faithful deacon, and believed in supporting his church.

To his kids and grandkids, he was a master chef who would create wonderful meals and introduce exotic foods. The chef gene has been passed to Tommy, Lil Rick, Megan, Irvin and Lil Ronnie. They are incredible chefs because of Jimmy T.

He leaves to cherish his memory: a devoted wife of 58 years, Frances Goodman; children—Ronald McGhee, James Thomas (Tonya) Goodman, Cheryl (Michael) Brady, Gayle (Ricky) Murphy; eight grandchildren—Nicole (Jason) Oggs, Joe Irvin (Kimberly) Britt, III, Ricky (Julia) Murphy, Ronnie Murphy, Ronald McGhee, II, Megan Brown, Lauren Murphy, S. Michael Brown; eight great grandchildren—Ricky Thomas Murphy, Jada Murphy, Kaden Murphy, Kaleb Murphy, Joseph Askew, Jade Murphy, Jayden Oggs, Jacob Askew, Coming Soon 😊 a brother, Robert (Loretta) Goodman; three sisters—Mary Helen Smith, Irma Goodman, Ruby Jean Claytor; a faithful friends: Grafton Whitlow, James and Gwen Coleman, Lafayette McKinnie; and a host of other relatives and friends. He was preceded in death by a brother, Carl Goodman and a brother-in-law: Jimmy Joe Smith

Jimmy T. was straight forward, and if he was reading this he would say, “John Brown that’s enough.”

Cemetery Details

Parkway Memorial Gardens

2839 Paul Coffman Drive
Jackson, TN 38301

Previous Events

Visitation

MAY 5. 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Stephenson-Shaw Funeral Home, Inc.
807 N. Hays Avenue
Jackson, TN 38301
(731) 427-7411
info@stephenson-shaw.com
<https://www.stephenson-shaw.com>

Service

MAY 6. 2:00 PM (CT)

Macedonia Baptist Church
106 Glass Street
Jackson, TN 38301

Tribute Wall



“ *Mr. James Thomas Goodman Jr.*

January 28, 2023 at 12:37 PM



“ *Please accept our sincere condolences for the loss of your husband and father. Tracy and I want you to know that you are in our thoughts and prayers as you travel this journey of grief. Grace, Peace and Love....Tony and Tracy Nixon, Smithfield, NC*



Tony Nixon - May 05, 2015 at 01:14 PM