



Mr. James Earl Grimes

July 3, 1962 - August 19, 2021

A TIME TO BE BORN

James Earl Grimes Sr. was born July 3, 1962 to the late Willie Howard and Eleanor Ruth Howard in New Brunswick, New Jersey.

A TIME OF REBIRTH

James was baptized in 1975 at Tabernacle Baptist Church in New Brunswick, NJ.

A TIME TO LEARN AND GROW

James' formal education includes graduating from New Brunswick High School in New Brunswick, NJ, class of 1981. After high school, he was offered a contract to play with the MLB team, Cincinnati Reds. He declined this offer to start a family. James went on to attend Middlesex County Community College followed by Devry Technical Institute, pursuing a career in Criminal Justice. He later attended New Jersey Police Academy before accepting the position of Head of Security at Meadowland Sports Complex in East Rutherford, NJ followed by Security for Essex County Corrections. He remained in this profession for several years. James had a love and knowledge of ALL sports with a special passion for baseball. He took pride in his health and fitness, always encouraging others to do the same. James had an extra special love for "good music" and "real artist" such as The Temptations, The O'Jays, Commodores and Stylistics. He let you know it with his playful offkey singing.

A TIME TO MOURN

James was preceded in death by his father, Willie Howard and Godmother, Pearl Warren. He leaves to cherish his memories, mother, Eleanor Howard of Greenville, NC; one son, James "JJ" Grimes Jr. of New Jersey; 4 daughters, Shanelle Grimes, Eleanor "Ellie" Grimes-Wansley (Darrin), Tonya Grimes and Kena Grimes-Haines (Dwayne), all of Virginia; 6 siblings, Kathy Howard-Atkins (Willie), Varnell Howard (Edith), Derrick Howard, Deborah Howard-Blount (Lindsey), Dana Howard and Dasheen Howard, all of Greenville, NC; 9 grandchildren; 6 uncles, 7 aunts, 10 nephews, 5 nieces; a host of cousins, family and friends.

A TIME TO DIE

James was called away from his earthly home on August 19, 2021 bringing his spirit to an everlasting peace.

James "Button" will truly be missed.

"For this world is not our permanent home; we are looking forward to a home yet to come."

Hebrews 13:14 NLT

Previous Events

Memorial Service

SEP 11. 1:00 PM (ET)

Mt. Calvary Free Will Baptist Church
411 Watauga Avenue
Greenville, NC 27834

Tribute Wall



“ *View and Download the Funeral Program*

Congleton Memorial Mortuary - September 11, 2021 at 04:28 PM

AM

“ *To my Big brother that will always be with me in my heart. We shared so many memories and healthy conversations, you were my friend and my teacher in so many ways. I love and miss you Button.*

Amin Mohammed - October 18, 2025 at 11:18 PM



“ *Mr. James Earl Grimes*

October 06, 2023 at 05:52 AM

RF

“ *Rev.Milton& Delores Staton Family lit a candle in memory of Mr. James Earl Grimes*



Rev.Milton& Delores Staton Family - September 11, 2021 at 12:19 AM

CD

“ *Catherine Davis lit a candle in memory of Mr. James Earl Grimes*



Catherine Davis - September 11, 2021 at 12:18 AM

RF

“ *Rev.Milton& Delores Staton Family lit a candle in memory of Mr. James Earl Grimes*



Rev.Milton& Delores Staton Family - September 11, 2021 at 12:18 AM

CD

“ *Sending sincere sympathy and prayers that God will comfort you and give you peace in this difficult time. Much love to the family.*

Catherine Davis - September 11, 2021 at 12:16 AM

JA

“ *Juanita Anderson lit a candle in memory of Mr. James Earl Grimes*



Juanita Anderson - September 10, 2021 at 12:16 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Mr. James Earl Grimes.*



September 08, 2021 at 09:37 PM

EH

“ *May God Continue To Comfort And Strengthen
The Family 🙏*



Evangelist Gwen Hudson - September 03, 2021 at 12:15 PM

CS

“ *Congleton Funeral Home and Staff wishes to
express our sincere condolence on the
passing of your love one. We light this candle
in their memory.*



Congleton Funeral Home and Staff - September 02, 2021 at 12:00 PM