



Deacon Leroy James

April 14, 1933 - September 28, 2025

Condolences may be forwarded to: The Family of Deacon Leroy James c/o
Ms. Renee Darden

3321 Stone Bend Drive, Winterville, NC 27834

Leroy James was born on April 14, 1933, to Lawrence and Flossie Simmons James. Raised on a farm in Ahoskie, North Carolina in a close-knit family of twelve, his life was influenced by a love of God, family and community. He was involved with 4 H Club activities as a young man where he was mentored by a local farm agent. Leroy graduated from C. S. Brown High School and went on to attend North Carolina A&T State University where he received his B.S. in Animal Husbandry in 1957 and a masters in Agricultural Education in 1971. He later attended N.C. State University in Raleigh, N.C. working towards his doctorate. It was during his time at North Carolina A&T that Leroy met the love of his life, Bettye. They were married on February 22, 1957, and from their union, they were blessed with one daughter, Wanda. He always stressed the importance of family, and no greater love could be seen than that of his role as devoted husband and father.

Leroy James had a long career in helping others in his community. He worked 31 years in the agricultural extension service of Goldsboro and Greenville N.C. starting in 1958. He was named chairman of the Pitt County Agricultural Extension Service in 1978, where he organized grass root support for farm

programs. He was very active in a myriad of community organizations. Leroy was president of the N.C. Agricultural Agents Association, a trustee for Pitt County Memorial Hospital for 9 years and vice chairman of the board, a Master Mason at Mount Cavalry Lodge 669 in Greenville, a member of Roanoke Consistory 248, Williamston, a member of Rofelt Pasha Temple Shrine 175 in Rocky Mount for over 30 years, a charter member of Fayza Temple Shrine #254 and a life member of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc. beginning in 1987.

Leroy James was a faithful Christian from childhood as a member of Philippi Baptist Church in Cofield, NC and then a member of Sycamore Hill Missionary Baptist Church in Greenville, NC for over sixty years; a Deacon for over fifty years. He was instrumental in securing the land for the present site. When the bank office stated that the congregation couldn't afford a loan for the construction of a new building, it was Deacon James who looked him straight in his eyes and proclaimed, "we've been here over 100 years, how dare you tell me what my God can't do". The banker called Deacon James at sunrise the next day and stated that his words had touched him and he hadn't slept all night. Thus, the loan was approved! Deacon James also negotiated the purchase of extra lots adjacent to the church at a more than reasonable price. Deacon James along with Deacon Sam Hairston with their own sweat and labor, built what is referred to as the picnic shelter in the rear of the church. In 2021, Sycamore Hill Missionary Baptist church bestowed upon Deacon James a Trailblazer award for being hired as the first African American Director of the Pitt County Agricultural extension office. When the church sold the parsonage, it was Deacon Leroy James who made the motion at a congregation meeting to pay off the church mortgage. The motion was approved. Deacon Leroy James was a proud member of the Male chorus, the Men's Fellowship ministry and the Budget committee.

As a lifelong North Carolinian, Leroy was always active in his local community. He created the Pitt County Farmers Market around 1982 when he was approached by farmers in the area that needed a place to sell their produce. In 2015 he was honored by the Pitt County Board of Commissioners, as they named the market he established after him. The Leroy James' Farmer's Market has been in service for nearly 30 years and is now home to over 35 local vendors and serves more than 100,000 customers annually.

Leroy was recognized for his efforts towards improving the daily lives of his fellow Tarheels by receiving The Order of the Long Leaf Pine, the state's highest civilian honor. Leroy received this honor for his proven record of 50 years of extraordinary service to the State of North Carolina. He joined other notable past recipients Dean Smith, Colin Powell, Sidney Poitier, Maya Angelou, Michael Jordan, and Coretta Scott King. Leroy received his prestigious Order of the Long Leaf Pine award in April 2016.

Leroy was the pillar of his family leading with quiet strength and unwavering commitment to his siblings, wife, daughter, nieces, and nephews. His wise advice served as the catalyst for the success of many family members. In the James family, Leroy was known as the brother and uncle who was always sharply dressed; never seen without one of his signature hats. He had a special way of connecting with others—always taking the time to ask how you were doing and genuinely wanting to know what was going on in your life. He was an avid sports fan and loved watching basketball, baseball and football. He was a regular attendee at A&T's Greatest Homecoming on Earth (GHOE) and often went to the CIAA tournament.

Leroy was predeceased by his beloved wife, Bettye Carter James in 2011 and his cherished daughter, Wanda Arlene James in 2022. He was also predeceased by several of his siblings, Percy James, Beulah Hunter, Arthur

James, Helen Wiggins, Sherman James, Clarice Hill, Delilah James, Lawrence James Jr, and Moses James. He is survived by his two sisters, Josephine Rolle and Shirley Reid, along with a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, and cherished friends who will miss him dearly.

Cemetery Details

Homestead Memorial Gardens

4251 E. 10th Street
Greenville, NC 27858

Previous Events

The Wake Service, Masonic & Fraternal Ritual Ceremonies

OCT 3. 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM (ET)

Sycamore Hill Missionary Baptist Church
1001 Hooker Road
Greenville, NC 27834

Celebration of Life Service

OCT 4. 10:00 AM (ET)

Sycamore Hill Missionary Baptist Church
1001 Hooker Road
Greenville, NC 27834

Tribute Wall

CC

“ *Carlton Clemons lit a candle in memory of Deacon Leroy James*



Carlton Clemons - October 04, 2025 at 11:02 PM



“ *Mr James lived down the street from us when I was growing up. He and my father were good friends. I remember being sent to his house with whatever my father wanted him to have. I loved it because I got to ride my bike. Mr. James was always kind, with a twinkle in his eye and an encouraging word or a joke. He was a great man.*

Anita Dickens - October 04, 2025 at 12:28 PM

BW

“ *It was an honor for my ladies to provide care for Mr. Leroy.*

Barbara Williams - October 04, 2025 at 08:51 AM

JL

“ *Ed and Jackie Lewis offer our condolences to the family of Deacon Leroy James. We so enjoyed our time together at A&T State University Homecoming*



Jackie Lewis - October 03, 2025 at 11:31 PM



“ Joyce Purvis lit a candle in memory of Deacon Leroy James



Joyce Purvis - October 03, 2025 at 12:40 PM

RJ

“ Rhonda Grant Jordan lit a candle in memory of Deacon Leroy James



Rhonda Grant Jordan - October 03, 2025 at 11:36 AM

CS

“ Carol Haywood, He Was My Supervisor. lit a candle in memory of Deacon Leroy James



Carol Haywood, he was my supervisor. - October 03, 2025 at 07:55 AM

AH

“ We have beautiful memories of our Deacon and neighbor Leroy James. He was always a wonderful host for community gatherings. We love him. We will miss him and we will never forget him. We light a candle to honor his memory. Alton, Ella, and Amber Harris



Alton Harris - October 02, 2025 at 07:27 PM

HM

“ *Herbert & Yvonne Moye lit a candle in memory of Deacon Leroy James*



Herbert & Yvonne Moye - October 02, 2025 at 03:47 PM

CC

“ *Sending heartfelt, loving condolences to the James family. Uncle Leroy was my favorite uncle. Love, Charmaine Pope Clowney and Alexis Robertson*

Charmaine Pope Clowney - October 02, 2025 at 11:44 AM

CG

“ *Our heartfelt condolences and prayers go out to the James family. Mr Leroy James and his family were longtime neighbors in our neighborhood. He was a man of wisdom, kindness compassion and was a man of his word. He was a big asset to our community and we loved him and his family. dearly. May he rest in peace in his heavenly home.*



*Prayerfully and Lovingly
Carolyn L. Glast
and the Greenfield Terrace Community*

Carolyn L Glast - October 02, 2025 at 08:18 AM

CS

“ Cecily Sene lit a candle in memory of Deacon Leroy James



Cecily Sene - October 01, 2025 at 10:20 PM

CS

“ Cecily Sene lit a candle in memory of Deacon Leroy James



Cecily Sene - October 01, 2025 at 10:12 PM

CJ

“ Colette C Jackson lit a candle in memory of Deacon Leroy James



Colette C Jackson - October 01, 2025 at 07:57 PM

JD

“ Josette L. Daniels lit a candle in memory of Deacon Leroy James



Josette L. Daniels - October 01, 2025 at 07:25 PM

JD

“ Good night, Mr. James. You have truly left an impact on this world and those of us who got to know you . I first met you when Wanda and I were at Saint Gabriel's Catholic School in first grade. Then, the next year, you, Mrs. James and Wanda moved into my neighborhood (Greenfield Terrace). You were such a joy to talk to and see. You always had a smile on your face and something nice to say. Wanda got her personality from you and I have missed her too. Rest well, your mission has been accomplished.

Your former neighbor,
Josette L. Daniels

Josette L. Daniels - October 01, 2025 at 07:23 PM



Anita Dickens - October 04, 2025 at 12:32 PM

AV

“ Leroy was a very wise man. He will be missed.
Ann Vernelson & Greenville Marine

Ann Vernelson - October 01, 2025 at 10:49 AM

MN

“ Mack Andrews & Family Of Oak City NC lit a candle in memory of Deacon Leroy James



Mack Andrews & Family of Oak City NC - October 01, 2025 at 10:38 AM

SC

Rest in Peace Deacon Leroy James And Wonderful Family Friend. We Love You. Mr. Arthur Council and Family 🙏❤️⭐

Stella Council-Mooring - October 02, 2025 at 08:16 AM

LR

My condolences to the jame family LUCILE Roberson and Calvin Roberson 🙏

LUCILE Roberson - October 02, 2025 at 03:20 PM

VJ

“ *Velma Johnson lit a candle in memory of Deacon Leroy James*



Velma Johnson - October 01, 2025 at 10:19 AM

SP

“ *Your wisdom and presence are deeply missed.*
Sarah Pritchard
Sycamore Hill MB Church



Sarah G. Pritchard - September 30, 2025 at 11:57 PM

CC

Sending heartfelt condolences to the James family. Uncle Leroy will be greatly missed. Charmaine Pope Clowney

Charmaine Pope Clowney - October 01, 2025 at 12:48 PM

DP

“ *My condolences to the James family. Rest easy in Paradise Mr. James.*



Donna M Pierce - September 30, 2025 at 10:33 PM

WC

“ *Walter And Mildred Council lit a candle in memory of Deacon Leroy James*



Walter and Mildred Council - September 30, 2025 at 09:48 PM

SM

“ *Stanley and Kim Melvin*



Stanley Melvin - September 30, 2025 at 09:35 PM

LJ

“ On behalf of the Carter-Jones family, we extend our deepest condolences as we remember and celebrate the life of our “Uncle/Cousin Leroy.



His passing marks the close of a life well lived —one rooted in service, dignity, and love for family and community. He exemplified brotherhood, leadership, and compassion in every season of his life.

He now joins his cherished wife, Bettye, and their beloved daughter, Wanda. The depth of their bond was evident to all who knew them, and while their absence is deeply felt, we take comfort in knowing they are reunited in eternal peace.

His legacy lives on in the lives he touched, the values he upheld, and the stories we will continue to share.

May his soul rest in perfect peace, and may his life continue to inspire us to serve, uplift, and love with purpose.

*With heartfelt sympathy,
The Carter-Jones Family*

Laura Carter Jones - September 30, 2025 at 07:57 PM

JE

“ JILL EBRON lit a candle in memory of Deacon Leroy James



JILL EBRON - September 30, 2025 at 06:39 PM

BN

“ *Betty Nurse lit a candle in memory of Deacon Leroy James*



Betty Nurse - September 30, 2025 at 04:59 PM

GH

“ *Gayle Hardy lit a candle in memory of Deacon Leroy James*



Gayle Hardy - September 30, 2025 at 04:07 PM

PL

“ *I always enjoyed talking with Deacon James and loved his sense of humor. Thoughts and prayers are with you family. May Grace and Peace be upon you*



Pamela Little - September 30, 2025 at 12:34 PM

AM

“ *Annette Moore lit a candle in memory of Deacon Leroy James*



Annette Moore - September 30, 2025 at 12:29 PM

AP

“ *Annette Barnes Parker lit a candle in memory of Deacon Leroy James*



Annette Barnes Parker - September 30, 2025 at 10:01 AM

BV

“ *Brenda Vines lit a candle in memory of Deacon Leroy James*



Brenda Vines - September 30, 2025 at 12:23 AM

BW

“ *Ben Wooten lit a candle in memory of Deacon Leroy James*



Ben Wooten - September 30, 2025 at 12:12 AM

JM

“ *Julius & Sharon Mallette lit a candle in memory of Deacon Leroy James*



Julius & Sharon Mallette - September 29, 2025 at 07:53 PM

CR

“ *Cleveland And Denise Rountree-Moore lit a candle in memory of Deacon Leroy James*



Cleveland and Denise Rountree-Moore - September 29, 2025 at 05:54 PM

BW

“ *Mr. Leroy James
Fayza Temple 254*



Bobby and Belinda Wilkins - September 29, 2025 at 01:21 PM

DL

My sincere condolences and prayers for his sister's and brother's.

Dwight Lawler - September 29, 2025 at 07:32 PM

CC

Uncle Leroy was my only uncle. He was married to my mother's sister, Bettye James. I loved him so much. Sending the James family heartfelt condolences.

Charmaine Pope Clowney - September 30, 2025 at 06:01 AM

JE

Our sincere prayers to the family of Deacon James who was an angel without wings. He could lift your spirits with a smile and a kind word. He will be missed.

JILL EBRON - September 30, 2025 at 06:39 PM

BW

“ Our deepest condolences to the James family. 🙏
Bobby and Belinda Wilkins



Bobby and Belinda Wilkins - September 29, 2025 at 01:18 PM

SE

“ Sondra Early sent a virtual gift in memory of Leroy James



Sondra Early - September 29, 2025 at 01:04 PM

MP

“ Michael A. Purvis lit a candle in memory of Deacon Leroy James



Michael A. Purvis - September 29, 2025 at 11:57 AM

EH

“ My Condolences And Prayers Are With The Family 🙏🙏🙏



Evangelist Gwen Hudson - September 29, 2025 at 11:26 AM

AL

“ 3 files added to the album Leroy James



Anthony Lee - September 29, 2025 at 10:34 AM

JS

“ Jeff Savage lit a candle in memory of Deacon Leroy James



Jeff Savage - September 29, 2025 at 09:37 AM

RF

“ We, the family of the late Mth Louise Randolph Joyner, extend our deepest condolences to the James' family. Deacon James was a great and long time friend and family member. We will forever cherish our times and memories. He has truly been on the battlefield for God a long time and has earned a deserved reward of eternal rest. Well done thy good and faithful servant! Well done!

Randolph-Joyner Families - September 28, 2025 at 06:05 PM

RK

“ Deacon James will be missed by the members and friends of the Sycamore Hill Missionary Baptist Church. My prayers go out to the family. Another long-time member has passed through the river of time.

Rev. Joyce King - September 28, 2025 at 05:32 PM

DW

“ *David & Mary Williams lit a candle in memory of Deacon Leroy James*



David & Mary Williams - September 28, 2025 at 02:22 PM

CS

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



Congleton Funeral Home and Staff - September 28, 2025 at 01:46 PM