



## Ms. Deborah Lee James

July 11, 1956 - May 29, 2025

Deborah Lee James, born on July 11, 1956, in Wingo, Kentucky, to Bernice and Dick James, passed away on May 29, 2025, at the age of 68. She was preceded in death by several loved ones, including her parents, her sister Cathy James, and her nephew Michael James.

Deborah James spent her life running the show in retail, retiring after years as the General Manager at Dress Barn, where she ruled with a fierce work ethic that earned respect from everyone who crossed her path. But don't let that tough exterior fool you—Deborah had a heart as big as her personality. Her true legacy wasn't in her job title; it was in the people she loved, especially her son, Tony James.

Deborah was a woman of many passions: Lifetime movies, Court TV, and, of course, Cops. But she wasn't just a TV fanatic – she was a force of nature, and if you couldn't find her shopping with her son or indulging in her favorite shows, you could be sure she was stealing the keys to Tony's truck. No one, not even her little self, could stop her from climbing in and driving off to wherever her heart led. After all, who says you must ask for permission when you're Deborah Lee James?

She was a master of long, spirited conversations, and she had knowledge on just about everything. She thrived on debate and would stir the pot just to get

a rise out of you – because, let's face it, if no one was arguing with her, she'd consider it a wasted opportunity.

Deborah was fiercely devoted to family, and those moments spent together were her finest hours. She had a soft spot for animals, and Prince, her cat, was lucky enough to receive all the cuddles and care she had to give. Cooking, helping others, and making sure everyone around her was well-fed and taken care of was her love language, and she served it up with a side of sass and a dash of humor.

She leaves behind her brother, Carl Wagster, of Georgia; her son, Tony James; grandsons Javonte and Jovon James (wife Ginger); great-grandchildren Adien and Gianna James; nephew Matthew James; great-nieces MiQuesha, Ja'Nassa, Jessie, Amelia, and Jazmyne James; and a large circle of friends and extended family who will miss her deeply.

Deborah made her mark on this world – no one who knew her could forget her boldness, her love, or the way she lived life on her terms. Rest easy, Deborah. You lived loudly, loved fiercely, and showed all of us that the best way to go through life is unapologetically yourself.

In Lieu of flowers, the family request for donations be made to:  
Cumberland County Animal Service  
4704 Corporation Dr. Fayetteville, NC 28306  
910-321-6852

# Previous Events

## Viewing

JUN 6. 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

Colvin Funeral Home Chapel  
2010 Murchison Road  
Fayetteville, NC 28301

## Funeral

JUN 6. 12:00 PM (ET)

Colvin Funeral Home Chapel  
2010 Murchison Road  
Fayetteville, NC 28301

## Burial

JUN 6 (ET)

Cumberland Memorial Gardens  
4509 Raeford Rd  
Fayetteville, NC 28304

# Tribute Wall



“ *Colvin Funeral Homes & Cremations created a Tribute Video in memory of Ms. Deborah Lee James*



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H. M. Colvin Funeral Home - June 04, 2025 at 10:48 AM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Ms. Deborah Lee James.*



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June 05, 2025 at 11:08 AM



“ *A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Ms. Deborah Lee James.*

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June 05, 2025 at 11:08 AM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Ms. Deborah Lee James.*



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June 04, 2025 at 02:58 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Ms. Deborah Lee James.

June 04, 2025 at 02:58 PM



“ Our sincere heartfelt prayers for comfort and strength during this time and in the days to follow for all that were touched by this incredible lady.

**William & Jawanna Hammonds** - June 04, 2025 at 10:36 AM



“ Christy lit a candle in memory of Deborah James



**Christy** - June 03, 2025 at 10:36 PM



“ I will love you forever.

**Christy Thomas** - June 02, 2025 at 04:51 PM



“ Alicia Martin purchased the Enchanted Cottage for the family of Ms. Deborah Lee James.



**Alicia Martin** - June 02, 2025 at 09:14 AM

JJ

“ *Mama James, you will truly be missed and your legacy will last forever thru Tony, Your Grand boys, Great babies, and for generations after. You truly are a saint. We love and miss you!* ”



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**James Hunter jr** - June 01, 2025 at 01:59 PM

MS

“ *Marvin L. Hargrove Sr. lit a candle in memory of Deborah James* ”



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**Marvin L. Hargrove Sr.** - May 31, 2025 at 06:35 PM