



## Mr. James Edward Dobbins

November 29, 1939 - December 26, 2020

Deacon James E. Dobbins, youngest child of the late Thomas and Nettie Dobbins was born on November 29, 1939 in Spring Lake, North Carolina. He was called from his earthly labor on December 26, 2020 at Cape Fear Valley Medical Center, Fayetteville, North Carolina.

James graduated from Anne Chesnutt High School in Fayetteville, NC. After graduating high school, he was employed by Newark Regional Airport. He enlisted into the United States Army and was honorably discharged. His tours of duty included Vietnam and Germany. He continued his military career with the 321st Army Reserve Division and retired after 20 years of combined service.

During his army reserve tenure, he was employed with Life of Georgia Insurance Company followed by a successful 25 year career with Kelly Springfield Tire Company in Fayetteville, NC. Never one to sit around, he worked with the Cumberland County Sheriff's Department as a School Crossing Guard, where his kind, loving, hospitable personality was evident. James met the love of his life, his "sweets", Lillie Ferguson. They fell in love and consummated their love on September 26, 1964 in Thomaston, Georgia. They build their lives together upon moving to Spring Lake/Fayetteville, NC. He rejoined Williams Chapel Freewill Baptist Church where was ordained as a Deacon and Lillie joined the Usher Board. They faithfully served the elderly of the community. They joined St. Jude Missionary Baptist Church under the leadership of Dr. Robert B. Clark, Jr.

James was preceded in death by his siblings: Ernest, David, Thomas, Amos, Edgar, Earl, Patricia, Hattie, Marie, Thelma, Gladys, Lillie and Dorothy. To know him is to love him. That love is shared by his loving and devoted wife of 56 years, Lillie B. Dobbins; his children, Patricia L. (Michael) Coleman of Blair, SC; Erastus Knight and Shannon M. Knight of Fayetteville, NC; six grandsons, Michael Keyon Coleman, Nahsir James Knight, Amir Joshua Knight, Elias JaSai Knight, Elgin Jarell Knight and Erastus Knight, Jr.; one brother, Mayor Larry Dobbins of Spring Lake, NC; sister-in-law, Ethel Smith of Dayton, OH; brother -in-law, Calvin Ferguson of Thomaston, GA; and a host of nieces, nephew, cousins and friends who he shared a unique and special bond.

# Cemetery Details

## Cumberland Memorial Gardens

4509 Raeford Rd  
Fayetteville, NC 28304

# Previous Events

## Viewing

DEC **31**. 3:00 PM - 6:00 PM (ET)

Colvin Funeral Home Chapel  
2010 Murchison Road  
Fayetteville, NC 28311

## Funeral

JAN **1**. 1:00 PM (ET)

Colvin Funeral Home Chapel  
2010 Murchison Road  
Fayetteville, NC 28311

## Burial

JAN **5**. 2:00 PM (ET)

Cumberland Memorial Gardens  
4509 Raeford Rd  
Fayetteville, NC 28304



# Tribute Wall

NA

“ *Nahsir lit a candle in memory of Mr. James Edward Dobbins*



**Nahsir** - February 27, 2021 at 12:57 PM

CF

“ *Charles And Mary Fennell-Williamson lit a candle in memory of Mr. James Edward Dobbins*



**Charles and Mary Fennell-Williamson** - January 06, 2021 at 06:17 PM

AP

“ *Alfonzie & Debra Brown Patterson lit a candle in memory of Mr. James Edward Dobbins*



**Alfonzie & Debra Brown Patterson** - January 02, 2021 at 04:21 PM

RN

“ *Robert & Margaret Thornton, Newark, NJ lit a candle in memory of Mr. James Edward Dobbins*



**Robert & Margaret Thornton, Newark, NJ** - January 02, 2021 at 04:20 PM

MB

“ *Mary F. Brown lit a candle in memory of Mr. James Edward Dobbins*



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**Mary F. Brown** - January 02, 2021 at 04:16 PM

DM

“ *Bro. Dobbins you will be greatly missed. You were always so kind and loving to us. We were truly blessed to be a part of your family.*  
*David and Bonnie McRae*

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**David and Bonnie McRae** - January 02, 2021 at 09:53 AM

CF

“ *Charles And Mary Fennell-Williamson sent a virtual gift in memory of Mr. James Edward Dobbins*



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**Charles and Mary Fennell-Williamson** - January 01, 2021 at 06:55 PM

LS

“ *May your families be granted God's mercy, peace, and comfort during your season of bereavement.*



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**Levetta Gainey Smith** - January 01, 2021 at 06:39 PM



“ *May Grace, Peace and Mercy cover you and the Family at this moment. From the Edna Jones Family*

**Karen Jones** - January 01, 2021 at 01:13 PM



“ *Kimora Smith lit a candle in memory of Mr. James Edward Dobbins*



**Kimora Smith** - January 01, 2021 at 12:55 PM



“ *Robert E McCall sent a virtual gift in memory of Mr. James Edward Dobbins*



**Robert E McCall** - January 01, 2021 at 02:56 AM



“ *Patricia Dobbins-Bryant lit a candle in memory of Mr. James Edward Dobbins*



**Patricia Dobbins-Bryant** - December 31, 2020 at 02:38 PM

KD

“ As kids in this family , we were always taught to walk straight and keep our heads up. We always had that role model... Our Uncle Sonny to make this seem so effortlessly. This world could never imagine the man u were or should i say are. You will always be in my thoughts as well as heart.....luv u always Sugaaaaar !!

**Kemalin Dobbins** - December 31, 2020 at 01:10 PM

NB

“ Neil And Helen Brown lit a candle in memory of Mr. James Edward Dobbins



**Neil and Helen Brown** - December 31, 2020 at 11:04 AM

SP

“ Sam P. purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of Mr. James Edward Dobbins.



**Sam P.** - December 31, 2020 at 10:47 AM

MB

“ *Uncle Sonny loved God and his family and showed it not just in words, but in his actions. To have the love and support of Uncle Sonny and Aunt Belle means the world to me. We love you dearly and will miss you JED, as my mom called you!!!  
Always near and dear to our hearts -  
Love,  
Miki, Mya and Mike*



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**Michelle (Dobbins) Boyd** - December 30, 2020 at 11:59 AM

  
Wilhelmina  
Willingham

“ *We send our sincere sympathy and heartfelt condolences to the entire Dobbins family. We ask God to comfort you all in the days, weeks, months and years to come. We love you all.*

*The Willingham and Coleman Families (Trish's family)*

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**Wilhelmina Willingham** - December 30, 2020 at 11:40 AM

RC

“ *Rev Toddy Brooks & Creeksville AMEZ Chur sent a virtual gift in memory of Mr. James Edward Dobbins*



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**Rev Toddy Brooks & Creeksville AMEZ Chur** - December 30, 2020 at 09:54 AM

MM

“ *Margie McNair Hall & Lillie McNair sent a virtual gift in memory of Mr. James Edward Dobbins*



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**Margie McNair Hall & Lillie McNair** - December 30, 2020 at 09:53 AM

AF

“ *Audrey Elliott & Family sent a virtual gift in memory of Mr. James Edward Dobbins*



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**Audrey Elliott & Family** - December 30, 2020 at 09:51 AM

KR

“ *My fav.....Uncle James! Really going to miss this man and our 3 to 4 times a week phone conversations. So blessed to have had you in my life. Just an all around great man.....loved GOD, his family and everyone who crossed his path. Take your well deserved rest.....until we meet again. Always and Forever your "DC".*



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**Karen Ferguson Raines** - December 30, 2020 at 09:47 AM

DC

*Mrs. Dobbins, you have my deepest sympathy at the lost of your dear James. I will never forget both of you.*

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**Delois Cole** - December 31, 2020 at 02:55 PM

FF

“ *From the Cheney Family purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Mr. James Edward Dobbins.*



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**From the Cheney Family** - December 30, 2020 at 07:23 AM

WC

“ *Mr. Dobbins was a great friend and neighbor who will be truly missed in the community. He loved his God, his family, his church and everyone else. He left a great spiritual legacy for those who remain by always honoring God in always doing what was right. I could always look to him for advice and information when I needed it. Truly a man among men. Take your rest Mr. Dobbins, this is not good-bye but farewell because we will see you later. Prayers go out to the family and I encourage you all to look unto the hill from whence cometh your help, because it comes from the Lord who made heaven and earth...*

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**William Cheney** - December 30, 2020 at 07:17 AM

MM

“ *My sincere condolences to the Dobbins family. James and I were members of the class of 1959 at Anne Chesnutt High School. We remained friends over the years because he and his family lived in the same neighborhood as my family. I pray that God gives the family strength during this trying time.*

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**Marian McPherson McLean** - December 29, 2020 at 11:09 PM

CC

“ Our love and prayers are for Pastor Larry Dobbins and the Dobbins family during this time of sorrow. May the peace of God that passes all understanding keep you and sustain you.



*The Presiding Elders, Pastors, Clergy, Laity, & Congregations  
The Central North Carolina Conference  
The African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church  
Raleigh NC  
Bishop & Mrs. Kenneth & Shelia Monroe, Episcopal Servants*

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**Central NC Conference** - December 29, 2020 at 10:26 PM

KS

“ Katrina Simmons lit a candle in memory of Mr. James Edward Dobbins



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**Katrina Simmons** - December 29, 2020 at 08:39 PM

NK

“ My Right Hand Man .. 4L



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**Nahsir Knight-Bell** - December 29, 2020 at 06:58 PM

KR

Yes!

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**Karen Ferguson Raines** - December 30, 2020 at 09:49 AM

MB

*You made him proud Nahsir!*

Michelle (Dobbins) Boyd - December 30, 2020 at 11:45 AM

NK

“ *Nahsir Knight-Bell lit a candle in memory of Mr. James Edward Dobbins*



Nahsir Knight-Bell - December 29, 2020 at 06:55 PM

RD

“ *Randel & Marie Dobbins sent a virtual gift in memory of Mr. James Edward Dobbins*



Randel & Marie Dobbins - December 29, 2020 at 05:03 PM

RD

“ *RANDEL H. DOBBINS lit a candle in memory of Mr. James Edward Dobbins*



RANDEL H. DOBBINS - December 29, 2020 at 04:55 PM

JW

“ *Cousin James will be missed...he was the greatest support of Dobbins Reunions(66 years)*  
*Joyce Smith Wall*



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**Joyce Smith Wall** - December 29, 2020 at 02:50 PM

MS

“ *Mike And Margie Snow lit a candle in memory of Mr. James Edward Dobbins*



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**Mike and Margie Snow** - December 29, 2020 at 02:39 PM

CE

“ *Praying for peace and strength...*  
*Cassandra Evans*



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**Cassandra Evans** - December 29, 2020 at 02:25 PM

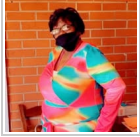
WS

“ *Wilmer, Charlene & Paula Smith lit a candle in memory of Mr. James Edward Dobbins*



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**Wilmer, Charlene & Paula Smith** - December 29, 2020 at 12:34 PM



“ *Uncle Sunny was a powerful man of God I'm truly gonna miss you  
unk I thank God for the life you lived  
You was the matriarch of the Dobbins family to be absent from the  
body is to be present with the lord  
You was a great man of integrity.  
Always helping other people in the community  
Continue to fly high in paradise until we meet again  
the dobbins legacy will carry on  
because we are dobbins strong  
my uncle Sunny was a person who loved his family and every body  
no matter if you was wrong or right  
Auntie bell I love you and my family*

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**Andrea Dobbins** - December 29, 2020 at 11:36 AM