



Corporal James Harold Gist Jr.

August 31, 1949 - April 30, 2025

James Harold (Big Jim) Gist Jr., loving son of the late James Harold Gist Sr. and Mary Gist was born August 31st, 1949, in Fort Knox Kentucky. He was the fourth born of 9 children, Leroy, WillaMae, Bertha, Billy, Mary Ann, David, Michael & the youngest Kathy. He was a US Marines veteran and served 2 tours of duty in the Vietnam war in 1970 & 1971 where he was awarded several commendations for bravery and valor. Upon returning home from the war James continued with his 1st passion which was singing, as one of the founding members of the 1960's and 70's R&B group The TnJ's out of Trenton NJ, which consisted of lead vocalist Elijah (EJ) Jones, Joe Anderson, Barry Higginbotham, Al Stroman & Greg Jamerson. The group had regional success with songs such as "She's not Ready", "Do Gooder's", "Don't you worry about Me", & "Falling in Love" Produced by Bunny Sigler, who produced such acts as Patti Label, The O'Jays, Lou Rawls and The Whispers just to name a

few. The groups musicians included Raymond Earl (bass) Scottie Miller (drums) Kim Miller (lead guitar) and in later years his youngest brother Michael (Hootie) Gist joined the group on (percussions). Sigler later split the musicians who then formed the band "Instant Funk" they had a #1 hit single "I Got my Mind Made Up" in 1979 on Salsoul Records. After years of traveling and performing James decided to take a break from the spotlight and returned to his hometown of Trenton, NJ where he worked at Mercer Hospital for 10 years before moving to, and settling in Fayetteville NC, in 2013. James took that same passion and love that he had for music and applied it to his professional career at Cumberland County Dept. of Social Services where he was adored by his co-workers. This is also where he was introduced to his lovely wife Tracy, whom he met in 2014. After a year of dating, they decided to jump the broom, and they were married on April 25th, 2015.

He departs this life, but his memory lives on, and his spirit is etched in the hearts of the following who mourn his passing; His loving wife of 10 years Tracy Gist, sons Terence Reed of Phoenix AZ & Anthony Branch of Clayton NC, his daughter Nakia Roberson of Atlanta GA, son-in-Laws, Korey (Big Oomp) Roberson of Atlanta GA and Kyle Thomas of Clayton NC, Grand- children Taj Reed of Brooklyn NY, Nakoreya Roberson, Narie

Roberson, and

Korey Brandon James Roberson all of Atlanta GA also a Great Grandson

Noah Brown

Roberson. His surviving siblings, brothers Billy and Michael Gist, sisters Willa Mae Henry &

Kathy Gist of Trenton NJ, sister-in-law Margaret Gist of Trenton NJ, nephews Ronald

Patman, Thomas, Robert and Gale Roy Gist, niece Detta Williams & her husband Kevin

Williams, nieces Valerie Carter, Joyce Carter & Kemba Gist, Tondalaia Huger & Toni Gist of

Trenton, NJ. His bonus children, Rudolph Robinson of Atlanta GA, Aubrea Green &

husband Tony Green of Virginia Beach VA, Troy Shackelford of Fayetteville NC, a host of

great nieces & nephews, extended family members and close friends. And last, but

certainly not least, his loyal pet Pomeranian/Shitzu "Curtis."

Previous Events

Viewing

MAY 10. 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM (ET)

Colvin Funeral Home Chapel
2010 Murchison Road
Fayetteville, NC 28301

Funeral

MAY 10. 3:00 PM (ET)

Colvin Funeral Home Chapel
2010 Murchison Road
Fayetteville, NC 28301

Livestreaming

MAY 10. 3:00 PM (ET)

Facebook: Colvin Funeral Home and Crematory-Fayetteville & Lumberton
<https://www.facebook.com/ColvinFuneralHomeCORP/>

Burial

JUN 6. 2:00 PM (ET)

Sandhills State Veterans Cemetery
8220 Bragg Blvd
Spring Lake, NC 28390

Tribute Wall



“ *Colvin Funeral Homes & Cremations created a Tribute Video in memory of Corporal James Harold Gist Jr.* ”



H. M. Colvin Funeral Home - May 08, 2025 at 03:19 PM



“ *Collette Gunther lit a candle in memory of James Gist* ”



Collette Gunther - May 10, 2025 at 02:56 PM



“ *Chelsea Blanton sent a virtual gift in memory of James Gist* ”



Chelsea Blanton - May 10, 2025 at 12:41 PM

KM

“ Kira McNeill lit a candle in memory of James Gist



Kira McNeill - May 10, 2025 at 11:21 AM

BD

“ The staff and management of Cumberland County Department of Social Services extend our heartfelt sympathy to Tracy and the Gist Family. James was an awesome employee, mentor and friend. His presence is felt and so dearly missed.



Brenda Reid Jackson, CCDSS Director - May 09, 2025 at 06:52 PM

BF

“ Beofra Manning and BGR! Fayetteville planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Corporal James Harold Gist Jr..

Beofra Manning and BGR! Fayetteville - May 09, 2025 at 03:48 PM

BF

“ Beofra Manning and BGR! Fayetteville purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Corporal James Harold Gist Jr..



Beofra Manning and BGR! Fayetteville - May 09, 2025 at 03:48 PM

MM

“ *Mr. James was such a nice soul, and he will be missed greatly. My prayers and deepest condolences to the entire family. May you all be surrounded by God's spirit of strength, comfort, and peace throughout this difficult time.*

Blessings,

Monica Melvin

Monica Melvin - May 09, 2025 at 03:35 PM

SJ

“ *Shontae J lit a candle in memory of James Gist*



Shontae J - May 09, 2025 at 02:53 PM

CC

“ *Mr James I will always remember you and keep you and your family in my heart. I'm going to miss you but I'll keep on using everything you taught me here at CCDSS. MAY GOD KEEP YOU ALWAYS UNTIL WE MEET AGAIN YOU WILL LIVE ON IN MY HEART.*



Christopher Cummings - May 09, 2025 at 02:51 PM



“ I'll always remember Mr. Gist and Ms. Autry assisting me after hours with a flat tire. My husband was all the way in Sampson county, and they were there with me until he came. They helped me get enough air in my tire to make it to the gas station. I had to give them recognition for that. It meant so much to me. Mr. Gist you'll definitely be missed. Mrs. Gist, you and your family are in my prayers!



K - May 09, 2025 at 02:41 PM



“ Mr. James always took care of us at DSS. He will be truly missed by us. He was patient with us and never rushed us. We could always count on him and we will truly miss him. I pray that God guide you are your family during time. Sending Prayers from Bobby & Stephanie Huey



Stephanie Huey - May 09, 2025 at 01:48 PM



“ Your FNS Redetermination Family purchased the Heavenly and Harmony for the family of Corporal James Harold Gist Jr..



Your FNS Redetermination Family - May 09, 2025 at 12:28 PM

BK

“ *Mr. James was an amazing individual I was grateful to experience during my time at DSS. He will be missed greatly.*



Bria Kinard - May 09, 2025 at 10:54 AM

MB

“ *I am going to miss my friend. Jaime...Wheezy...and Your Jaime-ness...all the nicknames I had for you, will remain forever in my heart, along with the memories of your friendship and kindness. My heart is broken. A piece of you is embedded in every wall of the DSS agency. This place will never be the same. I will miss harmonizing with you and sharing snacks and hilarious jokes about the red carpet and pomp and circumstance.*



Enjoy the beautiful presence of our Saviour and please say hello to my daddy for me. Until we meet...

Pinkies up and Tippy-Toes, my friend.

Maritza Burgos - May 09, 2025 at 09:14 AM



“ *A grove of 3 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Corporal James Harold Gist Jr..*

May 09, 2025 at 12:04 AM

TM

“ Mr. James was such a nice man. We used to briefly “chit chat” from time to time when I worked at DSS. I always enjoyed our conversations. He just seemed to like everyone. My condolences to his family and friends. He will be greatly missed.
Terri Morton

Terri Morton - May 08, 2025 at 05:34 PM

LB

“ Love, Dr. Anthony Branch purchased the Sentiments of Serenity Spray for the family of Corporal James Harold Gist Jr..



Love, Dr. Anthony Branch - May 08, 2025 at 04:50 PM

LB

“ Love, Dr. Anthony Branch planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Corporal James Harold Gist Jr..

Love, Dr. Anthony Branch - May 08, 2025 at 04:50 PM

CC

“ Condolences to the family.
James was a fixture during my time at DSS. He was always calm, collected and kind. Always had time for a greeting and chat. Just a true gentleman. Hardworking and helpful. But, I will never forget when I first saw him sing at a DSS event. Oh my word! He had the voice of an angel! And now he has joined the chorus of the angels, I am honored to have called him friend. Chris Carr

Chris Carr - May 08, 2025 at 03:14 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Corporal James Harold Gist Jr..*



May 08, 2025 at 10:29 AM



“ *Dear Family.*

I was deeply saddened to learn of his passing. Please know that I share your burden of grief immensely. James (Big Jim) was like a Brother in my family. I've known him since the early 60s. His passion for music was shared with all 3 of my Brothers as they performed in various singing groups throughout his life while living in Trenton. His strength was always exhibited by his quiet nature and positive vibe.

Once again, I am deeply saddened because I always looked forward to seeing him again. He will be profoundly missed and remembered by all who worked with him, performed with him, knew him and loved him..... I pray the God will bless you by filling the void of his absence with precious memories and his everlasting spirit.

Rest in Peace Big Jim for God needed another Tenor for his Celestial Choir.

*With Deepest Sympathy
Paul M. Jones*

Paul M. Jones - May 08, 2025 at 10:28 AM

PJ

Correction:

Dear Family.

I was deeply saddened to learn of his passing. Please know that I share your burden of grief immensely. James (Big Jim) was like a Brother in my family. I've known him since the early 60s. His passion for music was shared with all 3 of my Brothers as they performed in various singing groups throughout his life while living in Trenton. His strength was always exhibited by his quiet nature and positive vibe. Once again, I am deeply saddened because I always looked forward to seeing him again. He will be profoundly missed and remembered by all who worked with him, performed with him, knew him and loved him..... I pray that God will bless you by filling the void of his absence with precious memories and his everlasting spirit.

Rest in Peace Big Jim for God needed another Tenor for his Celestial Choir.

*With Deepest Sympathy
Paul M. Jones*

Paul M. Jones - May 08, 2025 at 03:20 PM

TI

“ Tionna lit a candle in memory of James Gist



Tionna - May 08, 2025 at 09:21 AM

AB

“ Mr. James, you will truly be missed 🙏..until we meet again 🙏

Alissa Brashear - May 07, 2025 at 10:27 PM

Q1

“ Queen 15 lit a candle in memory of James Gist



Queen 15 - May 07, 2025 at 06:32 PM

Q2

“ Queen 25 lit a candle in memory of James Gist



Queen 25 - May 07, 2025 at 06:31 PM

R(

“ Reese (28) lit a candle in memory of Corporal James Harold Gist Jr.



Reese (28) - May 07, 2025 at 01:41 PM

KD

“ Kashina Dobbins lit a candle in memory of Corporal James Harold Gist Jr.



Kashina Dobbins - May 07, 2025 at 10:05 AM

BS

“ *Beatrice Stanciel lit a candle in memory of James Gist*



Beatrice Stanciel - May 07, 2025 at 06:38 AM

DC

“ *Tracy, Terence "Tee", Nakia & Family*

Family you have our deepest sympathy; Tracy for the loss of your husband & Tee and Nakia for the loss of your father. Death is something inevitable. Nothing we can say will take away the pain you're experiencing. Just want you to know that we care about you and share in your sadness.



"My Uncle Junior's life was a blessing and his memory a treasure, he was so loved beyond words and he will be missed beyond measure."

Two of the hardest things to say in life are "Hello" for the first time and "Goodbye" for the last time. S.I.P. Uncle Junior

"Earth has no sorrow that heaven cannot heal." 🙏💔🙏

Love Detta, Kevin, Willa Mae, Val, Joyci & Family

Detta Carter-Williams - May 06, 2025 at 09:54 PM

WS

“ Wendy Spruill lit a candle in memory of James Gist



Wendy Spruill - May 06, 2025 at 08:58 PM

EL

“ Erica L lit a candle in memory of James Gist



Erica L - May 06, 2025 at 07:52 PM



“ Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Corporal James Harold Gist Jr..



May 06, 2025 at 07:40 PM

LH

“ Loutoria Hendricks lit a candle in memory of James Gist



Loutoria Hendricks - May 06, 2025 at 01:42 PM

TF

“ *terry fischetto lit a candle in memory of James Gist*



terry fischetto - May 06, 2025 at 11:13 AM

CB

Mr. James you will be very missed my condolences to your family such a huge loss

Cecilia Brito - May 06, 2025 at 05:47 PM

KN

“ *Tracy,*

You and your family are in our thoughts as you grieve this loss. Sending you all our love, all the strength, all the hugs and prayers.

Love The Newsome Family

Krystle Newsome - May 06, 2025 at 10:41 AM

LC

“ *Tracy and family*

So sorry to hear about Mr. James. He was a kind and courteous soul. My condolences and prayers.

Lisa Chance

Lisa Chance - May 06, 2025 at 09:06 AM

AW

“ *Andreya Williams lit a candle in memory of James Gist*



Andreya Williams - May 06, 2025 at 08:55 AM

CU

“ *Children's Services PA Unit purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Corporal James Harold Gist Jr..*



Children's Services PA Unit - May 06, 2025 at 06:36 AM

EG

“ *Ebony Green lit a candle in memory of James Gist*



Ebony Green - May 05, 2025 at 10:48 PM

MI

“ *Michelle lit a candle in memory of James Gist*



Michelle - May 05, 2025 at 02:56 PM

SD

“ Tracy,
You and your family are truly in my prayers.
Mr. James will be deeply missed. I'll never
forget his warm smile and the bright, uplifting
energy he brought to work every single day.
Singing with him is a memory I will always treasure, and he truly
had the voice of an angel. This is such a heartbreaking loss, and it
feels like a strong link in our chain has been broken. Please know
that I'm thinking of you and lifting you up in prayer during this time of
sorrow.



With deepest sympathy,
Sherry Dawson-Williams

Sherry Queen Dawson-Williams - May 05, 2025 at 02:56 PM

SJ

For the Gist Family ~My Sincere Condolences... 🙏
Junie was TRULY A GEM of a person...

Sherry Jones - May 07, 2025 at 10:37 AM

SO

“ Tracy,
My heart goes out to you for the loss of your
dear husband.
I cannot imagine the pain and heartache
you're feeling. I am praying for your peace
and comfort. Be kind and gentle with yourself. May all your
wonderful memories comfort you during this heartbreaking time.



Sue Ogas - May 05, 2025 at 02:55 PM

AW

“ RIP Mr. J. God always knows best, even when our hearts are breaking. Tracy, you have all my love and comforting words, stand strong thru the storm, and you will be together again someday.

Ally Worthy - May 05, 2025 at 02:30 PM

AW

“ Ally Worthy lit a candle in memory of James Gist



Ally Worthy - May 05, 2025 at 02:27 PM

DE

“ DeSandra sent a virtual gift in memory of James Gist



DeSandra - May 05, 2025 at 01:36 PM