



Mr. James Kenard

August 21, 1941 - January 16, 2021

In Loving Memory Of:

James Kennard, Sr.'s journey began and his heart started to beat on Wednesday, August 21, 1941 in Forkland, Alabama in the Warrior Swamp Community, when the midwife announced, "You have a beautiful, bouncing Baby Boy." James was the fifth (5th) of thirteen (13) born to the union of his parents, the late Abraham and Mary Lou Kennard.

James was extremely caring and committed to helping his family as times were hard financially. James was educated in the Greene County School System. He had many friends and was very outspoken. James decided to forego his last year of high school so that he could get a job and help his father take care of the struggling family.

James gave his life to Jesus Christ at a very early age and joined the New Green Oak Baptist Church where he served faithfully in the Sunday School and Morning Worship Services. James was ordained a Deacon at the New Green Oak Baptist Church in 1965 alongside his brother Abraham-under the pastorate of the late Rev. E.D. Bates. To this day, his name (James Kennard, Sr.) remains on the church's cornerstone.

When James left high school, he was immediately hired at Taylor Veneer Mill in Demopolis, Alabama. James saved his money and soon invested the first car for the family a 1958 Ford. James would drive his siblings to Demopolis on Saturdays and enjoy barbeque sandwiches from Mr. Charlie Braxton Restaurant.

James married Glenda Ruth Banks and to this union, his only son, James Kennard Jr, (Puncho) was born. In 1966, James and his family-along with his brother Judge and his family moved to Detroit Michigan. James worked at Awrey bakery until he was hired at Ford Motor Company. James united with the Greater Southern Missionary Baptist Church under the pastorate of Rev. Thomas Saulsberry. He was active on the Deacon Board, as well as the Male Chorus. He loved the Lord. He was the Praying Deacon and could light up the church with his prayers. One of his favorite songs was, "Down through the years, The Lord has been good to me."

Years later, James united in matrimony to Emma Anderson on June 9, 1984. James loved family gatherings. He was the ICON of his family. He always talked the loudest, bragged the most, danced the longest and told the most jokes. James was a gardener and could grow the best collard greens and tomatoes. His family and friends looked forward to eating his delicious fried turkeys, catfish, barbecue chicken and ribs. He loved hunting.

James was a faithful member of the Detroit Chapter of the GC Club. He held several offices there including Vice President. He really enjoyed traveling with the club and again had the spotlight and the loudest mouth.

He retired from Ford Motor Company after 39 years of service. Out of the 39 years James was so committed to Ford that he only missed five days of work. During his last Sunday Morning Worship Services Zoom Meeting Call at the beginning of this year in January of 2021 with his brother, Rev. Dr. John Kennard, James told us all, "I'm Holding On. I'm Still Holding On." His prayers would always be for his family, "Lord keep us together, let us be so close that one can't hurt without the other one hurting; one can't fall without the other one falling."

James rejoiced as he met his Savior, Jesus Christ, face to face on Saturday, January 16, 2021.

Previous Events

Family Hour

Monday, Jan. **25**. 12:00 PM - 12:30 PM (ET)

Detroit World Outreach
23800 W Chicago
Redford Charter Twp, MI 48239
(313) 255-2222

Funeral Service

Monday, Jan. **25**. 12:30 PM (ET)

Detroit World Outreach
23800 W Chicago
Redford Charter Twp, MI 48239
(313) 255-2222

Tribute Wall



“ *Mr. James Kenard*

January 21, 2023 at 09:34 PM



“ *Condolences and heartfelt sympathy extended to the entire family. Joann and I are uplifting up his Loving wife Emma, his Son James Jr. and the entire family and his many friends up in prayer. James was a dear friend and brother in law and a very close family friend especially to my brothers and sisters.*

Well done our brother James Kennard, we're pleased and God is pleased with you. 🕊️🕊️🕊️

Tommy & Joann Green

Tommy Green - January 25, 2021 at 11:58 AM



“ *To the Kenard Family. You have our Deepest Sympathy. May the good Lord give you the strength that you need in a time like this. I know you Love James But God Loved him Best. We will be keeping the family uplifted in our prayers. Lee Anna & Lekeysha Byrd*

Lee Anna Byrd - January 25, 2021 at 08:44 AM



You have are deepest sympathy James was a good friend and Co-worker. Rest my friend

Gerald Ware - January 25, 2021 at 10:48 AM

LB

“ To the Kenard family you have our Deepest Sympathy. May the good Lord give you the strength that you need in a time like this. I know you Love James But God Loved Him Best. We will be keeping you uplifted in our prayers.
Lee Anna & Lekeysha Byrd

Lee Anna Byrd - January 24, 2021 at 07:35 PM



“ I BLESS the name of Jesus for allowing me to cross paths with such a fine man as Deacon James Kenard. Whenever I saw him at Greater Southern or the Green County Scholarship Dinner, he always had a good word and a smile. He will be missed for the kindness he showed in this world. May God continue to comfort and bless his family. Carol Nevels Fleming

Carol Fleming - January 24, 2021 at 02:48 PM

WW

“ To the Kenard Family,
Weeping may endure in the night but joy cometh in the morning. We are praying strength and Comfort to you. Love Deacon & Sis. Willie Williams

Will Williams - January 24, 2021 at 02:12 PM

ON

“ Kennard family whenever grief tries to steal the beauty of your memories just remember LOVE NEVER DIES Ola Mae Nixon & family

ola mae nixon - January 24, 2021 at 01:29 AM

RW

“ *My Dear Brother,
My heart is broken-but not just my heart-the hearts of all of us who loved you so much. You were everything to our family. You looked out after us-when we had such hard times as a family. Mom and Dad could always count on you and so could you other 11 brothers and sisters. You never forgot about your family. Your smile could just light up a room!*

The best times ever was when you would come back home to Forkland to see us and we were all together. You were always the loudest, the most fun and you had a way to make Mommy stop fussing-you would pick her her and carry her around the house! That was so funny and it always worked!!

When Mom and Dad passed away, you became the leader of our family and what a leader you were! Our Family Icon, the center of it all-that is who you were to us. Thank you God for giving us such a kind, caring, dedicated brother.

Thank you Brother for always loving us, keeping us with all 11 of us and most of all- always praying for us. No one could pray like you.

Weeping may endure for a night-but joy cometh in the morning. So for now, Good Night my Sweet Brother, Good Night- Good Night- I will see you in the morning.

Sadly Submitted , Your Sister, "Rose Marie" (Number 12-the knee baby) Akron, Ohio

Rosie K. Williams - January 23, 2021 at 05:09 PM

RM

“ My memory with James Kenard is from the time when we both lived in Forkland, Alabama. We attended school, we hunted, and he was one of my closest friends back then. On behalf of the Miles family I would like send our deepest heartfelt condolences to your family. May you Rest In Peace my dear friend.

Sincerely,
Richard Miles, JR.
January 23, 2021

Richard Miles - January 23, 2021 at 02:03 PM

RK

“ I am so much going to miss the wonderful Blessed Deacon James Kenard. He was such a compassionate and loving man who always helped when and where he was needed at Greater Southern.or in his neighborhood. We all will miss the fried turkeys and fish that was always his tasty treat at whatever function we were having. His joy and laughter will truly be missed.



Rachelle Kelly

Rachelle Kelly - January 23, 2021 at 08:51 AM

JS

“ A beautiful soul, who always checked on my daughter and me after my husband passed. May he rest In Peace. Joyce & Kimberley Smith

Joyce Smith - January 22, 2021 at 05:44 PM

CK

“ *It is hard to say good-bye to Papa. He always said I was his favorite daughter which we laughed because I was his only daughter (by marriage) but he would never say daughter n law.*

If anyone fussed at him about anything he would call and tell me and I would tell him don't worry I will take care of them for you. There was nothing he wouldn't do for me and vice versa.

My heart is sad but Heaven is rejoicing because they have a Great Man of God who could pray like no other!!! I Love you Papa , Cheryl

Cheryl Kennard - January 22, 2021 at 11:38 AM

MR

“ *How Do We Say Good-Bye
To Our Beloved Brother
Who Stood Out In A Crowd
He Was Like No Other.*

*His Smile Was Genuine
His Laughter Was So Loud
His Head Hung High
His Walk Was Always Proud*

*Our Mother and Father
Designed You, James With So Much Love
Now You Must Leave Us Down Here
To Join Them In Heaven Up Above.*

*I Will Never Be The Same
For Each Day All I Do Is Cry.
It Hurts My Heart That You Are Gone
And I Do Not Know How To Say Good-Bye.*

*Lovingly Submitted,
Your Baby Sister; Number 13; Pat - Mollie Kennard-Rowe
Eutaw, Alabama*

Mollie Rowe - January 22, 2021 at 09:20 AM



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



January 22, 2021 at 08:35 AM

GF

“ Greater Southern Baptist Church Family purchased the Sentiments of Serenity Spray for the family of Mr. James Kenard.



Greater Southern Baptist Church Family - January 20, 2021 at 08:48 PM

SM

“ My Dear Family,
I am so sorry for the loss of Cousin James. We all grew up together down home. He was just a couple of years older than me. May his memory be a blessing to all of you. God be with you!



Sam McAlpine - January 20, 2021 at 07:38 PM

MM

“ I remember my Cousin James would attend the Alabama Civic and Social Club every year in August. It was certainly a time that I looked forward to seeing and speaking to him. He was a serious talker and had some Ol' Bama stories to tell.

My prayer is that his Family will find comfort in knowing that your McAlpine Cousins from Greene County share your grief. We will always be here for all of you.

Mary H. McAlpine, Wilmington, CA
Daughter of Ceola McAlpine
Mary Lou Kenard's Niece



Mary McAlpine - January 20, 2021 at 07:34 PM

EF

“ Remembering the family in heartfelt prayer. May the peace of God guard your hearts. Truly sorry for your loss.

Evans family - January 20, 2021 at 04:59 AM

CM

“ Condolences to the Kennard family on the passing of their loved one, Mr. James Kennard. May God continue to keep you uplifted during this time of sorrow.
Wilson Miller Family.

Christine Miller - January 19, 2021 at 08:15 PM

CM

“ Christine Miller lit a candle in memory of Mr. James Kenard



Christine Miller - January 19, 2021 at 08:11 PM

SW

“ Sandra Williams lit a candle in memory of Mr. James Kenard



sandra williams - January 19, 2021 at 05:03 PM

BG

i will miss a true leader Ben Green and family

Ben Green - January 22, 2021 at 07:45 PM

FK

I will miss my lively brother-in-law, James Kennard. He was a born leader who kept me laughing at his funny jokes. Sleep on brother. I'll see you in the morning. Flora Kennard

flora kennard - January 23, 2021 at 06:01 PM

AK

*My Brother James,
I always looked forward to you bringing me a gift of love and peace during your visit South. RIP from all trials and tribulations. I know I will see you again when morning comes.
Brother Abraham*

Abraham Kennard - January 23, 2021 at 06:03 PM

AM

My condolence James Kennard family stay strong!! All through years look forward to see him at the Alabama Club event in August. He would touch on my shoulder and to say hello little old Moore with that warm smile. James you will be truly missed. Rest soldier remember you come home to Old Greene Baptist and praying when I was child. Great memories!!

Abbie Mays - January 25, 2021 at 10:58 AM