



Mr. James Parker, Jr.

July 2, 1931 - September 16, 2025

James Parker Jr. was born on July 2, 1931, in Detroit, Michigan, to James Parker (also known as Caleb Cody) and Rose B. (Williams) Parker. Following the early passing of his father, James was lovingly raised by Thomas Kelly. He was preceded in death by his loving siblings, Donald W. Parker and Anna Pearl Thomas, as well as his beloved son, Keith James Parker.

James was baptized at Pleasant Grove Baptist Church where he became a dedicated member. His faith was quiet yet steadfast, and he began each day reading the Word. James was a doer of the Word, exhibiting the character of God through his love for his family and generosity to others.

He attended Pershing High School and later served honorably in the U.S. Air Force as a military police officer during the Korean War. During his service, he met the love of his life, Ruth Beatty. James and Ruth were happily married for 68 years until her passing, just ten months ago. To their union, three children were born: Cheryl Taylor, and twins Fran and Pam Parker. He was the proud grandfather of Chanel Taylor. James delighted in spoiling all his girls, often declaring with pride, "I wouldn't trade my daughters for nothing in the world."

Following his military service, he went on to work at General Motors, retiring after 30 years. Alongside his fulltime job, James earned his barber's license and operated a barbershop where he became known as the barber for both

the Krainz Woods community and his extended family. His strong work ethic began in his youth as a paperboy with a route through Detroit's historic Black Bottom neighborhood. A natural athlete in his youth, he boxed and played baseball.

James and Ruth shared a love for travel, making memories around the world. At home, James found joy in life's simple pleasures - listening to jazz music, watching sports, and tending to his backyard. James maintained a beautiful rose garden in honor of his mother, often sharing bouquets with family and neighbors. He took great pride in keeping his lawn immaculate (nobody on Dean street would dare step on Mr. Parker's lawn)! He was an excellent cook and his family loved to enjoy his berry cobbler.

James was an old-school gentleman and devoted family man, carrying himself with quiet dignity and dapper style. He was soft-spoken, rarely raising his voice yet his laughter filled the room. When James spoke, he meant what he said or as he would put it, "business was gone pick up."

Even in illness, James never complained. Though his memory faded, he greeted each morning with a smile, maintaining his sweet, gentle spirit that Alzheimer's could not diminish.

James transitioned peacefully on September 16, 2025 surrounded by his loving family. He leaves to cherish his memory, daughters Cheryl (Anthony) Taylor, Fran Parker, and Pam Parker; granddaughter Chanel Taylor; a host of nieces, nephews, extended family, and longtime friends, Betty Etters and Marguerite Brooks. Special thanks to caregiver Freda Perry.

James will forever be remembered as a man of quiet strength, tender nurturing, and complete devotion to his family.

Cemetery Details

Detroit Memorial Park East

4280 East 13 Mile Road
Warren, MI 48092

Previous Events

Visitation

Friday, Sep. **26**. 3:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

O. H. Pye, III Funeral Home
17600 Plymouth Road
Detroit, MI 48227
(313) 838-9770
info@pyefuneralhome.com

Family Hour / Visitation

Saturday, Sep. **27**. 10:30 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Pleasant Grove Missionary Baptist Church
13651 Dequindre
Detroit, MI 48212

Celebration of Life

Saturday, Sep. **27**. 11:00 AM - 12:30 PM (ET)

Pleasant Grove Missionary Baptist Church
13651 Dequindre
Detroit, MI 48212

Tribute Wall

TK

“ *May God bring you comfort & peace as only He can during this difficult time. You all are in my thoughts and prayers. Thelma Kimber*



Thelma Kimber - September 26, 2025 at 09:39 PM

KO

“ *Karen O. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mr. James Parker, Jr..*

Karen O. - September 26, 2025 at 10:07 AM

SD

“ *Shirley Dismuke lit a candle in memory of James Parker, Jr.*



Shirley Dismuke - September 25, 2025 at 03:41 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Mr. James Parker, Jr..*



September 22, 2025 at 05:03 PM

MA

“ Heartfelt Condolences To James Parker Jr. family: James will be in your Hearts Forever. He will be Remembered and Truly Missed by all family and friends who knew and loved him. May the God of all Comfort be with your family at this Difficult time: 2Cor 1:3,4 and Rev 21:4

Maria A - September 22, 2025 at 12:36 PM

TF

“ The Dysard Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mr. James Parker, Jr..

The Dysard Family - September 22, 2025 at 10:47 AM

TF

“ The Dysard Family purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Mr. James Parker, Jr..



The Dysard Family - September 22, 2025 at 10:47 AM

JK

“ Judi K. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mr. James Parker, Jr..

Judi K. - September 20, 2025 at 07:25 PM

FF

“ From Terence Bell and family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mr. James Parker, Jr..

From Terence Bell and family - September 20, 2025 at 06:49 PM

FF

“ From Terence Bell and family purchased the Encanted Cottage for the family of Mr. James Parker, Jr..



From Terence Bell and family - September 20, 2025 at 06:49 PM

JD

“ Jeffrey Davis sent a virtual gift in memory of James Parker, Jr.



Jeffrey Davis - September 18, 2025 at 08:41 AM



“ Strength & Solace Spray was purchased for the family of Mr. James Parker, Jr..



September 17, 2025 at 10:03 PM

RS

“ *Rose Smith lit a candle in memory of James Parker, Jr.*



Rose Smith - September 17, 2025 at 03:54 PM

RS

“ *MY Uncle always wanted my daughter Erica to dance. All he would say was dance for Uncle James..And man he would just laugh, laugh and laugh. The more he laugh the worse she would get. Just sitting here reflecting on that special laugh and now he is with his siblings in heaven walking all around laughing and saying it good to be home in my permanent residence with you guys..And I can walk around and just Laugh..boy can I get an Amen..*

Rose Smith - September 17, 2025 at 03:33 PM

RS

“ *Eating his berry pie..Was amazing*

Rose Smith - September 17, 2025 at 02:56 PM