



## Mr. James Wilkerson

January 1, 1950 - June 24, 2020

### In Loving Memory Of

James E. Wilkerson, born on January 1, 1950, quietly passed away June 24, 2020 in Beaumont Hospital in Royal Oak, Michigan. Jim, as he was affectionately known by family and friends, was born in Gadsden, Alabama where he lived until age 12. Jim moved to Coatesville, Pennsylvania where he was a standout track and field athlete holding a state title. After graduating from Coatesville area high school, he attended Lane College in Jackson, Tennessee.

Jim moved to Williamsport, Pennsylvania where he began his career with Divine Crisis Services from 1975 to 1989. In 1989, Jim joined the Lycoming Clinton Joinder Board and remained there until he retired in March of 2019. An avid sports fan Jim coached Pop Warner Football for many years and was the head coach of Curtin Middle Schools boys basketball team for 25 years. He also served on the board of directors at Former Bethune Douglas Community Center. Jim coached, mentored and counseled many young men during the 45 years that he was a resident of Williamsport, Pennsylvania. He was known as 'one of the good guys' and will truly be missed.

Jim was preceded in death by his grandparents, Jesse and Tim Carthen and his father, Warren James.

# Cemetery Details

## Grand Lawn Cemetery

23501 Grand River  
Detroit, MI 48219

# Tribute Wall



“ *Mr. James Wilkerson*

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January 21, 2023 at 09:34 PM

“ I was very saddened to learn of Jim’s passing earlier this month. While Jim’s contributions to youth sports and the Bethune Douglas Community Center are well-known, less obvious, but equally significant, is Jim’s career addressing mental health needs in Lycoming and Clinton counties.

In the nascent days of deinstitutionalization and the development of community mental health services, Jim immediately became a trusted leader in the Crisis Intervention Unit of the Divine Providence Community Mental Health Center, a position he would maintain through numerous transformations of the MH services delivery system in our region and across the State. The “job” might seem simple to some. Respond to a call where threat of harm to human life is suspected, assess the situation, know the relevant law and, if need be, involuntarily hospitalize the threatening individual for further assessment and possible treatment. But the call seldom comes in at a convenient, “daylight working hours” time mid-week. The threat is often presented amid unimaginable chaos. Often other professionals have already unsuccessfully intervened and the individual may be agitated, highly animated and far from lucid. Responding can easily challenge a professional’s own sense of personal safety, especially when uniformed police are already on the scene.

Jim’s response was always a low-key, solution-focused, reassuring “let’s see what we can do.” His manner conveyed a calming presence and he frequently defused volatile situations. He knew that preserving the dignity of the individual could help save lives. He often negotiated a voluntary stay rather than an involuntary commitment. He knew how to tap appropriate resources to support and assist the individual well-beyond the immediate crisis. He was respected and valued by professionals within and outside of “the system” because he knew the difference between finding fault and finding answers.

Jim will be remembered as an unassuming man who brought his best self to every undertaking. I am grateful that he helped advise establishing and expanding Human Services programming at WACC, now Penn College. His 44-year career is one to emulate.

*Jim was not only a colleague, but a dear friend to me and my wife June. Thank you for having shared Jim with us. To the best of my knowledge, he never sought kudos for his work, but he deserved them.*

*Tom Zimmerman  
Associate Professor, Psychology  
Pennsylvania College of Technology*

*Former Director, Outpatient Services  
Divine Providence Community Mental Health Center*

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**Tom Zimmerman** - July 31, 2020 at 10:34 AM

LC

“ *To: Mother A. Mosley and Family, WE are keeping you all in our Prayers for God's Blessings at this time.*

*TNH, Communion-Baptism Servants Ministry,  
Loretta Cook, Ministry Leader*

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**Loretta Cook** - July 06, 2020 at 11:04 AM

PJ

“ *"Danica 'Nikki" Lawson prayers of strength and courage as you are in this time of loss. Here for you from hurt to healing whatever the need, just let me know. Pam Jackson*

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**Pam Jackson** - July 03, 2020 at 08:29 PM

CM

“ *God bless you my brother rest in peace love you*

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**Coleman matthews** - July 03, 2020 at 01:00 PM

CM

“ *Rest in peace my brother Mouse*

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**Coleman matthews** - July 03, 2020 at 10:44 AM

TS

“ *Rest In Peace my dearest friend. I'm gonna miss our talks but most importantly your friendship and smile.*



*To the family, thank you for sharing such a kind, compassionate and caring person who was always there for so many people.*

*My thoughts and prayers are with you.*

*Thressa L. Sellers  
Harrisburg, PA*

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**Thressa L Sellers** - July 01, 2020 at 07:14 PM

AN

*Jim Wilkerson, a soft spoken, unassuming, friendly, and a good man of character. A man I've known since 2006 when I moved to Williamsport, PA, has ascended to the good graces of God! His soul now rests in God's heavenly chambers; his earthly body now belongs to the lonely silent halls of death! The good God who bore and kept him on this earth, recalled him home when his God's assigned on this earth was deemed fulfilled. Only He give the, only He taketh. I bit fair well to my friend. I can only imagine his welcoming party at God's gate, full of angels, all singing in melodious unison "welcome home! Welcome home" I can only see the embarrassment on his face for all these heavenly platitudes! He was just a private man!*

*Jim is now home and he's safe!*

*Rest In Peace, Jim!*

*God be with you till wee red meet again!*

*Andrew!*

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**andrew** - July 05, 2020 at 01:21 AM

MB

“ *MT.ARARAT BAPTIST CHURCH -TRUSTEES BOARD,PITT,PA purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of Mr. James Wilkerson.*



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**MT.ARARAT BAPTIST CHURCH -TRUSTEES BOARD,PITT,PA**  
- July 01, 2020 at 06:36 PM

JS

“ *Joyce L Twyman Skillman lit a candle in memory of Mr. James Wilkerson*



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**Joyce L Twyman Skillman** - July 01, 2020 at 02:56 PM