



James R. Brown

January 22, 1948 - March 27, 2020

A LIFE FILLED WITH LOVE

James Reuben Brown was born January 22, 1948 in Blakely, (Early County) Georgia to the parents of Andrew and Melvina Norfus Brown. James died March 27, 2020 at home with his wife, Cheryl, in Stone Mountain, GA at the age of 72. From the very beginning, James was filled with a lifetime of love from his doting parents and siblings. Through parental influence, all of the Brown children would become a close-knit, God-loving, family loving, people loving, people serving group who would pass this lesson on to their children. At an early age, they all joined Jerusalem African Methodist Episcopal Church in Blakely.

James was educated in Blakely where he completed Washington High School in 1965. He received his BA degree from Tuskegee Institute in Tuskegee, Alabama and a member of the Atlanta Tuskegee Alumni Club for 30 plus years. At Tuskegee he became a member of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. James was serious about his membership in the fraternity. He worked hard for community improvement and made efforts to seek out talented young African American men and women to receive national recognition.

James was a man who believed in the principles of his country. He began his military career as a 2nd Lieutenant in the United States Army. He served as a professor of ROTC at the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff where he met

and married Dr. LeJeune Hickson. He then moved his family to Mannheim, Germany where he served his country and traveled extensively throughout Europe. James ended his military career as a Major.

After retiring from the military, James moved to Atlanta and joined St. Philip African Methodist Episcopal Church where he met Cheryl Peterson and the couple was married in 2003 in his home town of Blakely, Ga. James served in many capacities at St. Philip. He enjoyed his duties as an usher and former President of the Mattie Booker Usher Board and his work with the credit union at the church. James was employed with the Internal Revenue Service and found a way to continue that work in the church. He served as a volunteer tax preparer at St. Philip for more than 30 years.

James was an avid duplicate bridge player and would travel throughout the United States and nearby coastlines to enjoy the game. During any game he had a knack for memorizing cards that had been played and cards that were yet to be played; he could almost sense which cards the other players were holding.

Filled with the love of God, James held fast to the first and second Commandments. Filled with the love of humanity, James lived by the Golden Rule. Filled with the love of family, James committed himself to his wife, his siblings, and the children that he raised. James will always be remembered as one who loved others and gave generously of himself in a Godly way.

James was predeceased in death by his parents, 3 brothers, Walter Cook, Raymond Brown, and Gregory March. Survivors include his wife, Cheryl; two sons, Cyrus Ellison (Bridgett) of Orlando and Darren Peterson of Stone Mountain two daughters, Tia Gissendaner of Powder Springs. Ga. Ingrid Ellison, MD of Atlanta ; 4 grandchildren; Cyrus W. Ellison, Troi McClure, Elise Ellison, and Ethan Ellison; one brother, George Brown (Annette) ; seven sisters, Gladys Jones (WC), Verna Hazel (Eugene), Janie B. Zackry (Jerry),

Dorothy "Cookie" Lucas, Dorcas Maxine Colvard (Robert), Mandy B. Moses (Marzell) and Cathryn J. Brown; three brothers in law, Arrasheed Abdullah (Daiiyah), Baron Gissendaner (Deborah), Kenneth Gissendaner (Petunia) ; three sisters in law, Barbara Peterson (Charles), Tillie Morris (Harold) and Fannie M. Reid; and many nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends.

Please share and click on the link to view the service

<https://vimeo.com/402656850/0b86fb9f0f>

Cemetery Details

Kennedy Memorial Gardens

2500 River Road
ELLENWOOD, Ga

Previous Events

Visitation

APR 1. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

South DeKalb Chapel
4347 Flat Shoals Pkwy.
Decatur, GA 30034
(404) 241-5656
info@levettfuneralhome.com

Graveside Service

APR 1. 12:30 PM (ET)

Kennedy Memorial Gardens
2500 River Road
ELLENWOOD, Ga

Tribute Wall

DT

“ *Mr. James Brown was nice and kind man I am going to miss him and I am not going say goodbye but see you later.*

Deborah Broughton Turk - April 04, 2020 at 08:13 PM

JB

“ *I was shocked to receive the phone call concerning the passing of James. We were friends through the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program at Avondale Mall in Decatur, G and later at St Philip AME Church. We were also colleagues of the Internal Revenue Service. He was also my Omega Brother. He was one the nicest person that I have met. He will truly be missed. Sincere Condolences to his family.*



Sincerely,

Jo-Anne Zimmerman Butler

Jo-Anne Zimmerman Butler - April 04, 2020 at 01:13 PM

JH

“ *My heart is saddened by your loss. Wishing your family peace and comfort in this difficult time.*

Johnnie Hughes

Johnnie Hughes - April 02, 2020 at 10:18 AM

SM

“ I've known James for more than 30 years. We first started doing taxes together inside Avondale Mall and have been doing them together since. James was the most patient, God fearing man I know. He always said "Don't worry God will take care of us". He loved helping the people of his church and the community. He had a lot of people who would walk in and wait just for him. They loved sharing news about the church. They knew that he would listen and not rush them off.

James would do anything to please people. He loved his church and his sorority. I'm going to miss seeing that purple and gold everyday. I'm going to miss that smile of he gives when we are walking out the door and he is staying late to help someone.

I want to continue what he started and hope that we can fill his shoes and make him happy.

James you will never be forgotten. I wish to send my condolences to the family. If you need us, just call.

Sabrina Morris - April 01, 2020 at 07:56 PM

WI

“ William lit a candle in memory of James R. Brown



William - April 01, 2020 at 07:17 PM

AB

“ I had the opportunity to meet Mr. Brown as a Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) volunteer a few years ago. He was the VITA Site Coordinator at Saint Philip AME and I became one of his assistant coordinators. He was a man that was determined and willing to assist all clients that came to the site. I learned patience from him and respect for his excellent customer satisfaction skills. My sincere condolences to his wife and family. The VITA volunteers at Saint Philip AME will cherish his memory and leadership skills forever.

Alice Braswell

Alice Braswell - April 01, 2020 at 06:26 PM

SW

“ James was my Bridge Partner for nearly twenty years. As a partner and teammate, he was a fearless competitor at the bridge table, as well as a fun person to play with. He was a friend and one of the kindest and most selfless people that you would want to know. Andy and I were truly blessed that his family shared him with his many ABA bridge friends.

He was one of the Leaders in the South Metro Bridge Club, the Metropolitan Atlanta Bridge Unit, serving as the President of both groups. He was a pillar of the Bridge Community, as an officer, as a teacher, and as a director. He was committed to helping duplicate bridge grow and prosper, especially in the Dekalb County area. But for me and Andy, he was also a good friend. Easy to talk to, to confide in and to work with. While he was a fine player, he often sacrificed his chances of winning to help new and inexperienced players. As a teacher he was always good humored and patient. Our sincere condolences are extended to Cheryl and all of James' family. Please know that we all loved and will forever cherish his memory and also know that he now rests in the arms of the Lord. In Jesus' Sermon on the Mount, found in Matthew 5, it reads: "Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God"

Anderson and Shirley Williams

Shirley L Williams - April 01, 2020 at 04:58 PM

TI

“ The memories of a father are hard to be forgotten. Until we meet again. Love your daughter Tia Gissendaner ❤️

Tia - April 01, 2020 at 02:49 PM



“ *Blue Caribbean Bouquet was purchased for the family of James R. Brown .*



April 01, 2020 at 02:11 PM



“ *Mr. Brown has been a mentor and friend to me for just a few years. In that short time, under the guise of being my bridge instructor, he has taught me many life lessons as well. A man of honor, of humor, and a man of the Lord, he will be missed by many of us.*

Rest in peace, my friend.

To his wife, you should know that he talked about how he loved you as part of his daily conversation. We will pray for you.

Karen Williams - April 01, 2020 at 12:46 PM



“ *I have been a Vita tax volunteer at St Philips for the last several years. James was our leader. He was a leader with integrity, knowledge and humour. Whenever there was an issue or maybe one of us was stuck on a problem with one of our clients he was the go to person for assistance. He would always say to the person "we are here to help you". That was James..wanting to help people. As one goes on life's journey you realize there are people in your life you meet that you will always remember and cherish. I will never forget James and am blessed to have known him.*

John Moore - April 01, 2020 at 11:24 AM

RJ

“ *My condolences to the Brown family. James was such a kind, caring and family man. I will miss the snide remarks that we used to make one another just in passing. Rest well my friend.*

Renee Jackson

Renee Jackson - March 31, 2020 at 09:50 PM

EF

“ *Our thoughts and prayers are with Mr. Brown family. Continue to rely on on God and know that he hears your prayers, because he cares for you. Truly sorry for your loss.*

Evans family - March 31, 2020 at 05:57 PM

SR

“ Mr. James Brown was such a KIND and helpful man as he served the members at Saint Philip AME Church. When he served as President of the Usher Board we served on together, Mattie Booker Usher Board, he first introduced the Callingpost voice broadcast system to the board and we depended on hearing his messages monthly. Many members felt that his broadcast voice message was like a personal call from him to them. He trained me to stand in for him on the monthly call a few times when he knew he would be traveling and unable to do it. Mr. Brown, thank you for your trust.

He was the taxman. He recruited other tax preparation specialists to help, but we all knew him as the main man of taxes who volunteered and helped us make that April 15th deadline.

Also, Mr. Brown showed his service to the church on the Conference level when he sang in the Annual Conference Lay Choir. Many people don't know about his beautiful baritone/tenor voice which he used to sing the songs of Zion. I was joking with him just a few weeks ago while I was in the tax preparation room, that he was going to be recruited again this year to sing. I pressured him because he and the others in there were pressuring me to volunteer to become a tax preparer!

It took my daughter, one of those selfish, non-caring Millenials we all love to bash (smile) to make me laugh telling her memory of Mr. Brown. She said he worked in the credit union where they had a little room where the one agent in the office did it all. She said Mr Brown would count the money, then take off that hat and go be the loan officer! I had forgotten about those days before our church moved the credit union into a much more stylish arrangement.

But, the most important thing my daughter said and reminded me of is that Mr. Brown did her first taxes when she worked for Chick-Fil-A in the 11th Grade. So, he was the first person to assist her in leading a financially responsible way of life. She probably has taken a few winding roads since then, but I thank Mr. Brown for leading

her to and putting her on the path. Farewell Mr. Brown. May God bless and keep your family.

Sharon Russell - March 31, 2020 at 05:31 PM



“ *Love Carries on Pendant was purchased for the family of James R. Brown .*



March 31, 2020 at 03:48 PM



“ *The Mattie Booker Usher Board will miss our monthly callingpost messages from James. For over 20 years James kept us informed about our meetings and service times. Your voice may be stilled but your message will live forever. Faithful and devoted friend I will miss you. Cheryl and family you are in my thoughts and prayers.*
Theresa Ginyard

Theresa Ginyard - March 31, 2020 at 01:33 PM



“ *The United Way of Greater Atlanta Family purchased the Strength & Solace Spray for the family of James R. Brown .*



The United Way of Greater Atlanta Family - March 31, 2020 at 01:14 PM

JG

“ Every tax season, the church members would line up for Mr. B. to do their taxes. As he worked on their taxes they would share laughs; talk politics and otherwise "schmooze" while this annual chore was completed. All of Mr. B.'s customers returned every year and made sure that he would do their taxes. Every tax season to come we will miss him dearly.
I really can't believe that he is gone. We just saw him before the pandemic closed everything down. Much love to his family and his extended family at Saint Philip.

Sincerely,
James and Barbara Goldberg

James Goldberg - March 31, 2020 at 12:49 PM

TG

“ I had the pleasure of working with JB at the St. Philip AME credit union for 6 years.. The fun we had and sooo many laughs! James was a man of great integrity and work ethics. You were my friend and I will miss you dearly. Deepest Condolences to the entire family.
#Omegaforlife ω

Tamayra Ginyard - March 31, 2020 at 12:18 PM

EF

“ James,
I wish that you knew how much we missed you. You gave unselfishly of your time, your talent, and your love. Even as you spent time teaching others about the game of bridge, you always shared that you had to get home to your family. You spoke often of your love for your church. You wore your Omega paraphernalia often. In other words, everyone knew what you loved. If only we had known, that we would miss you so.

To your family, you have our sincere condolences and our prayers during your loss. May God grant his peace unto you and may his word provide you comfort.

*YOUR OTHER FAMILY,
A Bridge Player,
Edna*

Edna Fleming - March 31, 2020 at 12:27 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of James R. Brown .*



March 30, 2020 at 08:27 PM

MM

“ I remember that over the years, James was always a gentleman, willing to help anyone in need--except at the bridge table where he was always a threat to the opponent. I was often a visitor at St Philip and always looked for him. I was blessed to know him, an Omega brother of distinction.



Mary E Moragne, Raleigh, NC

MARY E MORAGNE - March 30, 2020 at 07:38 PM



“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of James R. Brown .



March 30, 2020 at 06:18 PM