

Active Bearers of the Bier

Jacob Fisher Jamar Brown Kelton Ficklin Roosevelt Lake Terry Jones
Thomas Broxton Roy Peterson C.J. Lee

Honorary Bearers of the Bier

Jamar Franklin Tyrone Meekins, Jr.

Floral Bearers

Ushers ~ Friends of the Family



Depast

Caryville Civic Center

Thank You....

The family of Rev. James E. Johns would like to extend our sincere and heartfelt thanks for all expressions of love and concern during our time of grief. Your thoughtfulness and love have provided the strength needed to make it through this difficult yet triumphant time and the days to come.

May God forever bless and keep you is our prayer.

~ THE JOHNS FAMILY ~



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FROM LABOR
to
REWARD



THE REVEREND • THE PASTOR

SERVICE OF CELEBRATION
& THANKSGIVING

honoring

REV. JAMES EDWARD

Johns



ELEVEN O'CLOCK ANTE MERIDIEM
SATURDAY, THE NINETEENTH OF JUNE
TWO THOUSAND TWENTY-ONE

Held From The Sanctuary of:

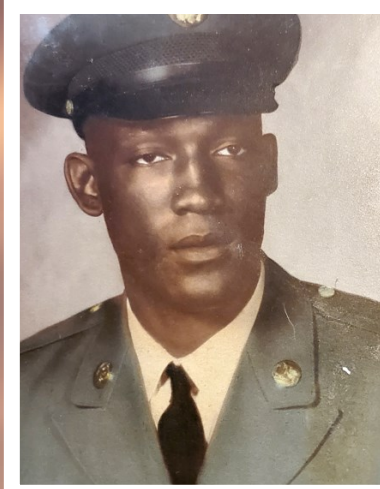
Yes Lord Deliverance Ministries, Inc.

1249 Hope Drive | Chipley, Florida 32428
APOSTLE DAVID WOODS, SENIOR PASTOR/TEACHER

OFFICIANTS

ELDER TONY HOWARD, CELEBRATION OFFICIANT
MIN. JAMES M. JOHNS, CELEBRATION EULOGIST
with

REV. DR. RUFUS WOODS
MODERATOR DELWYNN G. WILLIAMS



Obituary

Affectionately known as "PawPaw" or "Uncle James", he left an impressionable mark on everyone he met. His hearty laugh and delightful humor kept everyone smiling.

The world received the blessing of James Edward Johns on April 13, 1947, as the seventh child of Horace Johns and Irene Harris in Bellwood, Alabama. His family moved to Washington County and settled in Caryville in 1958. He met the love of his life, Willie Mae Mingo, at an early age; becoming friends that would later blossom into a relationship to which they formed a life-long union. United in Holy Matrimony on June 6, 1970, they were blessed to celebrate 51 wonderful years together. To this union four children were raised in a loving & God-fearing home: Anthony Bernard Johns, Raymond Johns, Tonya La'Faye Johns, & Yolanda Rena Johns-Meekins.

Rev. Johns attended St. Mary Elementary & Middle school and then attended Roulhac High School. In 1967 he enlisted in the United States Army and served his country honorably. He served a tour in Vietnam and would later choose to end his service and received a honorable discharge in 1969. Seeing the value in receiving an education, he went back to school and graduated from the Washington Holmes Vocational Center in Chipley, Florida. Professionally he worked in the pulpwood logging industry for more than 20 years.

Rev. Johns was called into the ministry September 11, 1976. He served under the tutelage of Rev. J.W. Broxton. He went on to finish his bachelor's degree of Theology from Gulf Coast Seminary in April of 1988. He pastored St. Matthews Missionary Baptist Church in Caryville, Florida and the Orange Hill Missionary Baptist Church in Chipley, Florida for more than 30 years.

Earlier in 2021 due to his declining health, Rev. Johns retired from the ministry. In his retirement he quoted Ecclesiastes 3:1 "To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven."

Known for his community service, Rev. Johns was active with mentoring youth, starting several summer programs.

He organized a community outreach project of cleaning St. Mary's Rd and rallied to reopen the local park when it had been closed. He donated and helped feed the homeless as well as the elderly community. Rev. Johns was a mentor to many of the youth in the community and often would open heartedly and informally adopt more children; reaching out on holidays to check in, just to ensure his babies were doing ok.

He was an amazing cook and hunter who enjoyed family gatherings. Rev. Johns was a member of the Independent Pallbearers, Christian Band of Benevolence and as Pastor was affiliated with the Second West Baptist Association.

Preceding him in death were his parents, and siblings Ada Jones, Jim Johns, Lonnie C. Johns, Moses Johns, Richard Johns, & Jacob Johns.

He leaves behind to cherish his memory his lovely wife of 51 years: Lady Willie Mae Johns of Caryville, Florida; four (4) beautiful children: Anthony Bernard (Tiffany) Johns, Raymond (Armandina) Johns both of Caryville, Florida, Tonya La'Faye Johns of Atlanta, Georgia, & Yolanda Rena (Audwin Tyrone) Meekins, Jr. of Katy, Texas; host of grandchildren, and great grandchildren; two sisters: Ludie Mae Everett of Caryville, Florida, and Maeretter Johns Peterson of Bonifay, Florida; brother: Joseph Johns of Caryville, Florida; loved ones he raised as his own: Jacob Fisher, Zaniyah Fisher, Deborah La'Faye Belser, Delphine Renee Manley-Davis, Sharonda Shalotta Belser, and Tierra Nicole Franklin; along with a host of nieces & nephews, great, and great-great nieces & nephews, cousins, and friends.

Until We Meet Again

Alone in my darkness I still see your face,
sometimes your presence and your warm embrace.
I look 'round the house; it's calling your name,
but nothing I see here quite feels the same.
I then feel a shiver run right down my spine.
I hear you say, "Baby, everything is fine."

"I'm here watching over you; I'm right by your side.
The rough and the smooth I will gently guide,"
so I close my eyes and I see you smile,
and I can see you for a while,
and I know one day that we will meet
together forever, our journey complete.

Forever My Love,

Willie Mae



A Humble Servant of God

It is almost impossible to know where to start.
Your contributions to life, liberty and godliness set you apart.
From every morning waking up to Red Holland, homemade ice cream,
being our very own Santa Claus, to singing the unforgettable tune of
"good morning little schoolgirls or boys" every first day of school
all of your children knew your love flowed endlessly.
Children being spoiled was one thing, but grandchildren...
my goodness they had a feast.
Amazing summer trips filled with water sports.
Holidays blessed with games, movies, Xbox and Jordan exports.
Superficial as those items may be the biggest contribution
was your outpouring of support through and through.
You've helped us through high school and college degrees. Pushing us
through military training and praying for us all each night
as you went to study the word to show thyself approved.
Always believing that a man is only as good as his word you lived
and exemplified what the Army now calls the warrior ethos values.
Never leaving a child or wounded individual behind you fed, housed and
mentored providing a template we can emulate.
Not just my spirit, but everyone around you,
now has a legacy that everyone can propagate.
Your perseverance in these final years are completely unheard of,
but always the expectation you set.
Fighting until the final breath, you held on until your last child
had come home and was able to say goodbye with no fret.
Your departure from this realm is met with no regret.
We know that you are a humble servant and God's son.
You will now hear our Savior say "Well Done.."

With All Our Love....

Your Children and Grandchildren

THE CELEBRATION

*And I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me,
Write, Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth:
Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labours; and their works do follow them.*
REVELATIONS 14:13 KJV

Musical Prelude.....Bro. Rory Moore, Musician

The Processional

OFFICIATING CLERGY ~ VISITING CLERGY ~ THE JOHNS FAMILY

The Sealing of the Bier & Draping of the U.S. Flag

Prayer of Consolation / Words of Comfort.....Elder Tony Howard

Scriptures of Comfort:

Old Testament.....Psalms 23.....Sis. Willie M. Peterson-Gaddy

New Testament.....1st Thessalonians 4:13-16.....Sis. LaToya Bell

Musical Selection.....Rev. Dr. Rufus Woods

REFLECTIONS & MOMENTS OF LOVE:

As A Pastor: Deacon Ransom Works / Rev. Christopher Works

As A Veteran: Mr. Chester Davis

As I Knew Him: Moderator Delwynn G. Williams

Musical Selection....."Hold To God's Unchanging Hand.....Choir

FAMILY REFLECTIONS & EXPRESSIONS OF LOVE:

Ms. Tonya Johns Ms. Sharonda Belser Mrs. Tierra Franklin

Musical Selection.....Bro. Rory Moore

Acknowledgements & Resolutions.....Cooper Funeral Home Staff

Musical Selection.....Choir

The Eulogistic Message of Celebration.....Min. James M. Johns, *Grandson*

INVITATION TO CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP

Recessional.....Clergy & Family

Earthly Bed of Slumber

ST. MATTHEWS CEMETERY

4156 St. Matthews Road, Caryville, Florida 32427

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