

IN GRATEFUL APPRECIATION

The family of *the late* **James Thomas Leary** wishes to express deep and heartfelt appreciation for your loving thoughtfulness and concern, including cards, flowers, phone calls, emails, texts, Facebook tributes, visits, your presence here this morning, and especially the comfort of your continuing prayers. We also appreciate those who sent their love from near and far to encourage us during this time. May God bless and keep each of you in His loving embrace and care.

I'M FREE

Don't grieve for me, for now I'm free;
I'm following the path God laid for me.
I took His hand when I heard Him call,
I turned my back and left it all.
I could not stay another day
To laugh, to love, to work or play.
Tasks left undone must stay that way.
I found my peace at the close of day.
If my parting has left a void
Then fill it with remembered joy.
A friendship shared, a laugh, a kiss;
Ah yes, these things I too will miss.
Be not burdened with times of sorrow;
I wish you the sunshine of tomorrow.
My life's been good, I've savored much;
Good friends, good times, a loved one's touch.
My time with you was not that brief,
So don't lengthen it now with undue grief.
Lift up your hearts and rejoice with me,
God wanted me now; He set me free.



Professional Services Entrusted To:



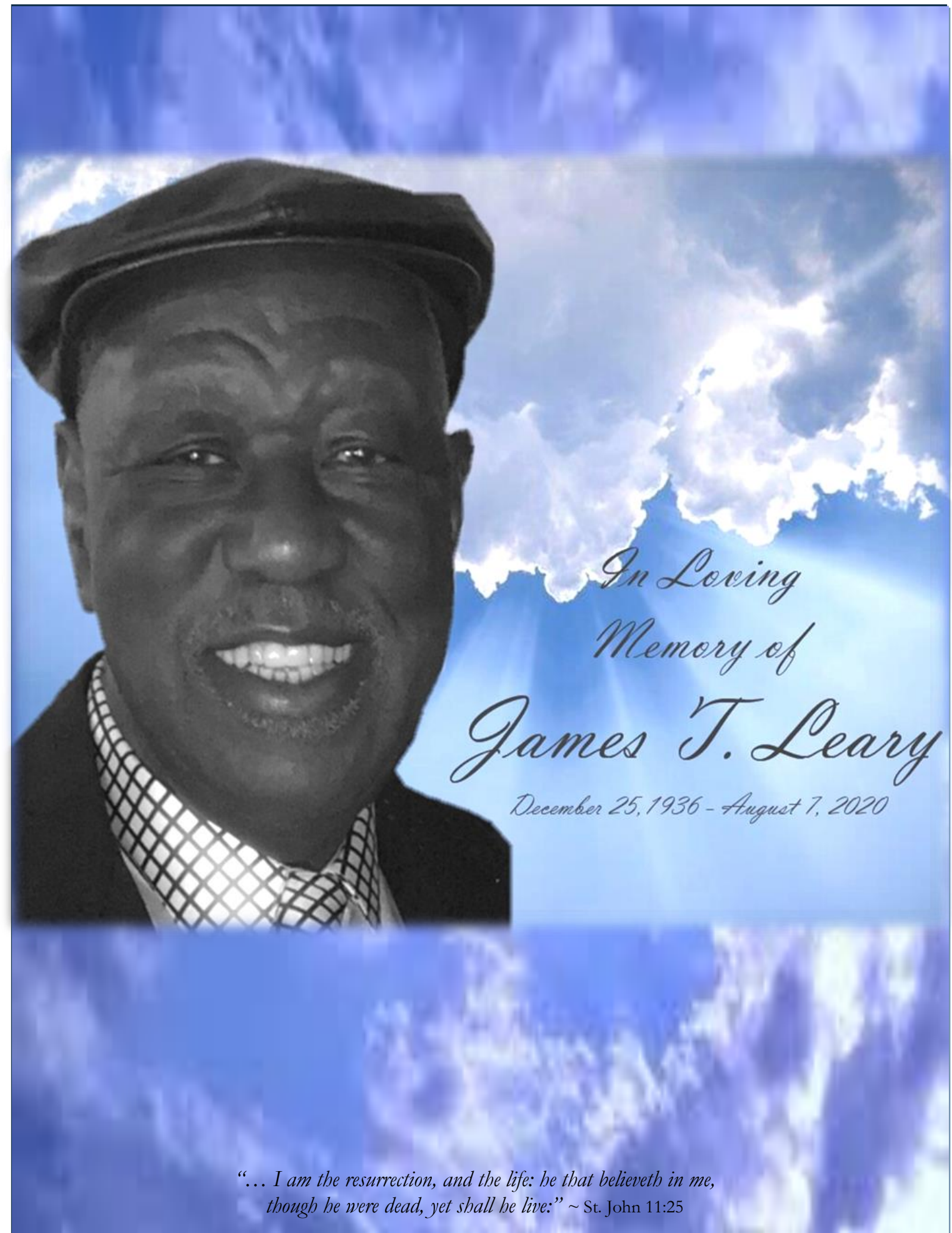
*Frank R. Bell
Funeral Home, Inc.*

536 Frank & Doris Bell Way
(formerly Sterling Place, corner of Classon Avenue)
Brooklyn, New York 11238
(718) 399-2500 ~ Fax: 399-2565

Frank R. Bell, Founder ~ Doris D. Bell, Co-Founder

Executive Directors:

Frances Bell Henry ~ Eric D. Garnes ~ Robert L. Henry



*"... I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me,
though he were dead, yet shall he live:" ~ St. John 11:25*

Obituary

On Friday, August 7, 2020, the Leary family lost their hero, **James Thomas Leary** when he succumbed to a lengthy illness. **“Jimmy”, “Mr. J.”, “Uncle Tommie”, “Jimmy Mack”,** and **“The Rock Son”** as he was fondly known, managed his debilitating illness with strength and grace. He was a man who truly appreciated the blessings and favor in his life, and he had a firm understanding of what was important – God, his family and loved ones. His life was a living example of his favorite Bible verse, Ephesians 4:32 *“And be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving one another, just as God also forgave you in Christ”*.

Jimmy Leary came into this world on Christmas Day, December 25, 1936 in Colerain, North Carolina. After his birth, his biological parents, Debbie Clara Leary and Thellie Lee Chamblee, willingly agreed that family members Hattie Perry-Leary and Willie Leary would adopt and raise their baby boy. **Jimmy** was blessed with four adoring parents.

He attended schools in Bertie County excelling in all subjects involving numbers. In 1957, **Jimmy** came to Brooklyn, New York with his loving wife, Hattie B. Leary, whom he married in 1956. Hattie predeceased him in 1984. In 1987, **Jimmy** remarried, and together with his second wife, Mary Alston Leary, they raised Melanie Jeter.

Jimmy began his career in management in a neighborhood store on Tompkins Avenue. In 1970, he branched out on his own opening JIMMY’S STATIONERY STORE. Many residents knew **Jimmy** from the store’s entrepreneurial activities. From Thursday to Monday, the store never closed. The rear of the store had a special bell that not everyone knew about. If you were lucky enough to know about the bell, you would ring it and gain admission to a private parlor where games were hosted.

One of **Jimmy Leary’s** major accomplishments in life was being a father. He considered himself lucky to have five children – three daughters: Brenda Perry and Denise Leary (both of whom predeceased him) and Deborah Ann Leary-Tucker; and two sons: Thomas Ray Leary and Ricky Nelson Leary. His children adored him, as he was a perfect example of what a father should be; he was loving and devoted, and was always there for them supporting them through their ups and downs, and he taught them to enjoy every moment life has to offer. His children were always with him, and his store was where they all mastered mathematics by managing the cash register, and weighing, measuring and computing items for sale.

Jimmy was extremely proud of all his children, and he was particularly close to his only living daughter, Deborah, as she was his caregiver. She had a successful career in law enforcement, and seeing her graduate from the New York City Correction Academy and receiving her shield was one of the highlights of his life.

Jimmy Leary was also proud to be a Mason. On April 2, 1987, he joined the prolific organization as Worshipful Master of African 459 Lodge #63 – the first lodge of Blacks in America.

He leaves behind to cherish his memory, his children: Thomas (*Connecticut*), Ricky, and his wife Mary (*Virginia*), Deborah (*New York*) and Melanie (*New York*); two brothers: Johnnie (*North Carolina*) and Charles (*Maryland*); grandchildren: Mark, Shakeya, Unique, Caiya, Calvin, Jasmine, Thomas, Rayshawn, Latoya, Keona, Daisy, David, Andre, Dremel and Gavin; great-grandchildren, great-great-grandchildren, goddaughters: Cassandra, Darlene and Keisha; a special friend, Miss Helen, who was his hangout partner in the candy store; and two very special friends: Ms. Clarice and Ms. Barbara; and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, other relatives, neighbors, customers and friends.

All of us who loved **Jimmy Leary** will miss his infectious laughter, his southern drawl, his kindness and his quick wit. Sipping Johnnie Walker Black will never be the same without him! And when he would get a little tipsy, **Jimmy’s** favorite saying was *“I love everybody”*!

Order of Service

{As you enter this chapel, please reverence the family
by silencing all electronic devices.}

{Final Viewing: 9:00 ~ 10:30 a.m.}

Monday ~ August 17, 2020 ~ 10:30 a.m.

at

FRANK R. BELL FUNERAL HOME, INC.

536 Frank & Doris Bell Way

(formerly Sterling Place, corner of Classon Avenue)

Brooklyn, New York 11238

OFFICIATING MINISTER:

Bishop Johnny Ray Youngblood, *Executive Pastor/Spiritual Engineer*

Mount Pisgah Baptist Church

212 Tompkins Avenue ~ Brooklyn, New York 11216

Musical Prelude Min. David E. Sayles

Processional // Final Viewing (*Friends of family, please stand.*)

Selection Min. David E. Sayles

Scripture Readings Mrs. Leona Daniels

Old Testament (*Psalms 23*)

New Testament (*Ephesians 4:32*)

Prayer of Comfort Bishop Johnny Ray Youngblood

~ Brief Reflections ~

Deborah Leary-Tucker {daughter} ~ Melanie Jeter {daughter}

Thomas Leary {son} ~ Ricky Leary {son}

Obituary Ms. Shelbia Leary

Selection Mr. Sean Blanks

Eulogy Bishop Johnny Ray Youngblood

Benediction

Recessional (*Friends, please remain standing as the family leaves the chapel.*)

~ SPECIAL CORTEGE ~

Mr. Jimmy will be transported by **Horse & Carriage** to the site of his beloved “Candy Store”

at 406 Tompkins Avenue (*between Hancock Street & Jefferson Avenue*) where he’ll be transferred

to the hearse. The procession will then proceed to

CYPRESS HILLS CEMETERY (*Exit 3 off Jackie Robinson Parkway*) **Brooklyn, New York**

~ DOVE RELEASE ~

At the cemetery, we invite everyone to witness the symbolic release of Mr. Jimmy’s spirit back to God.

Though restrictions are starting to be eased, we are still closely monitoring the situation with the COVID-19 pandemic. With that in mind and the safety of all concerned, we are still recommending adherence to the recommended guidelines of the NYC Department of Health the CDC. Thus, all who enter this establishment must be wearing a mask; allow your temperature to be taken, and use hand sanitizer provided at the entrance and in the chapel. Although it is unnatural and difficult, especially during this time when the family needs you most, physical contact with family, and with one another as well as the body is not suggested. Social distancing (keeping 6 feet apart) is still required. Also, the complete service must be contained within **one hour** for the sake of limited exposure. Your cooperation is most appreciated during this temporary disruption of life as we know it.