

HOMEGOING SERVICE FOR



WILLIE JAMES GOODMAN

SUNRISE: MARCH 31, 1942 - SUNSET: MAY 6, 2019



AVERY CHAPEL

3061 Leighs Chapel Rd.
Covington, TN 38019

Saturday, May 18, 2019

Family Hour: 10:00 a.m. | Service: 11:00 a.m.

REV. DR. GEORGE W. COLEMAN JR., OFFICIATING

“Living is loving, caring and sharing. If the sun doesn’t shine anymore,
it shined on me...”

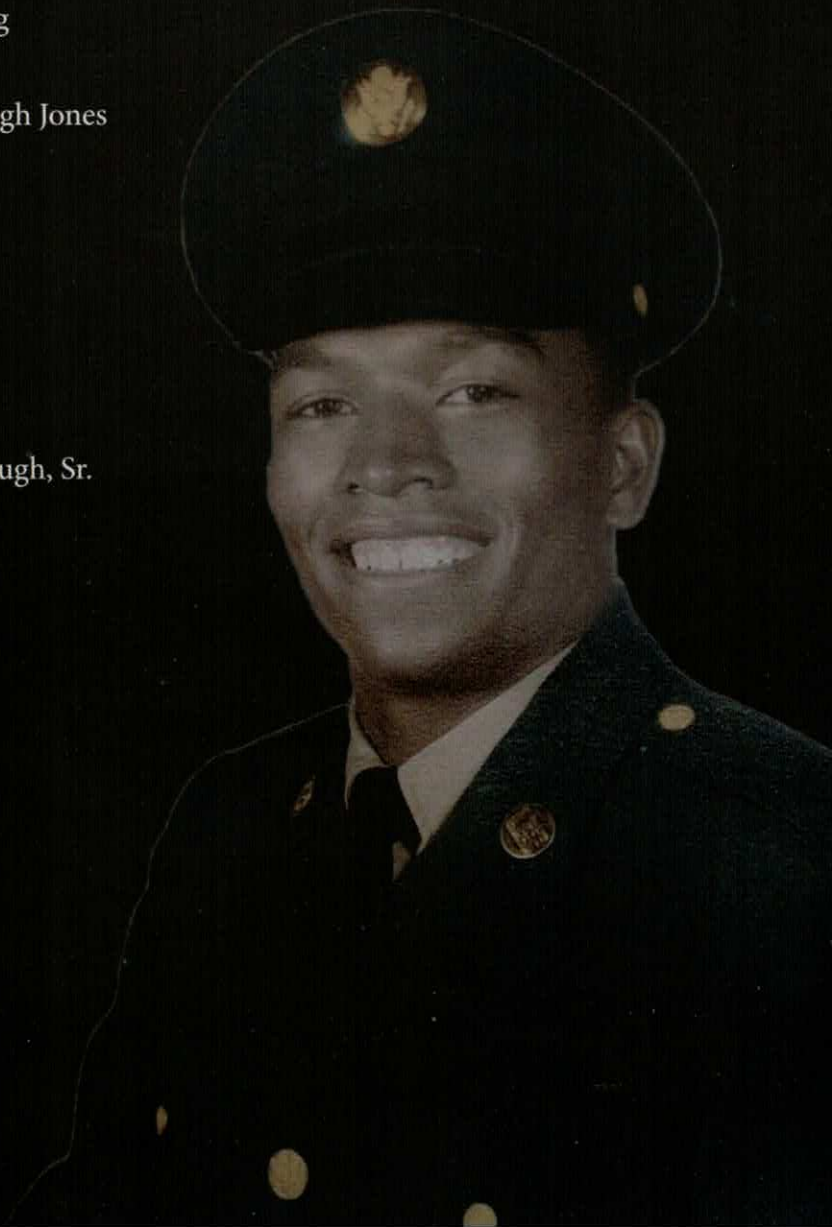
-Willie James Goodman

HOMEGOING SERVICE

"I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith..."
2 Timothy 4:6-7

MUSICAL PRELUDE	Mr. Herbert Young
PROCESSIONAL	Mr. Herbert Young
MUSICAL SELECTION	Avery Chapel Choir "What a Friend We Have in Jesus"
PRAYER	Rev. Dr. George W. Coleman Jr.
SCRIPTURE	Rev. Dennis Chaney Old Testament - Psalm 23 New Testament - James 1: 2-4; 1 Peter 5:10
MUSICAL SELECTION	Mr. Frank Currie and the Avery Chapel Choir "Just a Little Talk with Jesus"
WORDS OF ENCOURAGEMENT	Rev. Walter J. Flemming
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS & RESOLUTIONS	Mrs. Ernestine Yarbrough Jones
OBITUARY	Mrs. Ethel B. Jones
REMARKS	Mr. Dwight Clay Mr. Charles Holland Mrs. Rhonda Parker
MUSICAL SELECTION	Avery Chapel Choir "Amazing Grace"
EULOGY	Rev. Robert Lee Yarbrough, Sr.
CONCLUSION OF SERVICES	Currie's Funeral Home
~ FINAL VIEWING ~	
RECESSIONAL	Instrumental "Well Done"

*"The Lord bless you
and keep you;
the Lord make his face shine on you
and be gracious to you;
the Lord turn his face toward you
and give you peace."
- Numbers 6: 24-26*



REFLECTING ON THE LIFE OF

Willie James Goodman

"Living is loving, caring, and sharing..." this phrase was constantly spoken by Willie James Goodman. He believed it wholeheartedly and lived his life in this manner.

Living: Happiness and joy filled the spring air in Henning, Tennessee on March 31, 1942 when Marion and Annie Lee (Harvey) Goodman welcomed their second child Willie James Goodman. He was reared in Covington, Tennessee in a christian home and at an early age he accepted Christ and united with Avery Chapel CME church. Willie James served faithfully in various capacities including junior steward, Sunday School Superintendent, as well as participated in youth and young adult activities. Willie James continuously supported Avery Chapel in annual fundraisers and the upkeep of the Avery Chapel cemetery. He was a firm believer in the power of prayer and the grace and favor of God in his life.



Willie James grew up on the family farm where he gained agricultural skills and a strong work ethic. He was educated in Tipton County public schools and graduated from Frazier High School in the class of 1960. After high school, he attended Lane College in Jackson, Tennessee. Later, Willie James relocated to Los Angeles, California and during that time, he was drafted into the United States Army. His tour of duty allowed him to experience various locations including a stint in Bamberg, Germany. During his time in the service, he served as a drill sergeant, platoon leader and marksman. At the end of service time, he received an honorable discharge and the National Defense Service Medal.

Willie James relocated to Detroit, Michigan following discharge and was employed by Detroit Diesel for over 32 years. He was a model employee and received numerous commendations during his time at Detroit Diesel where he worked as a repairman, engineer and foreman. A natural problem solver, Willie James was one who welcomed a challenge and had a sharp eye for detail. His keen focus once helped him identify a flaw that saved a whole fleet of Diesel engines from being recalled. Fondly nicknamed "Good Time," he was always known to bring joy, laughter and an upbeat energy to his work until his retirement in 1998.

Loving: Anyone who knew Willie James was aware that he loved his family dearly. He was very attentive and supportive of them. His first cousin, John Raymond, introduced Willie James to Carolyn Holcomb in Ripley, Tennessee and ironically, they shared their first dance to "Someday We'll Be Together." On April 17, 1973, Willie married Carolyn, the love of his life. He was a wonderful husband, provider and doting dad who dedicated his life to supporting and providing for his family. Recently, he was so blessed and happy to have three grandchildren who brought him much joy, pleasure and pride.

Willie James loved family get-togethers and celebrations of family achievements, especially the annual Yarbrough Family Reunion. He loved to recount stories of the joy he shared with his siblings and cousins in his youth. He was very astute and also loved spirited debates on political issues, financial matters, and the moral decay of society.

Caring & Sharing: Willie James shared his time, talents and skills to help others. Some of his favorite pastimes included gardening, barbecuing, cooking, and socializing with family and friends. Each year, he freely shared tomatoes, collard greens, cucumbers and even pumpkins from his home garden with his neighbors. If you ever had the privilege of visiting him at his residence, you would be offered refreshments ranging from a can of Coke to his latest homemade peach cobbler. When tough Michigan winters hit, he would get up extra early to blow not only his snow but also the snow of his elderly neighbors. Willie James really exemplified the meaning of a good neighbor and friend. He was always happy to share whatever he had with those he cared for.

Willie James was preceded in death by: his loving parents, Marion and Annie Lee (Harvey) Goodman; sister, Betty Albritton; and brother, Ray Goodman. The love, laughs and fond memories of Willie James will always be cherished by: his loving wife, Carolyn (Holcomb) Goodman, Detroit, MI; mother-in-law, Lera Holcomb, Ripley, TN; children: Hilton Smith, Memphis, TN; Byron Bullock, Detroit, MI; Wilkanda (Larence) McLendon, Oak Park, MI and Carollette (Thomas) Phillips, Los Angeles, CA; grandchildren: Landon McLendon, Emmanuel Phillips and Lera McLendon; sisters: Edna Goodman, Detroit, MI; Mae Kathryn (James) Taylor, Cordova, TN and LaDon (the late Freddie) McNeil, Grand Blanc, MI; sister-in-law Vernedia (the late Bobby Joe) Pitts, Henning, TN; brothers-in-law Calvin Ray (Maxine) Holcomb, Cordova, TN and Stephen Holcomb, Sugarland, TX; aunt, Geraldine (the late Jack) Clay, Ripley, TN; his "Kiddo" Elese Parker, Broken Arrow, OK; extended family: Pauline (the late James) Floyd, Detroit, MI and Raymond Hughes, Detroit, MI; and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.

THINGS OUR FATHER SAID...

Daddy often spoke in riddles and interesting adages to help us navigate life. Here are some of our favorites:

It's rough, but I'm tough.

The name of the game is win.

Don't put more on your cart than you can pull.

When I'm in deep water, I just swim harder.

Keep chipping at that tree, sooner or later you'll chop it down.

Stay on the path, one day the sun will shine on you.

A bird in the hand is worth two in the bush.

One monkey don't stop no show.

Don't whine and complain about problems,

fix them or find someone who can.

When the going get tough, the tough get going.

I'd rather be a bad rooster than a dead hen.

Don't dig a hole you can't get out of.

I'm not hard to please, I just like things right.

I'm not following you if you aren't going anywhere.

Do your best with what you have.

I respect money.

Here's looking at you kid.

*Daddy you are our hero. We love you to infinity and we are so proud of the example and the legacy you have given us.
Thank you from the bottom of our hearts.*

*In everlasting love,
Your Children*



His Journey's Just Begun

By: Ellen Brenneman

Don't think of him as gone away
his journey's just begun,
life holds so many facets
this earth is only one.

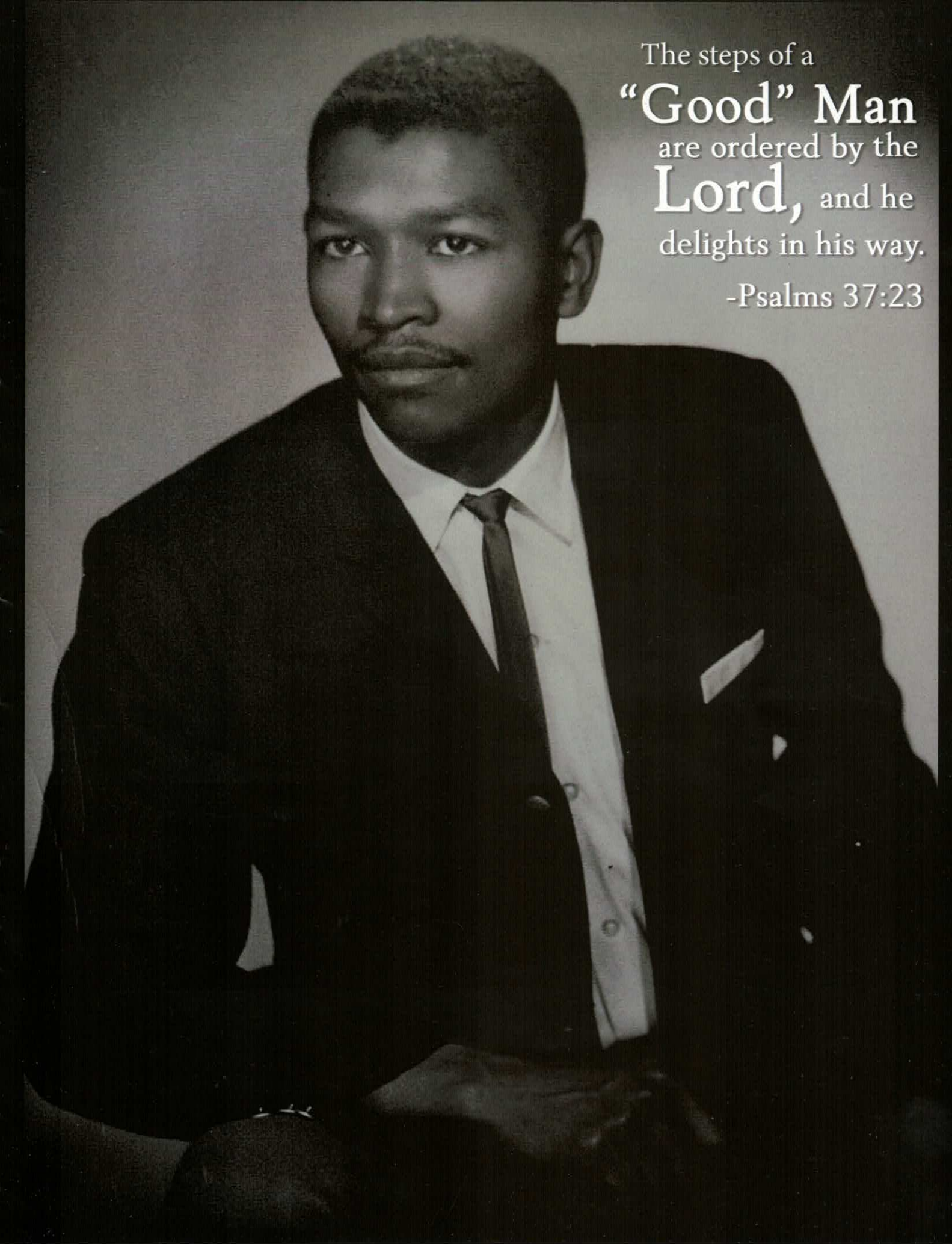
Just think of him as resting
from the sorrows and the tears
in a place of warmth and comfort
where there are no days and years.

Think how he must be wishing
that we could know today
how nothing but our sadness
can really pass away.

And think of him as living
in the hearts of those he touched...
for nothing loved is ever lost
and he was loved so much.

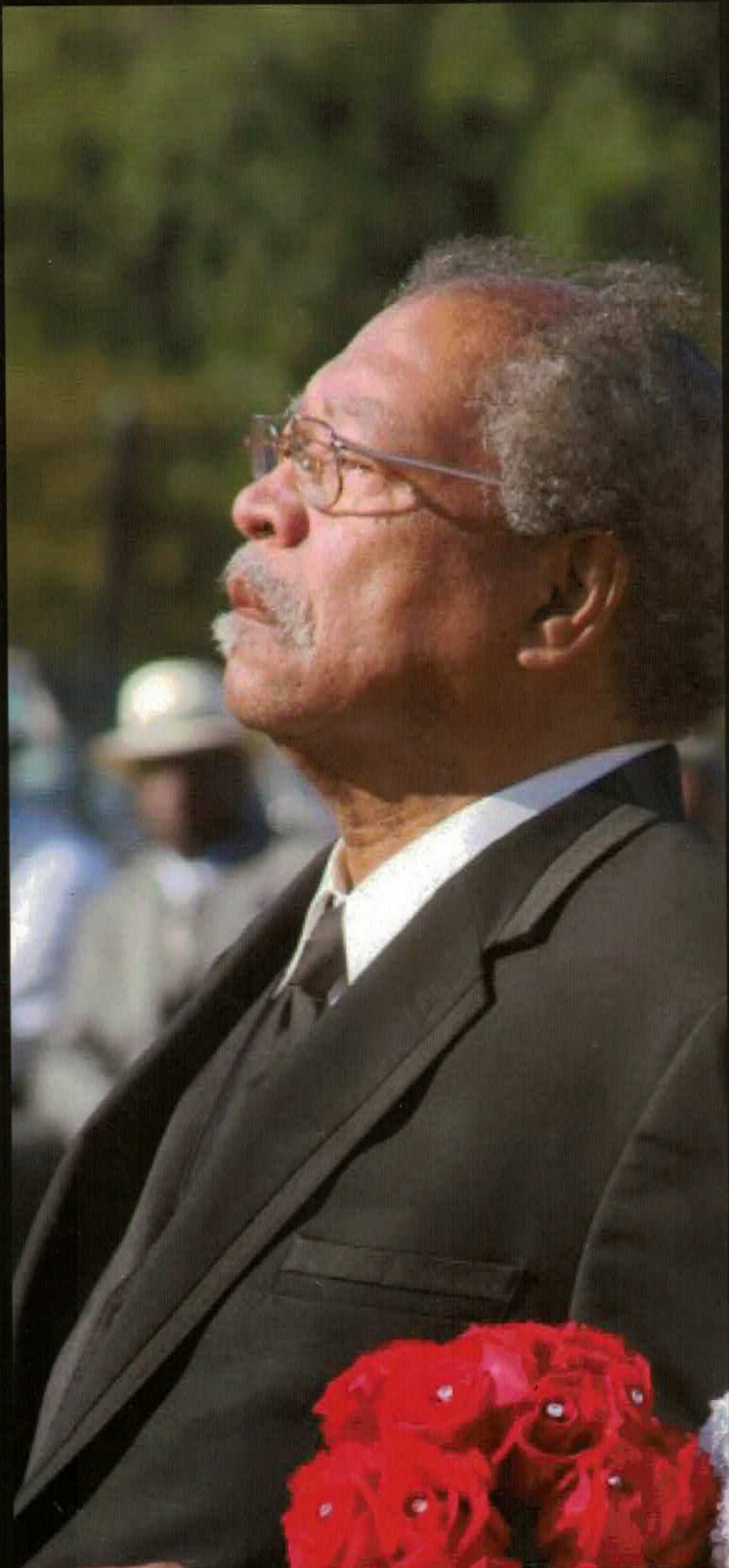






The steps of a
“Good” Man
are ordered by the
Lord, and he
delights in his way.

-Psalms 37:23



PALLBEARERS:

Julian Albritton
Larence McLendon
Lamar McNeil
Ezell Parker
Thomas Phillips III
Hilton Smith
Brian Taylor
John Yarbrough

FLOWER BEARERS:

Nieces of Willie James Goodman
Avery Chapel C.M.E. Church Stewardess Board

INTERMENT:

Avery Chapel Cemetery
2302-2340 Leighs Chapel Rd. | Covington, TN 38019

REPAST:

Liberty Hall
204 E. Liberty Ave | Covington, TN 38019

**PROFESSIONAL SERVICES
ENTRUSTED TO:**

Michigan Services:

James H. Cole Home for Funerals
16100 Schaefer Hwy. | Detroit, Michigan 48235
Phone: 313-835-3997

Tennessee Services:

Currie's Funeral Home
7560 Highway 51 South | Henning, TN 3804
Phone: 731-738-2625

THANK YOU:

Perhaps you sent a lovely card, or sat quietly in a chair.
Perhaps you sent those beautiful flowers, that we saw sitting there.
Perhaps you spoke the kindest words, as any friend could say.
Perhaps you were not there at all, just thought of us that day.
Whatever you chose to do your part, we thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

-The Family

Designed and assembled with love by Jamar A. Morris