

A portrait of James L. Saunders, a Black man with a short beard and mustache, wearing a dark blue jacket over a white shirt. He is looking slightly to the right of the camera with a neutral expression. The background of the portrait is a soft, light blue gradient.

*In Loving
Memory
of*

James L. Saunders

Sunrise: April 23, 1964

Sunset: March 30, 2019

Service

Saturday, April 6, 2019 - 10:00 a.m.

UNITY FUNERAL CHAPELS, INC.

2352 8th Avenue • New York, NY 10027

Obituary

James Leonard Saunders (JB) was born in Brooklyn, on April 24, 1964 to parents, Mary Saunders and Frederick Saunders. When his mother transitioned to be with the Lord at the tender age of 28 years old, James was sent to live with his uncle and aunt in the "Boogie Down South Bronx." It was in the Bronx that James quickly made a name for himself in the Patterson Housing Projects. He admired the character James Bond because he was fascinated at how James Bond was able to get so many women. He said, "I could do it better." So he changed his name to J Bonz with a Z at the end because he wanted to be original and official, never duplicating anyone else's style. "I'm the black J Bonz", he would say. He also used the name JB to further distinguish himself.

James was always someone whom you could depend on to lighten up a stressful or challenging situation. His natural sense of humor would make him the life of any family gathering. He wants us to know that he is here with us now listening to this obituary. He actually made sure it reflected him the way he wanted to be remembered. In his words, "John I don't want no boring funeral make these people laugh. (Tell them about shopping for the suit.) It's alright to cry but don't cry for long, because I'm with our Maker. It don't get better than this."

"I'm free, I have no pain, I'm not sick, I don't have to eat no horse burgers, I'm good. And the best part of it all, I was determined to hold out to the end--only to find out it's truly the beginning of my life with our Creator. It's real bro. It's real. Live your life--be true to you, and most of all be true to God. He is real bro. Money can't buy this--I'm Free."

James has two children, James Saunders and Tameya Mary Saunders. They are the pride of his life.

He wants them to know that he will always be with them in spirit to help guide them throughout the challenges of this life with the help of our Creator.

JB was a strong determined warrior cut from the best cloth Almighty God has. His crowning achievement in life is when he accepted Jesus Christ as his personal Lord and Savior for the remission of his sins to receive everlasting life. He wants all to know this is real, and the end of his physical life. He was not afraid to transition. In his words, "Bro John I'm not afraid to die. I'm at peace with Our Maker."

James attended Walton High School in the Bronx, and completed his High School Equivalency Diploma. He also completed his education in Culinary Arts and Apex Automotive School. He worked as a nutritionist in most of the New York City University (CUNY) colleges. In 2009, he retired to take better care of his health.

James was preceded in death by his mother and father, Mary and Frederick Saunders.

He is survived by: his two children, James Saunders and Tameya Saunders; his sister and brothers in order, Antoinette Sweeney, Frederick Saunders, Elizabeth Saunders, Dorothy Ray, John Saunders, Lillian McFarlane and Edward Saunders; also a host of nieces and nephews, grand nieces and nephews, many relatives and close friends. JB you will be sorely missed. Thank you for all the life lessons you taught us. We love You.

Order of Service

Processional

Selection

Scripture Readings

Prayer

Selection

Acknowledgements

Remarks

Obituary

Selection

Eulogy

Committal

Viewing

Recessional

Interment

*Forest Green Memorial Park
Morganville, New Jersey*

No Time For Sad Remembrances

*There's no time for sad remembrances
Because I'm home where I belong
I've conquered all my battles,
I've even heard the trumpet's song.
I've climbed my highest mountain
And I've reached an even peak,
And I've found that peace and true reward
That you have yet to seek.*

*There's no time for sad remembrances
For you have a precious life;
So find comfort in my journey
Please don't bear this pain and strife.
Oh! My Father's house is perfect
Just like He said it would be,
So dry your tears
Because I'm home and now I'm free.
I am part of all the beauty
That your world has yet to see;
So don't be sad about my journey,
Just be glad that I am free!*

-Author unknown

Acknowledgement

*The family acknowledges with deep appreciation all acts of kindness extended to them during this bereavement hour.
May God bless you for all your thoughtfulness and concern.*

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