

Home Going Celebration for
James Adams



Sunrise
April 26, 1932

Sunset
June 15, 2020

Friday, June 26, 2020 - 10am

UNITY FUNERAL CHAPELS, INC.

2352 8th Avenue • New York, NY 10027
Reverend Victor T. Hall, Sr., Officiating

Order of Service

Prelude

Musical Selection

Organist

Scripture Readings

Old Testament - Psalm 23 - Shayla Adams

New Testament - Romans 8:33-39 - Hattie Person Adams

Prayer of Comfort

Min. Jean Adams Umstead

Musical Selection

Reading of the Obituary

Shalaine Adams

Remarks

Musical Selection

Eulogy

Rev. Victor T Hall, Sr.

Benediction

Interment

Calverton National Cemetery

Calverton, New York

Family Prayer

“O God, you do not willingly grieve or afflict your children.
Look with pity on the suffering of this family in our loss.

Sustain us in our anguish
and into the darkness of our grief.
Bring the light of your love
through Jesus we pray.”
Amen.

Obituary

James (Buster) Adams was born to the late Fred Adams and Daisy Swinton Adams in Florence, South Carolina on April 26, 1932. After several months of declining health, James died peacefully at the St. Alban's Veterans Hospital in Queens, New York on Monday, June 15, 2020.

The oldest of five sons and one daughter, James did not have the opportunity for much of a formal education. After the loss of his father at age 16, he helped his family by doing any odd job he could find. His work ethic and desire to take care of his family led to his enlisting in the Army at age 18. He was stationed at Fort Jackson and Fort Totten before being deployed to Germany during the Korean War.

After finishing his military service, James made his home in Brooklyn, New York. In 1955, James became a father for the first time when Andre' Kevin was born to Ruby D. Lilly. In 1956, he met and married Ellen Brown. From this union one son, Don Keith, was born.

James worked at the largest Bakery and Confectionery plant in New York where he advanced to the position of Chief Floor Foreman. He became the first black Union Representative and was instrumental in helping to ensure plant employees receive annual increases and substantive benefits. James was an advocate for employees suffering from HIV and AIDS, ensuring they were not removed from the health plan. James also played an intricate role during the closing of the plant. He negotiated in securing equal shares in the closing pension plan for workers not in management.

James later met Claudia Griffin (deceased) and moved to Harlem where he lived for 55 years. He was most proud to have lived in New York City, where he felt there was no greater place in the world. After his retirement he could often be found exploring the city. It was not unusual for him to walk from Harlem to Lower Manhattan.

He was a world traveler and went to all of the continents except Antarctica and Australia. After reading about a city or country he would then go to explore it for himself.

James had an insatiable thirst for knowledge and was an avid reader. James was a great conversationalist. He was the happiness when he could convey and discuss information he had learned. He also had a great love for music especially blues and classic jazz. James also had a great voice and would sing for you if you asked him to do so. He was a proud veteran and sponsored many charitable programs affiliated with the Veterans Association of America. He was extremely proud and thankful to have witnessed and to have lived through the tenure of our country's first African-American President.

Although James was not a regular church goer, he knew God and accepted Him as his Lord and Savior.

James was preceded in death by three brothers, Joshua, Richard and Theodore. He leaves to cherish his memory: two sons, Andre' Kevin (Ivette', deceased) of Allentown, PA and Don Keith (Hattie) of Valley Stream, New York; one brother, Fred (Margaret) of Jersey City, NJ; one sister, Sally Jean (Carl) Umstead of Florence, SC; three grandchildren, Shayla, Kevin and Shalaine; five great grandchildren; as well as a host of nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.

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 and play.
Tasks left undone must stay that way,
I found that place at the close of day.
If my passing has left a void
Then fill it with remembered joy.
A friendship shared, a laugh, a kiss;
Ah, these things I too will miss.
Be not burdened with times of sorrow
I wish you the sunshine of tomorrow.
My life's been full I've savored much;
Good friends, good times, a loved one's touch.
Perhaps my time seemed all too brief;
Don't lengthen it now with undue grief.
Lift up your heart and share with me,
God wanted me now, He set me free.

Acknowledgments

The family wishes to express their heartfelt thanks for the many acts of love and kindness, thoughts and prayers extended to us during our time of sorrow.

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