

A portrait of a smiling Black man with a grey beard, wearing a black and white striped polo shirt. The background is a dramatic sky with large, golden, illuminated clouds, suggesting a sunrise or sunset. The overall tone is warm and celebratory.

*Celebrating the Life of*

*James Martan*

Sunrise  
January 15, 1942

Sunset  
July 21, 2020

Friday, July 31, 2020 - 12:30pm

# Obituary

**James Clarence (JC) Martan** was born on January 15, 1942 to Arthur and Frances Martin in St. Petersburg, Florida. He was the fourth of eleven children.



JC left home in his late teens where he ultimately ended up in New York on West 80th Street. While living there he met Elizabeth (Bigabit) Williams. Naturally, he gravitated to Bigabit just like all of the strangers she met. Shortly afterwards he met Georgia, Bigabit's youngest daughter. They began dating and together they raised Vernadette, Darnell and Centrass.



In 2005, James retired from NY Presbyterian Hospital after working there for over 45 years. Shortly after his retirement JC had a stroke (2006) that left him partially paralyzed on his right side. Although he was partially paralyzed James was able to care for himself. In 2007, he had a heart attack which led to him having double bypass surgery. A month later, Centrass passed away. This was devastating for the family, especially his parents. In 2014, his life partner Georgia passed away, this was another unexpected and heartfelt death to James and the family.

Throughout the years, James would have a couple of mini heart attacks, but none like the one on February 9th, 2019. On that day he went into full cardiac arrest. Once the doctors were able to revive him, he was transferred to Good Samaritan

Hospital where he was placed on an ice bed that caused him to contract pneumonia. He was transferred to various medical facilities throughout Rockland and Manhattan Counties prior to his passing on July 21, 2020 from a heart attack.

He was preceded in death by his life partner, Georgia Martan; son, Centrass; parents, six brothers and two sisters.

James leaves behind to mourn: his daughter, Vernadette Williams; son, Darnell (Deborah) Williams; granddaughters, Tamesha Williams, Andrea Sinclair, Anaiah Sinclair and Sydni Williams, all in New York; sister, May Frances (Booker) Underwood; brother, Taff Harry Lee (Delores Elaine) Green, all from St. Petersburg, FL; and a host of nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends.



My parents used to say, "don't wait until I'm gone to give me my flowers, give them to me now while I'm living and I can enjoy them." Daddy, I hope your garden was full of flowers while you were living. We love you dearly and wish you a blessed journey home.

## *Psalm 23*

The Lord is My Shepherd; I shall not want. He maketh me to lie down in green pastures; He leadeth me beside the still waters. He restoreth my soul. He leadeth me in the path of righteousness for His name's sake. Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; for Thou art with me; Thy rod and Thy staff they comfort me. Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies. Thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life; and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

## *John 14:1-6*

Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also. And whither I go ye know, and the way ye know. Thomas saith unto him, Lord, we know not whither thou goest; and how can we know the way? Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.

## *Matthew 6:9-14*

After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen. For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you:

## *Interment*

George Washington Memorial Park  
Paramus, New Jersey

*Those We Love Don't Go Away, They  
Walk Beside Us Every Day. Unseen,  
unheard, but always near. So loved, So  
missed, So very dear.*

*Daddy thank you for being a good man, a  
better father and grandfather than most.  
You are deeply loved as you loved us. It's  
that love that kept you here, but I prayed  
and wished you did not have to go  
through all the pain and suffering you  
endured. You're on your journey now to  
join Mommy and Centrass. Although I  
love and miss you dearly I know you're at  
peace now. God bless you Daddy.*

## *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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