

Together Again



A reunion occurred in heaven this week
Of the sweetest and most joyful kind
As Dad's spirit moved beyond this earth
Released from his mortal life

And what a reunion it must have been!
A joy beyond our conceiving
When Dad met Mom in heaven again
Ending his dignified grieving

And we are certain Mom is still holding Dad's hand
While he cherishes each moment by her side
And they're experiencing the joy of being together again
Catching up on the time they were denied

We are confident they are also looking over us
Hoping this happiness will lessen our pain
As we contemplate the joy that they finally feel
Now that they are together again

And though we'll miss them terribly
And will long for them with deepest grief
We are reminded that love is more powerful than death
And this knowledge gives us comfort and peace

We can still feel their love surround us
Giving us a desire to continue on
To try our best to live our lives well
In the ways they would have done

For we know this isn't the only reunion
Someday we'll be called back to be with them
For life can lead us to greater happiness
With the Lord and our loved ones in heaven

So although we'll miss our Dad profoundly
Our grief is somewhat lessened
For we are comforted knowing that he led a good life
And Dad and Mom are now together in heaven

*In Loving
Memory
of*



James Cunningham

Sunrise
March 1, 1927

Sunset
January 13, 2021

Service
Tuesday, January 19, 2021 - 9:00 AM

Second Baptist Church
378 E. Milton Avenue • Rahway, NJ
Rev. Dr. James W. Ealey, Officiating



Professional Services Provided By

Nesbitt Funeral Home

165 Madison Ave, Elizabeth, NJ 07201

Ph: (908) 352-7078



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"Come To Me"

*God saw you getting tired,
but a cure was not to be
So he put his arms around you
and whispered, "Come to Me."
With tearful eyes I watched you;
saw you slowly fade away.
And though I loved you dearly,
I could not ask you to stay.
For when your heart stopped beating,
your pains were laid to rest,
Though it broke my heart,
it proved to me,
God only takes the best.*



Order of Service

- Musical PreludeMs. Chareta Austin
- Opening Hymn
- Scripture Reading:
 - Old Testament: Psalm 27
 - New Testament: John 14:1-6
- Prayer of Comfort
- Solo Mr. Benston Lewis
- Acknowledgement and Obituary
- Reflections..... 2 Mins. Please
- Solo Mr. Benston Lewis
- Eulogy Rev. Dr. James W. Ealey
- Committal
- Recessional

Interment

Brigadier .William C. Doyle Veterans Cemetery
Wrightstown, New Jersey

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.



James was born to the late Richard and Victoria Cunningham in Garnett, S. Carolina on March 1, 1927.

Educated in the S. Carolina school system along with his four sisters and six brothers, James graduated from Robertsville High School, Garnett, S. Carolina in 1951.

During his freshman year while attending Voorhees College (an HBCU) located in Denmark, S. Carolina, he was drafted into the US Army. PFC James Cunningham was a decorated veteran who served in the armed forces during the Korean War from 1951 to 1952. As a member of his infantry unit he was awarded the Combat Infantry Badge (CIB). James was also the sole survivor of his unit after an enemy bombing and subsequently lost his left eye. He was then awarded the Purple Heart.

After moving to New Jersey in 1952, James married his longtime love Katie Cohen, originally from Pineland, S. Carolina. They were married in Holy matrimony at their first home in Linden, NJ and eventually settled in Rahway, NJ where they resided for over 50 years. Their union was blessed with two children, James Vernon Cunningham and Cenithia Ann Cunningham-Bilal.

James worked at F.W. Woolworth in Linden for a period, but after moving to Rahway was employed by the Rahway Post Office until retirement.

He supported charities such as the Second Baptist Scholarship fund. He was a member of the Rahway Chapter of the NAACP and American Legion #499.

James was a faithful, long-standing member of Second Baptist Church in Rahway for over 60 years. He wore many hats during his tenure. James was on the Board of Deacons, he sang with the Men's Chorus and the Inspirational Choir. He was the Treasurer and a member of the Sick & Shut-In Committee for the Benevolent Association.

James loved spending time with his family, friends and was a diehard Mets fan. He brought his down-home hobbies, skills and sensibilities with him to Rahway and created an oasis in his backyard for him and his family to enjoy. He had a full-fledged vegetable garden and also planted peach and walnut trees. James was an avid hunter and fisherman so he constructed a kennel where he bred and trained hunting dogs. He was a Do-It-Yourself kind of man. His favorite hunting dogs were short haired German Pointers and pure bred Blue Ticked Beagles. He would travel as far as Indiana on hunting trips with his hunting buddies. They hunted deer, pheasants, quails and rabbits.

He was predeceased by his wife Katie Alberta Cunningham, grandson Frederick Desmond Cunningham, four sisters Julia Wright, Bessie Taylor, Evelyn (aka Neb) Cunningham, Carrie (aka Dollie) Armstead and five brothers Eddie Cunningham, Jake Cunningham, Richard Cunningham, Warren Cunningham and Frank Cunningham.

He leaves to cherish his memory a brother John Cunningham, a son James Vernon Cunningham, a daughter Cenithia Ann Bilal and husband Abdul Bilal, three grandsons James Cunningham III, Wali Bilal, and Malcolm Bilal, two granddaughters Cenithia Kayla Bilal and Carmen Bilal, seven great grandchildren Tristan James Cunningham, Cameron Lee Cunningham, Aria Bilal, Alan Bilal, Nala Bilal, Naya Bilal and Malik Bilal as well as several sister and brother-in-laws and a host of cousins, nephews, nieces, family and friends.

"To God be the glory for a life well lived."