

*In Loving Memory of*

*James Melvin Lee*

*Sunrise: October 29, 1951*

*Sunset: September 21, 2016*



Service

*Saturday, October 1, 2016 - 10:00 a.m.*

**UNITY FUNERAL CHAPELS, INC.**

2352 8th Avenue • New York, NY 10027

*Rev. Theodore Hayre, Officiating*

*Bobby Arrington, Organist*

# Obituary

**James Melvin Lee**, affectionately known as "**Lil Jim**" was born to James E. Lee and Bernetha Mears Lee on October 29, 1951 in Harlem Hospital. Lil Jim suffered with rheumatic fever as a child, this illness continued throughout his adult life as well. His untimely death was reported on September 21, 2016.

James was a product of the New York City public school system. Before completion of high school he found himself incarcerated at Dannemora Correctional Facilities, while there he completed and was granted his high school diploma, but received his Associates of Science Degree from Corning Community College, a Bachelor of Science from Marist College in Poughkeepsie, New York graduating, Cum Laude. While at Marist he made the Dean's Honor List gaining First Honor and Second Honor in 1980. He was determined to jump start his life after his final discharge. He remained faithful to the end. His favorite quote was "Black Lives Matter."

James loved music, but jazz was his heart. His degree in Criminology and Business Law allowed him to help many friends who needed it. His health was always a factor with holding on to a permanent job. He was finally granted disability that helped him move forward with his life.

James was preceded in death by his brother, Michael. He leaves to cherish his memory: his mother, Bernetha Lee; his father, James; two sons, Sean Omar Lee of Atlanta, GA and Jamel Michael Lee of New York; sister, Barbara Lee of New York; nieces, Michelle and Tina Lee of New York; one nephew, Benjamin Rawls, Jr. of New York; grand nieces, Manisha Vasquez, Matia Williams and Jatia Lee; grand nephews, Quran Lee, Tyrike Lee, Tysuon Lee and Benjamin Rawls, Jr.; one great grand nephew, Ronnie Prince, Jr. II; and a host of cousins and friends who will miss him dearly.

# Order of Service

Processional

Opening Hymn....."Blessed Assurance"

Scripture - Ecclesiastes 3:1-8.....Rose King (cousin)

Prayers and Words of Comfort.....Rev. Cecil Muschett  
Senior Assistant Pastor  
Mother A.M.E. Zion Church, Harlem, NY

Remarks and Remembrance..... (Three Minutes Please)

Musical Selection....."Come Ye Disconsolate"

Obituary.....Michelle Lee (niece)

Eulogy.....Rev. Theodore Hayre  
Prospect, Connecticut

Soloist.....Beverly Jackson  
Calvary United Methodist Church, Bronx, NY

Benediction

Closing Prayer

Recessional

## Interment

George Washington Memorial Park  
Paramus, New Jersey



# 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 or play.  
 Tasks left undone must stay that way,  
 I found that peace at the close of day.

If my parting has left a void,  
 Then fill it up with remembered joy.  
 A friendship shared, a laugh, a kiss,  
 Oh, yes 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 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!

-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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*Clifford V. James, President & CEO*  
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