

In Loving Memory of



James Witherspoon

Sunrise
June 26, 1935

Sunset
March 2, 2022

Service:
Saturday, March 12, 2022 - 10:00 am

MCCALL'S BRONXWOOD FUNERAL HOME

4035 Bronxwood Avenue • Bronx, New York 10466

Pastor Jay Gooding Officiating

Kevin Wade, Organist

Obituary

James Witherspoon was born on June 26, 1935 in Marengo County (Uniontown), Alabama to the late Elmore and Lula Witherspoon. He was one of four children and was preceded in death by Richard Witherspoon, Edward Witherspoon and Rebecca W. Johnson. At the age of 10, James and his family moved to Harlem, New York where he attended the local public schools. He joined the Army in March 1955 and was honorably discharged in March 1957. After the Army, he held jobs in security and chose NYC Transit Authority for long term employment and retired as a track worker in 1990. After moving Co-op City, James worked many years as a lobby attendant for Riverbay Corporation.

On March 1, 1997, James married Mattie Slates in the Bronx, New York and became a father to Saud and Stacey. He loved his family and over the years, became Papa and Super Papa to nine grandchildren. James was fondly called JW and J-Dub by the family.

James loved playing poker, cruising, phoning friends and watching television, mainly westerns.

Caribbean poker was his favorite poker game. For many years, he hosted and played poker socially with a devoted circle of friends. Cruising was another activity that James thoroughly enjoyed and he looked forward to annual cruises. The pandemic halted James' cruise total at nineteen. Communication by phone was another pastime that he enjoyed. He would always pick up the phone and call a relative or friend. James was also an avid western fan and watched many of the movies faithfully, nearly every day. As time wore on, he could repeat some of the western dialogue. He would often ask the question of a western movie, "have I seen this one?". The answer would always be yes, many times.

James departed this life on March 2, 2022. He leaves to mourn his wife, Mattie; son, Saud Hanif (Hassna); daughter Stacey Slates; grandchildren Idrees Hanif, Makai Slates-Simmons, Aliyah Hanif, Kaden Norton, Skyla Norton, Ilyas Hanif, Ali Hanif, Keegan Norton and Eesa Hanif; sister-in-law, Carolyn Mullen; nephews Richard Witherspoon (Betsy) and James Witherspoon; nieces Mischel Ashmon, Elena Young, Maria Rowell, Andrea Witherspoon, Carol Hassell and Charlana Mullen; great grandchildren Camdyn Robinson and Makai Slates-Simmons Jr; goddaughter Lacle Smith and a host of great nieces/nephews, other relatives and friends.

Lovingly submitted,
The Family

Order of Service

Processional

Selection

Kevin Wade

Scripture

Pastor Jay Gooding

Prayer

Pastor Jay Gooding

Selection

Kevin Wade

Obituary

Amina Wilson

Acknowledgements

Eulogy

Pastor Jay Gooding

Committal

Pastor Jay Gooding

Interment

Ferncliff Cemetery
Hartsdale, New York

No Need To Weep

*Oh, my loved ones, why do you weep?
Wipe away your tears, for I'm only asleep.
Will not awake when you call my name,
Because in the midst of the night, Death
came. I have earned this eternal rest,
Because in life God put me to the test.
The battle is over and the victory is won,
God spoke to me and
he said, "Well Done."
He stretched out His hand to beckon me,
And said, "Come home my child, to
eternity." Wipe away the tears, because
I'm only asleep, I'm in the arms of Jesus,
so there's no need to weep.
Weeping may endure for the night,
But joy cometh in the morning.*

Acknowledgments

The family would like to express their deep appreciation and sincere thanks for all acts of kindness shown to them during their time of bereavement.

Professional Service Entrusted To:

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