



Rev. James Curtis Cooper, Sr.

July 9, 1949 - July 22, 2024

On July 9, 1949, Lonnie and Allie Cooper, Sr. of Pearl became the proud parents of their ninth child, James, who was nick-named SHAG. James had an infectious smile and a genuine zest for life and a heart for people.

During his earlier life, James was educated at Carter High School in Brandon, MS. He received an associate degree from Hinds Community College in Criminal Justice and wanted to pursue a career in law enforcement.

In 1974, the Mississippi Highway Patrol integrated its unit when the department recruited only four blacks to fill its racial quota. Under pressure by the Justice Department and the Supreme Court to recruit more, the Highway Patrol hired forty-one recruits in 1978, which included thirty-four blacks. One of them was Patrolman James Cooper, who was the commencement speaker, thus landing him in the historical archives for Americans.

He was no stranger to hard work and was "jack of all trades." He was a dedicated truck driver for over thirty years. He also ventured into real estate and culinary arts. He retired after many years in the public work force, but it that didn't slow him down. He loved working in the community. In 1991, he became founder and owner of JJ's Development Center in the Pearson Community.

James was reared in the church. He was a lifetime member of Mt. Elam M.B.

Church where he served faithfully as a Sunday school teacher, choir member, and deacon for over seventeen years. He preached his first sermon in December of 1998 with a message entitled, "The Danger Zone."

He later became the pastor of New St. Matthew Church, where he served for over fifteen years. James preached his final message on July 21, 2024, at his beloved MT Elam M.B. Church with the message of "Be Who You Say You Are." His final message was a testament to how he lived.

In 1999, James married the love of his life, Sheila Jenkins Cooper. Together, they have a blended family of four: Miranda, James Jr., Jonathan, and Bryce. In addition to his children, he had a special bond with his grandchild, J'Karius, whom he raised while richly impacting their lives. When he was not enjoying family, he was at I's cooking or lending a hand while his wife ran the day-to-day operations. James was known to all the children as "Paw Paw."

Now that he has faithfully executed all of life's responsibilities, the Lord has called him home, labor to reward. He leaves to cherish his memory, his loving wife of twenty-five years, Sheila; four children: Miranda Ward of Dallas, Texas; James Cooper, Jr. (Juani) of San Diego, California; Jonathan Cooper of Springhill, Florida; Bryce Gilbert of Pearl, MS; seven grandchildren: Aminah Fareed, Omar Fared, Alicia Cooper, Silvia Cooper, Noeme Cooper, Jordan Cooper and Makayla Cooper; two grandchildren: j'Karius Gilbert and Khloe Gilbert; and two great grand-children: Mina Marie Fareed and Sebastian Cooper. Siblings: Hester Cooper of Indianapolis, Indiana; Gloria Durr of Ft. Wayne, Indiana; Fred Cooper of Jackson, MS; Lonnie Cooper, Jr., (Barbara) Little Rock, Arkansas; and his loving father and mother-in-law Henry and Earline Jenkins, Sr. of Pearl, MS. Preceding him in death are parents Lonnie and Allie Cooper; along with siblings: Ellawese Perry, Bobbie Jean Mangum, Mary Sue Trigg, Alberta Nichols, and Eddie Cooper.

Previous Events

Visitation

JUL **26.** 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Dean Memorial Funeral Home
745 Highway 468
Brandon, MS 39042
(601) 825-3884
<https://deanmemorialfuneralhome.com/>

Homegoing Service

JUL **27.** 11:00 AM (CT)

Mt Elam MB Church
701 Old Whitfield Rd
Pearl, MS 39208

Tribute Wall



“ *Dean Memorial Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Rev. James Curtis Cooper, Sr.*



Dean Memorial Funeral Home - July 26, 2024 at 12:31 PM

SH

“ *Sharon D Henton lit a candle in memory of James Cooper,*



Sharon D Henton - July 30, 2024 at 11:22 PM

DG

“ *Diann Jenkins Grant lit a candle in memory of James Cooper,*



Diann Jenkins Grant - July 29, 2024 at 05:52 AM

DJ

“ *Debbie L. Jenkins sent a virtual gift in memory of James Cooper,*



Debbie L. Jenkins - July 27, 2024 at 08:28 PM

BB

“ *Bonni and Robert Blackmon lit a candle in memory of James Cooper,*



Bonni and Robert Blackmon - July 27, 2024 at 03:10 PM



“ *Phyllis Jenkins sent a virtual gift in memory of James Cooper,*



Phyllis Jenkins - July 26, 2024 at 10:46 PM

CL

“ *Cynthia Lonie-Mallard lit a candle in memory of James Cooper,*



Cynthia Lonie-Mallard - July 26, 2024 at 09:48 PM

LP

“ *Linda Johnson Peels lit a candle in memory of James Cooper,*



Linda Johnson Peels - July 26, 2024 at 08:22 PM

PM

“ *Pelma and Jamacia Myers lit a candle in memory of James Cooper,*



Pelma and Jamacia Myers - July 26, 2024 at 08:13 PM

DJ

“ *Daisy Johnson sent a virtual gift in memory of James Cooper,*



Daisy Johnson - July 26, 2024 at 06:41 PM

CF

“ *Carolyn Fairley lit a candle in memory of James Cooper,*



Carolyn Fairley - July 26, 2024 at 06:35 PM

MA

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Mary Anderson - July 26, 2024 at 05:00 PM

CJ

“ Cortney Jones lit a candle in memory of James Cooper,



Cortney Jones - July 26, 2024 at 04:51 PM

PM

“ May the memories of good times with your loved on comfort you in the days weeks and months to come. Praying for the family. Reverend Johnny and Patricia Mosley and the entire Point Pleasant M.B. Church Mt Olive MS.



PATRICIA ANN MOSLEY - July 26, 2024 at 03:18 PM

AP

“ Aj Palmer lit a candle in memory of James Cooper,



Aj Palmer - July 26, 2024 at 02:42 PM

AL

“ Alexander lit a candle in memory of James Cooper,



Alexander - July 26, 2024 at 01:03 PM

TC

“ Taylorsville Community Church purchased the Gracious Lavender Basket for the family of Rev. James Curtis Cooper, Sr..



Taylorsville Community Church - July 26, 2024 at 11:38 AM

TC

“ Taylorsville Community Church planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Rev. James Curtis Cooper, Sr..

Taylorsville Community Church - July 26, 2024 at 11:38 AM

RE

“ *Pastor Cooper was a true man of God and his legacy will live on in the many lives that he touched, I’m thankful for the wisdom he instilled in me and for the countless opportunities he allowed me to stand and preach where he served for so many years, certainly keeping Sis. Cooper, his family and the New St. Matthew Church family in prayer.*

Rev. Melvin & Benita Ervin



Rev. Melvin Ervin - July 26, 2024 at 04:08 AM

CA

“ *Cathy Alexande lit a candle in memory of James Cooper,*



Cathy Alexande - July 25, 2024 at 11:17 PM

TM

“ *Tim & Theresa Mosley lit a candle in memory of James Cooper,*



Tim & Theresa Mosley - July 25, 2024 at 09:55 PM



“ *Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet was purchased for the family of Rev. James Curtis Cooper, Sr..*



July 25, 2024 at 09:46 PM



“ *Robbin Johnson lit a candle in memory of James Cooper,*



Robbin Johnson - July 25, 2024 at 06:20 PM



“ *Eddie Ainsworth lit a candle in memory of James Cooper,*



Eddie Ainsworth - July 25, 2024 at 05:09 PM



“ *Delphine Jenkins-Davs lit a candle in memory of James Cooper,*



Delphine Jenkins-Davs - July 25, 2024 at 01:12 PM

JS

“ *My deepest condolences to the Cooper family.*



Jean Swayzer - July 25, 2024 at 09:28 AM

CL

“ *Crystal Larkin lit a candle in memory of James Cooper,*



Crystal Larkin - July 25, 2024 at 09:10 AM

NC

“ *Noble Carson lit a candle in memory of James Cooper,*



Noble Carson - July 24, 2024 at 09:39 PM

NC

“ *Praying for the family.
Noble and Gazelle Carson.*



Noble Carson - July 24, 2024 at 08:12 PM

GS

“ *Sending Love with prayers for comfort and strength to endure*



Gwendolyn & Dallas Sutton - July 24, 2024 at 07:23 PM

EY

“ *Evelyn Young lit a candle in memory of James Cooper,*



Evelyn Young - July 24, 2024 at 06:17 PM

RC

“ *My deepest condolences to the Cooper Family. I've enjoyed hearing Pastor Cooper ministering God's Word.*

Rachel Covington - July 24, 2024 at 05:37 PM



“ *Phyllis Jenkins lit a candle in memory of James Cooper*



Phyllis Jenkins - July 24, 2024 at 05:37 PM

NL

“ *Nancy Loney-Taylor lit a candle in memory of James Cooper*



Nancy Loney-Taylor - July 24, 2024 at 05:19 PM