



## James E Bunkley

March 10, 1937 - April 27, 2016

In the early morning of April 27, 2016, God in His infinite wisdom saw fit to bring home, James E. Bunkley, 79, to eternal peace and reward. He was born March 10, 1937 to the late Eldrich Bunkley and Kathryn L. Offett in Morganfield, Kentucky.

Jim, as he was affectionately known to some, graduated from the only high school designated for African Americans at the time in Indianapolis, Indiana – Crispus Attucks High School. He also earned college credits from the Community College of the Air Force, from Delaware Technical Community College and other national accrediting bodies. While in the US Air Force, he worked in the field of Fire Protection Engineering.

His military career led him to not only be stationed stateside, but also overseas in such places as: Laon AFB – France, Iwo Jima Air Base, Japan, both Howard and Albrook Air Force Base, Panama and Nakhon Phanom Air Force Base, Thailand. He rose from a Fire Specialist, where he was responsible for extinguishing burning threats; to Assistant Chief of Technical Services, where he was responsible for the Extinguisher Maintenance Section and Site Planning Review and Fire Protection Systems Planning Sections. He retired as Deputy Fire Chief at Bolling Air Force Base, Washington, DC.

Upon entering civilian life, Jim's work ethic, integrity and meticulous attention to detail earned him a position within the Delaware Office of the State Fire Marshal, where he worked for 30 years. He was the first African American to work in this office and was responsible for Site and Building Plan Submittals

as well as Fire Protection Systems Plan Submittals for healthcare facilities. Jim loved the Lord and was a member of Immanuel Apostolic Church in Dover, DE, where he served as Senior Trustee for several years. In addition, he was a strong supporter of the community, especially organizations working with youth. As a result, he served on the board of Because We Care and was chairman of the board for a number of years.

His fraternal affiliations included: being a member and Past Master of Dover Air Force Base Military Lodge #28, F.&A.M. (Prince Hall Affiliation); former Grand Junior Warden for the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge for the State & Jurisdiction of Delaware; Honorary Past Most Worshipful Grand Master, State & Jurisdiction of Delaware; member and Past Commander-in-Chief of Corinthian Consistory #5, A.A.S.R.; Grand Inspector General, 33rd Degree, United Supreme Council, A.A.S.R; member and Past Potentate of Suakim Temple #60 A.E.A.O.N.M.S. where he served in the Clown Unit; and member and Past Patron of Hattie S. Blackwell Chapter #16, O.E.S.

Jim will be missed by many relatives and friends. He was always good for a story about his youth, sharing life experiences, discussing the Word, and would join anyone for a good meal and conversation. He leaves his beloved wife, Sonja E. Bunkley; five sons, Pascal Odiot, George J. Bunkley and wife, Renee Bunkley, Jimmy E. Bunkley, Tracy P. Bunkley and James E. Bunkley; three daughters, Kimora Sample; Gwen Washington and Faye Wheeler and his aunt, Katie N. Warner of California; grandchildren, Priscilla Odiot, Patrick Odiot, Matias Odiot, Mariah Landry, Jasmine Bunkley, Brittany Jones, DeLisa Bunkley, Clesha Washington, Celia Washington and George and Greg Washington; seven great-grandchildren; close friend, Pastor A. G. Carney and a host of close relatives and dear friends.

In addition to his parents, he is preceded in death by both of his grandmothers, Ginny Bunkley, and Sue Emma McCleure; his aunts, Betty Green and Jane Tate and his uncle, Christopher M. McCleure.

To send flowers to the family or plant a tree in memory of James E Bunkley,

please visit our  
Heartfelt Sympathies Store.

# Tribute Wall

JN

“ I, Jackie Nelson, husband Albert, my mother, Maybelle Nelson, daughters, Cherri and Candi, sister Vicki, brother-in-law Clifford, 3 grandchildren, nieces, nephews, and cousins. All from Chicago Il. We all want your family to know that we will truly miss you and your great smile. Sorry that we will not be able to attend the services.

---

**Jackie Nelson** - May 05, 2016 at 12:00 AM

BJ

“ As the scripture says, to be absent from the body, is to be present with the Lord. There is no doubt about where Trustee James Bunkley now resides. He was one of the kindest men that I have ever met in the Dover area. Every time I came to minister, he was there to make sure I was taken care of. He was always smiling, and always had an encouraging word for me. Know that I am praying for you Mom Bunkley and family during this difficult time. The Lord be your strength. Bishop Norman Brown, Jr. & Changing Lives Min.

---

**Bishop Norman Brown, Jr.** - May 05, 2016 at 12:00 AM

LR

“ Sending the family my deepest sympathy and condolences.

---

**LISA RAINEY** - May 04, 2016 at 12:00 AM

MW

“ Sonya, James and Family,

*Calvin and I offer our condolences to you at this difficult time. Just remember to reflect on all of your wonderful memories with him over the years and know that he loved you all very much and he knew how much he was loved.*

*Be blessed!*

---

**Monet & Calvin Wilson** - May 04, 2016 at 12:00 AM

MD

“ *My deepest sympathy to you and your family in your time of bereavement. Mr. Bunkley was a good man and will be deeply missed.*

---

**Martina Duffy** - May 04, 2016 at 12:00 AM

WR

“ *The Officers and Members of Prudence Lodge # 6, join in extending Heartfelt and Sympathy to you and your family in this Hour of sorrow.*

---

**WM. Sandell Reed** - May 04, 2016 at 12:00 AM

KF

“ *We extend our deepest condolences for your loss. Mr. Bunkley was such a kind and patient gentleman. He use to always come into 1st State Cosmetology & Barbering to greet me and give me a kiss on the cheek. He had me to shampoo his hair and beard. He will be truly missed by many. Stay encouraged and God bless you during this time of sorrow.*

---

**Kimberly Brown & Family** - May 02, 2016 at 12:00 AM

AW

“ *Extending deepest sympathy to family and friends in this time of sorrow. Please find comfort in knowing that soon all those in the memorial tombs will hear Jesus' voice and come out. (John 5:28,29) Until that blessed day, may the GOD of all comfort grant you peace (2 Cor. 1:3,4) while many fond memories of James warm your hearts.*

---

**A. Wingfield** - April 28, 2016 at 12:00 AM

MJ

“ *I would like to offer my sincere condolences for your loss. I hope the family will find some comfort and strength in Jesus promise of the earthly resurrection, when Jesus will restore life to the dead(Acts 24:15)and the renewed Paradise earth, where death will be no more and no family will mourn the death of a loved one.-Revelation 21:3,4;John 5:28,29;Luke 23:43. May GOD(Psalms 83:18)grant you peace and comfort now, during this grievous time.-Matthew 5:4.*

---

**M Jones** - April 28, 2016 at 12:00 AM