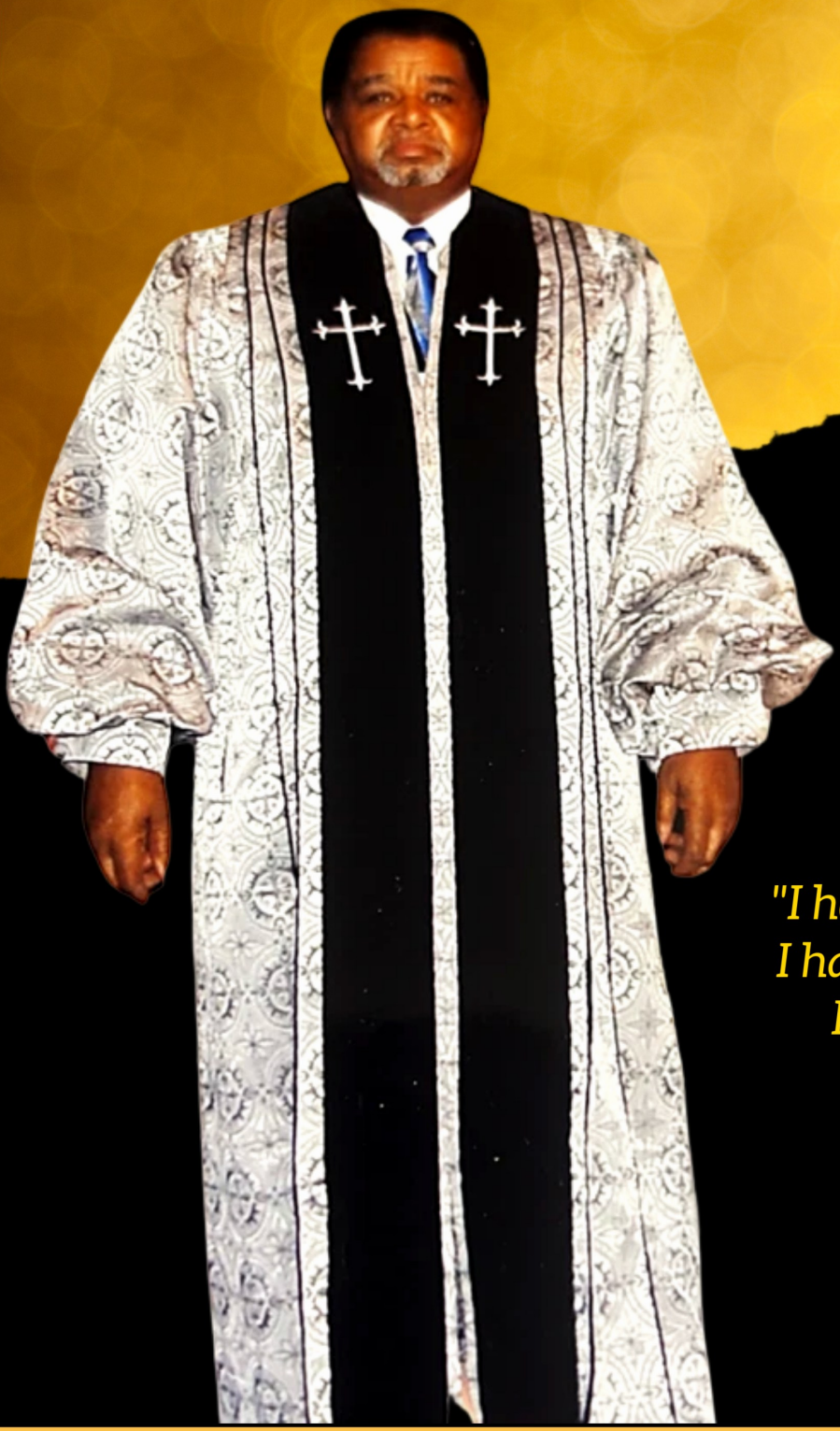
Kingdom Homegoing

SONG-A-BRATION FOR

Pastor James Brian Hodge, Sr.

December 14, 1940 – May 2, 2025





"I have fought a good fight,
I have finished my course,
I have kept the faith."
2 Timothy 4:7







Together Again

My love, I've waited patiently,
Watching over you quietly.
I've seen your tears, I've felt your pain,
But now you're home—we're whole again.

The days were long, the nights so still,
Yet love endured; it always will.
And know that Heaven's gates are in view
I open wide my arms to you.

No more goodbyes, no more alone,
You're finally where your heart has known.
Together now, in perfect peace,
Our souls rejoice, our fears released.

We'll walk through fields where angels sing,
No earthly weight, no suffering.
Just you and I, hand in hand—
Forever love, as God had planned.

So rest, my dear, your journey's through.
He brought you home—back here to me and you.

Love You—Annie



From My Heart to Yours

Don't weep too long, my dearest ones,
My time on Earth is through.
I've walked my path, I've done my part,
Now I watch over you.

Remember me in laughter's glow,
In quiet talks and song,
In all the ways you carry love—
That's where I still belong.





I held your hands through younger years,
And now, though I'm away,
My love will be your guiding star
That never fades away.

Each sunrise brings my whisper near,
Each sunset holds my prayer—
I'm part of every breath you take,
I'm with you everywhere.

So live with joy, be kind, stay strong,
And when you speak my name,
Know I'm at peace, my soul set free,
Yet with you just the same.

Love Daddy/PawPaw







The Obituary

James was born on December 14, 1940, weighing 14 pounds and five ounces, to Jonas Hodge (he passed two weeks before his birth) and Beatrice Mangum. He was reared by Beatrice and his stepfather, Jack Cooley Roberts. As the oldest of seven children, he assisted in rearing his young siblings and his cousins under his mother's guardianship.

James attended Harper High School where he excelled in football and was known for his superior athletic abilities. His peers have stated that his grandson Khadarel plays with those same skills. He graduated from Piney Woods Country Life School.

James saw and met Annie Ruth Gray in the halls of Harper High School. She was wearing a pink and black poodle skirt, and he knew at that moment that she would be his wife. James and Annie married on December 12, 1961. To this beautiful union, six children were conceived: Melissa, Melanie, Jansen, Michelle, James, Jr., and Jeremy Hodge. The family unit expanded to include their daughter-in-love, Erica Griffin and their son-in-love, Robert Lockhart.

James was a hardworking man. He worked various jobs to provide for his family. He shared stories with his children about growing up during segregation and working for $50 a week. His jobs included: Dorm Parent-Mary Mac Hall, Piney Woods School; Security Officer, Mississippi State Hospital; and Security Officer, Boswell Regional Center. He retired early due to having a stroke that left him with a limp on his left side. After his stroke, people remarked that he still thought he was cool by trying to pimp walk.

James obtained his barber's license, and the family still hears the stories – "Your Dad used to cut my hair." During his leisure time, he coached baseball, hunted deer and rabbits, watched Westerns (Gunsmoke was one of his favorites), watched sports, and oh yes FEUD (Family Feud). On Sundays at 5:30 a.m., the TV must be tuned to Chanel 3 (WLBT) for him to watch Ray Magee's Voice of Goodwill.

James, along with Pastor Willie B. Hobbs, Jr., graduated from New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary on May 17, 2002. His love of God and Gospel music led he and Pastor Hobbs to establish Trinity Fellowship Church in Mendenhall in 2005. The family and former members treasure the memories of Trinity and the Powerhouse Trinity Choir. In his role as pastor, he was an integral part of the Simpson County Jail Ministry.

James was a lover of family gatherings. He was a lover of FAMILY period. His grands and great grands could do nothing wrong. Oh, the things that they got away with which were never in a million years allowed with his children. The Hodge residence was one of the gathering places for the "Round the Block Kids." It wasn't all play because on Wednesday evenings we had Bible class, and everyone had their own Bible. If you came on Wednesday, you definitely had to stay for Bible class.

James, who stood at 6'3" and 250+ pounds, was proud, independent, and the Superhero of the Hodge Family. Losing the love of his life, his independence, and his many illnesses, took a toll on him. Nonetheless, he remained the Hodge Family's Superman. God saw better for him and relieved him of all the pain and silent heartaches on Friday, May 2, 2025. James is now a part of the Kingdom and reunited with his wife and family.

James was fondly known to family and friends as J.B., James, Daddy, PawPaw, Paw, Poppa, Pastor Hodge, Rev., Bruh Hodge or Bruh Jay. He leaves to cherish his memory: five children: Melissa, Melanie (Dennis) Rhodes, Michelle, James, Jr. (Victoria), and Jeremy; 11 grandchildren, Vonjon Pinkston, Darius (Erica) Rhodes, Vareion (Theresa) Hodge, Denzel Rhodes, Jarel (Shonda) Ross, Meghan Rhodes, Venyatha Norris, Khadarel Hodge, Khadijah Hodge, Morgan Rhodes (Michael) Smith, Jazelle Hodge, Ozias Ealy; 25 great grandchildren; two brothers, James Otis (Glenda) Roberts and Bennie James (Vivian) Roberts; sisters-in-law, Almeta Roberts, Wanda Roberts, and Linda Roberts; special friend, Ms. Rosa "Neat" Moore (or as he would say Ms. Harper High, who was a huge part of his life. We appreciate the many visits and phone calls. Michelle and Melanie would wake up late at night and ask Daddy, who are you laughing with this time of morning? It was a joy to meet you.)

James was preceded in death by his wife, Annie; his parents, Jonas, Beatrice, and stepfather, Jack Cooley; brothers, Nathaniel, Samuel, Jerome; sister, Jessie; son, Jansen; and granddaughter, Shaveria.

The Kingdom Homegoing Song-a-Bration

Minister Mancel Hobbs, Master of Ceremonies

Saturday, May 10, 2025
11:00 a.m.

St. Mary Missionary Baptist Church
215 West 5th Street, D'Lo, Mississippi 39062

PROCESSIONAL ..... "My Soul Has Been Anchored" ..... Clergy & Family

INVOCATION ..... Reverend Willie B. Hobbs, Jr.
Pastor, Nazareth M.B. Church
Mendenhall, Mississippi

SCRIPTURE READING

OLD TESTAMENT ..... Reverend Dan Parker
Pine Grove Baptist Church
Braxton, Mississippi

NEW TESTAMENT ..... Reverend Carl Burton
St. Mary M.B. Church
D'Lo, Mississippi

MUSICAL SELECTION ..... "How Much Can We Bear" ..... Trinity & Company

SPECIAL REMARKS

FAMILY ..... Reverend Darius Rhodes
Pastor, St. Mary M.B. Church
D'Lo, Mississippi

FRIEND ..... Brother Larry Williams

MUSICAL SELECTION ..... "Let It Rain" ..... Trinity & Company

WORDS OF COMFORT ..... Reverend Dwight Robinson
Pastor, Pine Grove Baptist Church
Braxton, Mississippi

EXPRESSIONS ..... (Please limit to two (2) Minutes) ..... Family & Friends

MUSICAL SELECTION ... "When the Gates Swing Open" .. Brother Jermaine Hobbs

EULOGY ..... Reverend Jeffery Gray
Pastor, Agape Deliverance Ministry
Millersville, Maryland

RECESSIONAL ..... "I Shall Wear A Crown" ..... Trinity & Company



"He that dwelleth in the secret place of the most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty. " Psalm 91:1

Dad, *it's hard to say goodbye,*

To hold back tears and not ask why.
You were our rock, our guiding light,
The steady voice through darkest night.

You worked with hands both strong and kind,
And left your wisdom in our minds.
In every lesson, hug, and prayer,
We knew how deeply you would care.

You showed us how to walk with grace,
To lift our heads and face each place.
With quiet strength and steady love,
You mirrored faith from up above.

You weren't just our father—no,
You were the roots that helped us grow.
And though you've gone, your love remains,
Forever flowing through our veins.

We'll carry you through all our days,
With grateful hearts and endless praise.
Sleep peacefully, your work is done—
We're proud to be your daughters and sons!

Paw Paw

We held your hands, so big and strong,
The ones that guided us along.
With every story, laugh, and smile,
You made this life feel so worthwhile.

You taught us love with gentle grace,
And left your mark we can't replace.
In every hug, in every prayer,
We felt how deeply you would care.

Your wisdom still lives in our hearts,
Though now from us you must depart.
We'll carry you in all we do,
Our hero, always guiding through.

We miss your voice, your steady way,
But know we'll meet again someday.
Until that time, please rest in peace,
Our love for you will never cease.
Your Grands & Great Grands




































Acknowledgments

The Hodge Family expresses sincere gratitude to everyone for your calls, visits, texts, and prayers. Special thanks and much love to Noel Sharp, Physical Therapist, Fresius Kidney Care, the University of Mississippi Medical Center Team, and Covington County Ambulance.

Active Pallbearers

Dennis Rhodes
Lemar Rhodes
Robert Lockhart
Jerry Feazell
Larry Williams
Arthur Walker

Honorary Pallbearers

Vonjon Pinkston
Darius Rhodes
Vareion Hodge
Denzel Rhodes
Jarel Ross
Khadarel Hodge
Jarva Brewer

Flower Bearers

Demi Rhodes
Erica Rhodes
Venyatha Norris
Morgan Smith
Khadijah Hodge
Jazelle Hodge
Meghan Rhodes
NaTassja Griffin
Jerrica Feazell

Interment

St. John Baptist Church Cemetery
St. John Road, Braxton, Mississippi

Repast

St. Mary M.B. Church Fellowship Hall
D'Lo, Mississippi

Services Entrusted to

J & M Funeral Home, LLC

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Mendenhall, Mississippi 39114
(601)847-2911 • www.jandmfuneralhome.com
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