



James
JONES III

SEPTEMBER 25, 1955 - MAY 3, 2026

LIFE REFLECTIONS

James Jones, III “Bumps” 70 of Lithonia, Georgia passed away on May 3, 2026. In honoring his wishes, there will be no formal service. Instead, our family invites you to remember him in the ways he would have loved most – through good music, good food, and good scotch.

Born in Atlantic City, New Jersey on September 25, 1955 to James and Mable Jones, Bumps, under the guidance of Johnnie and Mable Williams, graduated from Atlantic City High School and voyaged into manhood.

Bumps and Cheryl, his cherished wife of 112 years* relocated their family to Georgia in 1989. Bumps worked various jobs, often quickly rising the ranks to management, AKA “The Gravy Train.” Bumps retired as a flight attendant. A job he greatly enjoyed that allowed him to see a lot of places and have a favorite chowder in Maryland and a favorite diner in Ohio.

From teenagers to grandparents, Bumps and Cheryl epitomized love. Married for 46 years, they raised three children, LaToya, Cherelle, and James. The Jones children proved to share many talents, attributes, and interests with their dad. LaToya, sharing her dad’s love for and talent in shooting pool and a shared love for boxing. Cherelle, sharing her dad’s dry sense of humor and quick wit, and James, sharing his dad’s creativity and musicianship.

Bumps, an avid musician and drummer since childhood, played in many clubs, casinos, and venues in the Atlantic City and Atlanta area. Among all the bands he was a part of, The Black Essence was his favorite.

Bumps was preceded in death by his parents, Mable and Johnnie, his brother Tony, and sisters, Barbara and Schanelle “Tinker.” He is survived by his wife Cheryl, his children, LaToya, Cherelle (Sandriel), and James. His grandchildren, Aniah and Amiyah and his sisters, Stephanie, Jean Cathy, and Monica. Also left to cherish his memory are his wonderfully gifted and talented nieces and nephews whom he loved dearly. “My favorite, I need not say as you already know who you are.”

Additionally, Bumps had a core group of friends he conversed with nearly daily. Friends for several decades, he leaves David Preston, Eddie Morgan, Randy Taula, Conrad Booker and Dr. Leroy Darks to cherish his memory. Also, Sonny Adams, who was like a younger brother.

Bumps was generally a homebody but ventured out to show his family a good time. One of the things that got Bumps out of the house was travel. Bumps and Cheryl loved to travel. Some of their destinations include Aruba, Bahamas, and their absolute favorite destination – Jamaica. Bumps also loved spending time with his granddaughters. Aniah “Poopie” and Amiyah “Whubby” enjoyed many outings with their granddad. The King Center and beach trips were favorites. Bumps loved to cook for the people he loved. His speciality, jerk chicken with homemade jerk sauce, was to die for. He was also a man of fashion and hats! If you saw Bumps out he was dressed to impress! He owned hundreds of hats and looked good in every single one of them.

Bumps will be remembered for being a loving and dependable man. He was a great husband and father who loved and provided for his family. He always made a way.





A GLIMPSE INTO LIFE AND LEGACY OF
James
JONES III

SEPTEMBER 25, 1955 - MAY 3, 2026



FINAL ARRANGEMENTS ENTRUSTED TO:

D.C. Rankine
FUNERAL ESTABLISHMENT

3318 GLENWOOD RA, DECATUR, GA 30032