



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The family of James Allen Gainwell, Sr. gratefully acknowledges with sincere appreciation every expression of love, concern, and kindness shown to us during the passing of our loved one. Your prayers, calls, visits, cards, flowers, and acts of support have brought us comfort during this difficult time. Special thanks to the nurses that took good care of him: Brenda Fielder, Lauren Burdine, Emily Tucker, Bill Brown, and Justin Smith. We also extend thanks to the wonderful chaplains that stood by our side: Sam Ruiddle and Willie Tobias. Lastly, much thanks to the staff of Web's Pharmacy. May God bless each of you for your thoughtfulness and compassion.



HONORARY PALLBEARERS

*Earnest Williams, Jr. | Jorden Banks
Patrick Austin | Kadarius Jackson
Malik Banks | Darius Gainwell*

ACTIVE PALLBEARERS

*Clifton Gainwell | Victor Granderson
Marco Crozier Gainwell | Napoleon Gainwell, Jr.
Paul Granderson | Napoleon Gilmore*

FLOWER BEARERS

Family and Friends

INTERMENT:

*Temple Love M.B. Church Cemetery
9297 Hwy 433
Benton MS 39039*



SERVICES ENTRUSTED TO:



Shaffer-Collins Funeral Home, Inc.
"Our Family Serving Your Community"
247 West Sixth Street | Yazoo City, MS 39194
662-746-3985

CELEBRATING THE LEGACY OF



BELOVED MAN • RESPECTED LEGEND • DEDICATED COACH

James Allen Gainwell, Sr.

WITH US JANUARY 10, 1943 WITH THE LORD MAY 29, 2026

Absent from the body. *Present* with the Lord.

Saturday, June 6, 2026 | 11:00 a.m.
MT. NEBO MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH
2237 Campbell Road - Benton, MS 39039
Reverend Darryl D. Phillips, Sr., Pastor
Reverend Curtis Gainwell, Eulogist

"FOREVER REMEMBERED, FOREVER RESPECTED. HIS LEGACY REMAINS."

LIFE REFLECTIONS

“To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under heaven: a time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant and a time to pluck up that which is planted...” | Ecclesiastes 3:1-2

A TIME TO BE BORN

James Allen Gainwell, affectionately known as “The Man, The Legend, The Coach”, was born to the late Gertrude and Leo Gainwell. One sister, Lela Mae McCullough, five brothers: Lawrence Gainwell, Leo Gainwell Jr., Robert Gainwell, Sr., Lacy Gainwell, Jessie Gainwell and Thomas Gainwell also preceded him in death.

A TIME TO LEARN

James received his education from the Yazoo County Public School System.

A TIME TO BEGIN HER CHRISTIAN JOURNEY

James accepted Christ as Lord and Savior at an early age and was baptized at Steve Chapel A.M.E Church. He was member for over 60 years, where he served as an Usher. In 2023, he united with the Mount Nebo Missionary Baptist Church under the leadership of Rev. Darryl D. Phillips, Sr.

A TIME TO LOVE

James was united in marriage to Louise Harris Gainwell. To this union, nine children were born, consisting of six sons and three daughters. Two children preceded her in death: James Allen Gainwell Jr. and Linda D. Collins.

A TIME TO MOURN

Our beloved Father, Brother, Uncle, Cousin and Friend transitioned from his earthly home to her heavenly home on May 29, 2026.

A TIME TO CHERISH

James leaves to cherish his memories, two daughters: Gloria Jean Smith and Evangelist Carolyn Jefferson, both of Benton, MS; five sons: Napoleon (Cynthia); Minister Eddie Earl; Pastor Curtis (Monica); Charles and Fredrick, all of Benton, MS; two adopted sons: Charles Austin of Houston, TX and Jimmy White of Yazoo City, MS; two sisters: Alice Austin and Dorothy (Willie) White, both of Yazoo City, MS; one brother, Walter Gainwell Sr. of Yazoo City, MS; three sisters-in-law: Essie Hendrix, Mattie Mae Hendrix, and Annie Hendrix; four other brothers-in-law: Roosevelt Hendrix, R.C Hendrix, Henry Earl Hendrix and Larry Starling; and a host of grandchildren, great grandchildren, great great grandchildren, nieces, nephews, cousins, other family and friends.

THE MAN, THE LEGEND, THE COACH

James was the coach of the low beat Panthers of Benton for many years. Some will never admit it, but this team went down undefeated and it was because of the team he had trained from boys to men.

James was a man of many talents. He didn’t get a lot of education, but he was smart. If something was going on with your car, he would only ask a few questions and in just a few minutes, he’d be telling you just what to do. He taught his sons well how to work on tractors and cars. He couldn’t see very well, so he needed their eyes.

Many didn’t know this, but he could sing...yes, he could. He was an outstanding husband, a magnificent father, and a courageous grandfather, a loving brother, a caring uncle, and a good friend, and a real special man.

We're talking about the man, the legend, and the coach.

ORDER OF SERVICE

Program Guide ~ Sis. Essie Levy

Prelude.....	“Hold to God’s Unchanging Hand”
Processional	Clergy & Family
Musical Selection.....	Sis. Ora Weatherspoon
Scripture Reading	
Old Testament	Apostle Charles Auston
New Testament.....	Dr. Hurtestine Wilkerson
Prayer	Pastor Leroy Gibson
Steve Chapel Independent Church – Benton, MS	
The Word	Pastor Darryl D. Phillips, Sr.
Mt. Nebo M.B. Church – Benton, MS	
Musical Selection.....	Mt. Nebo M.B. Church Choir
Words of Comfort	Pastor John O. McNeal
Black Chapel Baptist Church – Jackson, MS	
Church Resolution.....	Deacon Willie Blackmon, Jr.
Expressions.....	Two Minutes
Anyone Desiring	
Obituary	Read Silently
Soft Music	
Musical Selection.....	Bro. Robert Jackson
Eulogy.....	Pastor Curtis T. Gainwell
Rose Hill M.B. Church – Satartia, MS	
SHAFFER-COLLINS FUNERAL DIRECTORS IN CHARGE	
Recessional.....	Clergy, Family & Friends



Together Again

Four years apart, yet never apart in heart.
Today, the waiting is over, the reunion is complete.
Two souls bound by love, now reunited in eternal peace.
Though we miss you both, we find comfort in knowing
That Heaven has brought you together again.

TRIBUTES

A Father’s Love

Once upon a time, God placed a father in our hands,
He guided us with wisdom and helped us understand.
Our time on earth is brief; there are lessons to be learned,
With every precious day God gives us, another page is turned.
Every chapter is filled with memories, moments of joy and tears,
Triumphs and challenges shared throughout the years.
He loved us unconditionally, always by our side,
When no one else would listen, in him we could confide.
Thank You, God, for blessing us with such a priceless treasure;
Help us, Lord, to keep his memory with us forever.
When God called him to his heavenly home, a part of us went too,
Yet his love and legacy remain in all we say and do.
Although it may be difficult, we know and understand,
That God's loving plan is greater than the plans of man.

Love Your Children,
Gloria, Carolyn, Napoleon, Eddie, Curtis, Charles, Fredrick

Our Granddaddy

We never thought this day would come, or that we'd have to say goodbye.
Though we saw the pain within your eyes,
You faced each day with strength and pride.
Granddaddy, we love and miss you so, more than words can ever say.
Your memories will live within our hearts and guide us every day.
Though it's hard to let you go, we know it's time to let you rest.
Forever loved, forever missed, our Granddaddy, simply the best.

Love Your Grandkids

To Our Dear Brother

Your work here on earth is complete. Well done, Brother. You carried yourself with strength, dignity, and unwavering love for your family, and we are all better for having shared this life with you. You never wavered in your responsibilities, always putting family first, and because of that, your absence leaves an empty space in our hearts that can never truly be filled. We will miss you dearly at our family gatherings where your presence, your laughter, and your stories brought us together time and again. We are especially grateful for the memories you shared about our family history. Sometimes we remembered those stories a little differently, but somehow that only made them more interesting and fun. Out of love and respect, we would always yield to your side of the story, knowing it was told with pride, warmth, and a deep love for family. You will live in our hearts forever. We will continue to share the stories. Rest Well Brother.

Forever in our hearts,
Alice, Dorothy, and Walter

Rest Well Uncle

Time is undefeated and no one ever wants
to say “Goodbye”, and you never did.
You always knew that it will be “I will see you later”.
Uncle, we are going to miss you being here physically,
but we know your spirit will always be with us.
Until we all see you on the other side, “Rest Well Uncle”.

Love Your Nieces and Nephews