

Remember me

*Remember me with smiles not tears, for all the joy through all the years. Recall the closeness that was ours, A love as "sweet" as fragrant flowers. Don't dwell on thoughts that cause you pain, We'll see each other once again. I am at peace...try to believe, it was my time...I had to leave. But "what a view" I have from here, I see your face, I feel you near. I follow you throughtout the day, You're not alone along the way. And when God calls you...you will be, Right by my side...right here with me. Till then, I'll wait by heaven's door, We'll be united... evermore.*

**CASKET BEARERS**

*Amir Blocker Joe Meredith  
Allanté Blocker Kevin Upshur  
Jonathan Chiles Charles Pope  
Honorary Casketbearer  
MSG Harvey Kelvin US Army Retired*

**FLORAL BEARERS**

*Military Honors & Interment*

Mount Peace Cemetery  
33<sup>rd</sup> & Lehigh Avenues  
Philadelphia, PA 19132

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

Our family would like to take this opportunity to extend our sincere appreciation for the many kind expressions of sympathy, words of comfort, contributions, and prayers extended during our time of bereavement.  
May you forever be blessed.



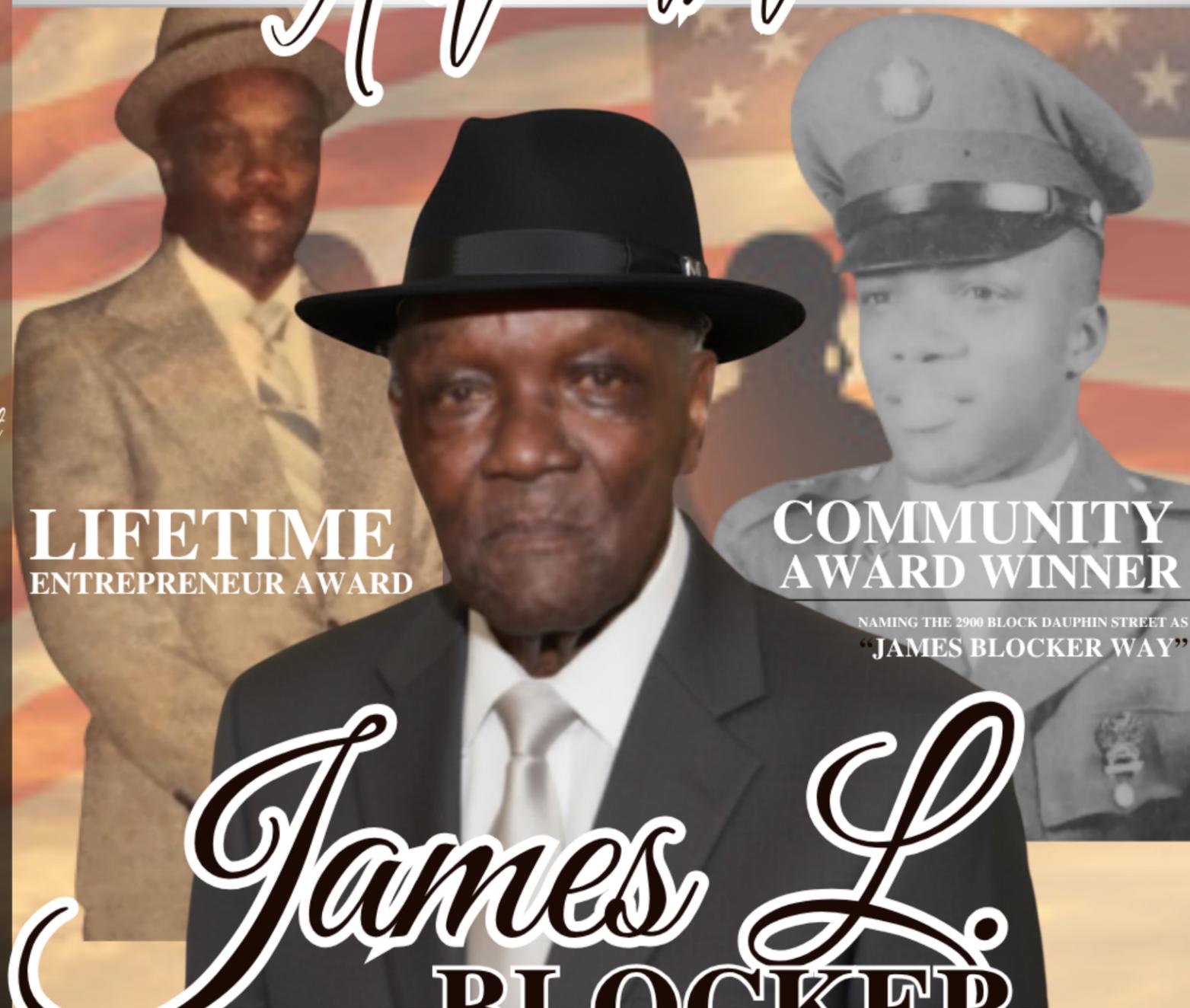
Professional Services Entrusted to:  
**G. CHOICE FUNERAL CHAPEL, INC**  
2530 North Broad Street, Philadelphia, PA 19132  
Britni' Choice, Supervisor  
www.gchoicefc.com  
Office: 215-227-0100

**COLLECTIBLE**

**MAGAZINE**

*Automobile*

EDITION 1936-2025



**LIFETIME  
ENTREPRENEUR AWARD**

**COMMUNITY  
AWARD WINNER**

NAMING THE 2900 BLOCK DAUPHIN STREET AS  
"JAMES BLOCKER WAY"

*James L.*  
**BLOCKER**

November 26, 1936 — October 4, 2025

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2025, 10AM**

**Garden of Prayer World Prayer**  
2217 N 29th Street, Philadelphia, PA 19132  
Pastor Bryant Jackson, Officiant & Eulogist

*James L. Blocker transitioned on October 4th, just shy of his 89th birthday, surrounded by his wife, children, daughter-in-laws, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren, to be reunited with his mother, Tina, his Beloved Cousin Seannie, his father James, his son Darryl, and the many other family members that preceded him in death.*

**James L. Blocker** was born on November 26, 1936, in Greenwood, South Carolina, to the late James Blocker and Tina Sullivan. **James L. Blocker** moved to Philadelphia from Greenwood, South Carolina, in 1961. Before moving to Philadelphia, James was enlisted in the United States Army, where he was honorably discharged in 1961. Upon his relocation to Philadelphia, he resided at 2440 N 32nd St with Aunt Katherine and Uncle Boy. **James L Blocker's** first main job upon his entry into Philadelphia was construction. He was among the laborers to help build Strawberry Mansion High School and at least four other high schools in the region. After 6.5 years of construction work, he realized it was time for a new venture. He tapped into a new set of skills as a Navy Yard electrician, which he continued to do for 7 years.

**James** married the love of his life, Eula Mae Gaskin, in 1966. Out of this union came three sons: James Darryl Blocker, Kevin Blocker, and Gregory Blocker. Prior to meeting and marrying Eula, James fathered two children, Anthony Leverage and Derrick Milton. In an effort to make a better life for his wife and children, **James** opened up Mansion Auto Repair in 1974 on the corner of 2301 N 30th St. Mansion Auto, through **James L Blocker's** vision, has become a Multi-Generational, Black Owned Establishment owned and operated by us for us. Albeit a pillar in the community, it is also a Safe Haven Corridor for the children of our community. James L. Blocker's vision extended to include EKG auto located at 2223 N 31st St., establishing yet another business in his beloved Strawberry Mansion Community that continues to grow through his sons and grandchildren, with over 51 years in the same community in which he continued to reside until his passing.

**James L. Blocker** was a beacon in the community. He was proud to call the Strawberry Mansion area his home. Being the successful businessman that he was, he had plenty of opportunities to relocate from the area. But not only did he choose to stay, he chose to invest in his community. His investments included, but were not limited to, purchasing properties from the Jewish people as they were doing a mass exodus out of the area. Where the Jewish people he purchased from saw blight, **James L. Blocker**, being the visionary he was, saw potential. He saw and believed in the value of the Strawberry Mansion area so much that after working in the garage during the day, he would rehabilitate the burned-out houses he purchased from the Jewish people himself at night and on the weekends.

Being a skilled electrician already, he taught himself roofing and applied his prior construction skills to rehab a multitude of houses in his community. And, even now, when outside investors want to come in to gentrify Strawberry Mansion, **James L. Blocker** chose not to sell his properties, but rather continue his vision through his sons and grandchildren.

**James L Blocker** wasn't just a beacon in the community because of his business acumen. He was a beacon in the community because he knew how to treat people. His motto kind and fair led him to be able to have conversations with any and everybody. His ability to impart wisdom and listen at the same time gave people comfort in talking with him. While **James L. Blocker** had 5 biological sons, he was a father to a whole community of sons. As an elderly man, he could walk about the neighborhood freely knowing one of his community sons would look out for "old pop," as he would say.

**James L. Blocker** lived by a few sayings: "You can't catch gone." Meaning don't spend energy worrying about yesterday, exalt that energy on fixing today. "Do it right the first time." Meaning if the task at hand is done correctly, it only needs to be done once. "If you gonna sweep, sweep it clean." Meaning, don't waste time looking busy, if life calls you to be a janitor, be the best janitor you can be. "One day at a time." Meaning take life as it comes. "Treat people kind and fair". And finally, the words he mumbled before he passed, "It's hard, but it's fair." Meaning we all get our turn to go through hard things.

**James L. Blocker** lost his mother very early in life. He moved from the South up North. He had no blueprint to follow, so he BECAME the blueprint. And, although we may not be able to do as you have, we will all strive to make you as proud as you have made us. For generations to come the blueprint of "The Blocker Way", will be the indelible memories of your accomplishments to live by. YOU, James L. Blocker have set the standard. Rest well knowing you can rest with a job well done! We love you and we miss you. Until we meet again.

He was preceded in death by his sisters Gladys Witts and Georgia Mae Blocker and his son James Darryl Blocker (Wendy).

He leaves to mourn and cherish his memory his devoted wife of 59 years Eula Mae Blocker, his sons Anthony, Derrick (Tanya), Kevin (Lori), Gregory (Kelly). His Grandchildren: Takilla, Shaquita, Najah, Ashley, Jasmine, Kianna (Mitch), Kaylia (Tiana), Amir, Allante' and Austin. Great-Grandchildren: Shakima, Shakiya, Enajae, Sadina, Aniya, AddisonRose, Chase, Jordan, Ari, Dylan, and Raelynn. And one Great Great Granddaughter Suraya. He also leaves to mourn two special nephews, William Blocker, Jonathan Chiles, and one special niece, Sharon Blocker, as well as a host of nieces, nephews and cousins. And all the community sons that lovingly called him POP!

*Submitted in love, The Family*

“YOU CAN’T CATCH GONE.” “DO IT RIGHT THE FIRST TIME.”

“ TREAT PEOPLE FAIR AND KIND” “IF YOU GONNA SWEEP, SWEEP IT CLEAN.”

# ORDER OF SERVICE

**Musical Prelude:** Garden of Prayer World Prayer Center Music Ministry

## Processional Clergy & Family

### Prayer of Comfort:

*Dr. Robert J Fontell Jr.*

### Scripture Reading:

*Bishop Samuel S Gaskin*

*New Testament: 1 Corinthians 15:19-22*

### Musical Selection:

*Walk around Heaven Taylor Samuels*

### Reflections/ Remarks (2min limit):

*Senator Sharif Street*

*State Representative Keith S Harris*

*City Councilman Jeffrey Young Jr.,*

*William Blocker*

*Romesz Venzell Coleman*

*William Thompson*

*Franklin Hart*

*MSG Harvey Kelvin US Army Retired(recorded)*

**Acknowledgements, Condolences & Reading of the Obituary:**

*Stephanie DeVaughn*

**Musical Selection:** *I'm Going Up Yonder. Taylor Samuels*

**Eulogy:** *Bryan Jackson, Pastor*

**Funeral Director's Brief & Final Viewing**

**Recessional:** *Clergy and Family*



My Dearest Eula, Remember Me

Don't remember me with sadness  
Don't remember me with tears,  
Remember all the laughter,  
We've shared throughout the years.  
Now I am contented,  
That my life it was worthwhile,  
Knowing that I passed along the way,  
I made somebody smile.  
When you are walking down the street,  
And you've got me on your mind,  
I'm walking in your footsteps,  
Only half a step behind.  
So please don't be unhappy  
Just because I'm out of sight,  
Remember that I with you,  
Each morning, noon and night.

*Love James L. Blocker*

My Dearest James,  
I Heard Your Voice In The Wind Today

I heard your voice in the wind today  
and I turned to see your face;  
The warmth of the wind caressed me  
as I stood silently in place.  
I felt your touch in the sun today  
as its warmth filled the sky;  
I closed my eyes for your embrace  
and my spirit soared high.  
I saw your eyes in the window pane  
as I watched the falling rain;  
It seemed as each raindrop fell  
it quietly said your name.  
I held you close in my heart today  
it made me feel complete;  
You may have died...but you are not gone  
you will always be a part of me.  
As long as the sun shines...  
the wind blows...  
the rain falls...  
You will live on inside of me forever  
for that is all my heart knows.

*Love Eula M. Blocker*



Hey Pops,

I am so grateful to have had you here with me by my side guiding and teaching me for the last 58 years 11 months and 27 days. My work ethic and what I stand on as a man comes from watching you get up day after day to not only provide for us but to be a living, breathing, touchable blueprint for me to follow. The ethics that you have instilled in me propels me out of bed in the morning even when I just don't feel like getting up. You taught me early in life the value of making my own money and treating people fair in the process. At 8 years of age while working the ice-cream and pizza truck I thought you were hard on me, but what I didn't know then that I know now is that you were teaching me, showing me, guiding me, and molding me into a man that could handle owning his own business and taking care of his own family. And for that I say thank you Pops! As I open up the business everyday that you started, and instill in my son what you instilled in me, and look across at the sign bearing your name my heart fills with love and honor that I got to call you, my pops. I love you. And, I already miss your weekday shop visits and our Sunday game calls.

Until we meet again,

*Your Baby Boy Greg*



Dear Dad,

I still think about you every single day. The grief comes in waves—some days it feels raw, unreal, a fresh punch to the stomach. On other days, it's a quiet gratitude that you were my Father, my Best Friend, my Hero. I hold onto the memory of our ritual of watching Sunday night football. The volume turned just a little too high, yelling at the television in frustration when the Eagles were down. You taught me so much, Pop. The most important things were lessons only you could give, the ones that were never found in a textbook. Pop, you showed me the importance of hard work—not just for success, but for self-respect. You taught me that effort isn't a guarantee of success, but it is a prerequisite for satisfaction. Every morning when I face a challenge, I hear your voice telling me to finish what I started and to do it right the first time. That lesson is the cornerstone of my work and my life. You didn't just teach me how to be a parent; you showed me how to be a good father, a good man. Everything I do, every lesson I try to pass on, it's all built from the blueprint you created for me. Future generations will know you through my stories, Pop. They will know what an incredible man you were.

I may never match your success, but I will always try to make you proud.

I love you, and I miss you more than words can say.

*With all my love, Kevin*



Dad, what a blessing it is to finally be reunited with you. I've been waiting a long time for this moment, and now that you're here, heaven feels even brighter. From above, I watched all you did after I was gone how you stepped in with so much love and faith, becoming the steady hand and open heart my family needed. You didn't just care for my little girl; you were there for all three of my girls, giving them the strength, wisdom, and guidance, I couldn't. You showed them what it means to stand tall, to love deeply, and to keep faith through it all. Every story you shared, every hug, every word of comfort you kept my presence alive through your actions. You were their protector, their peace, and their home. God saw your heart and your faithfulness, and now it's time for you to rest. Welcome home, Dad. Your work on earth is done — and we did good.

*With love, Darryl*



To Dad,

I want to thank you for all the talks we had over the years. Thank you for sharing your knowledge and wisdom with me about family history that I would otherwise not have known about. You have been a blessing to everyone who knows and loves you! You will be missed!

*Love your son, Derrick*





For Our Grandfather  
 You taught us strength without a sound,  
 A steady heart, both firm and kind.  
 Your wisdom lingered all around,  
 A quiet guide for hearts and minds.  
 You built your world with work-worn hands,  
 Yet always found the time to care  
 For laughter shared, for simple plans,  
 For every hug, for being there.  
 The stories told, the lessons learned,  
 The gentle ways you showed the truth  
 Those memories will still return,  
 And keep our souls forever soothed.  
 Though time has drawn the curtain near,  
 Your love remains; it doesn't fade.  
 We feel you still, in all that's dear  
 In every sunrise, every shade.  
 So rest now, Grandpa, soft and free,  
 Your legacy is forever strong.  
 You live in all you've left to be.

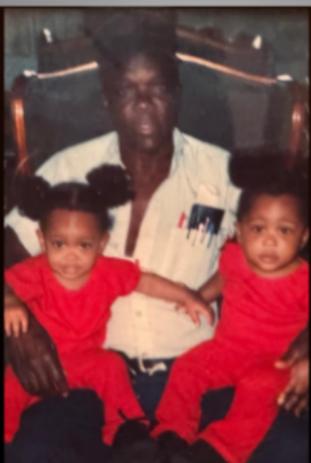


For Our Great Grandfather

All is Well

Death is nothing at all. I have only slipped away to the next room. I am I and you are you. Whatever we were to each other, That, we still are.  
 Call me by my old familiar name. Speak to me in the easy way which you always used. Put no difference into your tone. Wear no forced air of solemnity or sorrow.  
 Laugh as we always laughed at the little jokes we enjoyed together. Play, smile, think of me. Pray for me. Let my name be ever the household word that it always was. Let it be spoken without effect. Without the trace of a shadow on it.  
 Life means all that it ever meant. It is the same that it ever was. There is absolute unbroken continuity. Why should I be out of mind because I am out of sight?  
 I am, but waiting for you. For an interval. Somewhere. Very near. Just around the corner.  
 All is well.

Henry Scott Holland



To my Great Great Grandfather

I am so thankful that you are my Pop-Pop.

Thank you for your ears that always listen, and  
your arms that always hold.

I will miss you & love you forever, for your heart is  
made of gold.

I am grateful for each & every moment that we  
shared.

Thank you for always being there.

I am sad that you are no longer here, but I will  
always remember our good times that were gladly  
filled with cheer.

Love you always,

*Suraya*



*A letter to a cousin who became caretaker and mother.*

*Cousin Seannie took in our father as a boy when his mother died. She encouraged and motivated him. When pops went to the military, he sent money home for Cousin Seannie to help her make ends meet. What pop found out upon his release, was that Cousin Seannie had been saving that money for him instead of using it to make ends meet. Pops bought his first car with that very money Cousin Seannie was saving for him. And, with that car Pops headed North where he met our mother and a legacy was created.*

*Thank you, Cousin Seannie, we know pops is walking around heaven all day with you.*





**COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA**

State Representative Keith Harris Celebrates

*James L. Blocker*

*A Tribute to a man of Honor: The 30<sup>th</sup> Street (& Dauphin) Renaming Ceremony*

**WHEREAS**, the House of Representatives of Pennsylvania is always pleased to celebrate the legacy of individuals who are honored, through service to the country, uphold the principles and traditions set forth by the forefathers of this great nation; and provide their communities with opportunities to thrive through programming and advocacy.

**WHEREAS**, Mr. James L. Blocker is being honored for his many years of dedicated military service and community work; and

**WHEREAS**, Mr. Blocker, a remarkable individual who has left an indelible mark on our community. James L. Blocker is not only a business owner but also an army veteran who has dedicated his life to serving our country and providing opportunities for countless block families within the Strawberry Mansion section.

**WHEREAS**, for more than 69 years, James L. Blocker has been the epitome of resilience and commitment. His business has been a pillar in our community, providing employment and training opportunities to numerous block families. Through his dedication and hard work, he has not only created jobs but also fostered a sense of unity and empowerment within our neighborhood.

**NOW THEREFORE**, the House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania sends our sincere tribute to the legacy of James L. Blocker and the street renaming ceremony upon his richly deserved recognition; pays tribute to his for enduring countless hardships, making untold sacrifices and placing himself in harm's way to defend and protect the cause of freedom; we also pay tribute to his for hard work, endeavors and his commitment to his community; offers best wishes for this remarkable legacy.

**AND DIRECTS**, that a copy of this citation, sponsored by the Honorable Keith Harris on Saturday, June 14, 2025, be transmitted to Mr. James L. Blocker.



*Keith Harris*

STATE REPRESENTATIVE KEITH HARRIS

