

"CREED"

I am man, and I am a father. I join others like me so I

get stronger. I have suffered, and I've been

tried. My love for myself and my children will never

die. It doesn't matter what has happened. It

doesn't matter what I've done. I live in the present,

and in the future I've already won. Let it be

known, let it be said. This man, this father, keeps it

moving ahead. REAL dad for life!!!



Pallbearers

Cornelius Reed
Terrance Reed
James Reed III
Kenny Gibson

Maurice Reed
Stanley Reed
Ricardo Howell
Cordell Phelia

Honorary Pallbearers

Brandon Reed
MJ Boyden Jr.
Jayveon Reed
Jordan Reed
Marvin Finch

Anthony Burrell
Cormilli'on Brown
Antwan Dillard
James Reed IV.
Lamondtae Ellis

Flower Bearers

Makayla Albright
Justus Alston
Donisha Dillard
Jazmin Reed

Ashanti Gibson
Enfitnity Dunson
Ricki Reed
Janae Reed

Honorary Flower Bearers

Baylee Reed
Alaya Wynn
Amyra Taylor

Reilly Coleman
Hazel Allen
Teniya Taylor

Acknowledgements

The family wishes to acknowledge with deep appreciation the many expressions of love, concern, prayers, and kindness shown to them during this hour of bereavement.

May God Bless and Keep You!
- The family of James Esse Reed Jr.



Known for Excellence. Trusted for Value.

IN LOVING MEMORY

*"I have fought
the good fight,
I have finished
the race,
I have kept
the faith."*

2 TIMOTHY 4:7

JAMES ESSE REED JR.

AUGUST 17, 1951 - JUNE 11, 2026

VISITATION
10:00 AM

FUNERAL CEREMONY
11:00 AM

BETHEL BAPTIST CHURCH
2712 Alms Place
Cincinnati, Ohio 45206

A man of faith, a man of joy,
a man who gave his all.

*Your legacy of love, laughter,
and generosity will live on
forever in our hearts.*

Obituary

James Esse Reed Jr. was born on August 17, 1951, in Cincinnati, Ohio, to the late James Reed Sr. and Johnnie Mae Reed. On a life journey marked by love, laughter, faith, and devotion to family and friends, James built a legacy that will continue to live on in the hearts of those who knew and loved him.

James attended Cincinnati Public Schools and answered the call to serve his country at a young age by enlisting in the United States Marine Corps. Following his military service, he began a long and dedicated career as a machinist with ILSCO Corporation in 1977. Through hard work and commitment, he remained with the company until his retirement in 2014. Along the way, he formed many lasting friendships with coworkers who became like family.

Known affectionately by nicknames such as “Hound Dog,” “Slick Rick,” and “Bow Wow,” James never met a stranger. He was a true people person—a man whose smile could light up a room and whose laughter was contagious. He was always willing to lend a helping hand to family, friends, and neighbors. Though generous to a fault, those closest to him would lovingly joke that he could also be a little “cheap” when the occasion called for it. His sense of humor and playful spirit made him unforgettable.

James found joy in life’s simple pleasures. He loved spending time fishing, sharing stories with friends, and faithfully playing his numbers twice a day, every day. A devoted Cincinnati sports fan, he cheered passionately for the Cincinnati Reds and the Cincinnati Bengals—though family members would joke that he “divorced” the Bengals at least twice before always finding his way back to them. He also enjoyed the company of a special friend and cherished the many relationships he built throughout his life.

In 2012, he was baptized under the leadership of Senior Elder Jerome L. Bolar, further strengthening his commitment to God and his spiritual journey. James faithfully attended Bethel Baptist Church under the leadership of Pastor Bryan Walker.

James leaves to cherish his memory his children: Nichol Dillard, LaToya Williams, Ricarla Boyden, James Reed III, Ricardo Howell, Richelle Gibson (Kenny), Naricka Taylor, Shavon Reed, and Cordell Phelia. He is also survived by 20 grandchildren; 18 great-grandchildren; his loving siblings: Brenda Reed, Cornelius Reed, LaTisha Montgomery, Uvonne(Love) Phillips, Joreathe Reed, Anthony Phillips, Clarice Reed Lawrence (Gary), Maurice Reed, Doris Reed Frost, Terrance Reed (Angela), Stanley Reed (Dawn), Deborah Ann Buchanan (John), Jeannetta Reid (John) and Alvin Phillips; along with a host of aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends.

James was preceded in death by his siblings, Gregory Reed, Dorothy Grant, and Michael James Phillips, as well as his beloved grandchildren, Ke’Asha Reed and Alphonso Singleton.

Though our hearts are heavy with sorrow, we celebrate a life well lived. James will be remembered for his unwavering love for family, his infectious laughter, his faith, and the countless memories he created. His presence will be deeply missed, but his spirit will remain with us forever.



Lamentation 3:32-33

Though he brings grief, he will show compassion, so great is his unfailing love. For he does not willingly bring affliction or grief to the children of men.

Order of Service

Musical Prelude	
Parting View	Immediate Family
Prayer	Savon Gibson
Scripture	Senior Elder Jerome L. Bolar
Selection	Rebecca Gibson
Acknowledgements	Annette Blye
Remarks	2 Minutes Please
Obituary	Read Silently
Selection	Rebecca Gibson
A Letter From Dad	Savon Gibson
Eulogy	Senior Elder Jerome L. Bolar
Benediction	Senior Elder Jerome L. Bolar
Recessional	Clergy, Family & Friends



Final Resting Place

Walnut Hills Cemetery
3117 Victory Parkway, Cincinnati, Ohio 45206

Repast

Bethel Baptist Church - Walnut Hills
2712 Alms Place, Cincinnati, Ohio 45206