

A LOVE
Never Forgotten



Acknowledgement

Grateful for the richness of his life, the kindness of his heart, and the love of his family and friends, the family of Gilbert Bernard Fortson, Jr. wishes to thank you for your loving concern during our hour of bereavement. May Jesus Christ, who has welcomed our loved one into eternal rest, bless you and your family.

With heartfelt appreciation & love,
The Fortson Family



Mack Rice
FUNERAL AND CREMATIONS

Honoring Lives • Embracing Families

314 Owings Street
Laurens, South Carolina 29360
(864) 715-0024



A CELEBRATION OF LIFE
IN HIS LOVING MEMORY



MR. GILBERT BERNARD FORTSON, JR.
“JAY JAY”

SEPTEMBER 8, 1981 — JULY 23, 2026

SATURDAY, AUGUST 1, 2026 | 1:00 P.M.

Zion Hill Baptist Church
10922 SC -39
Cross Hill, South Carolina

Forever Loved.
Forever Remembered.

Celebrating ^{HIS LOVE} & HIS LIFE

May 09, 1961~~~January 15, 2026

Gilbert Bernard Fortson, Jr. was born

on September 8th, 1981, in Laurens County, South Carolina, to Christine Pressley Fortson and the late Gilbert Bernard Fortson, Sr.

A lifelong member of Zion Hill Baptist Church in Cross Hill, South Carolina, Gilbert, affectionally called “Jay Jay” by his loving family and friends, attended the public schools of Laurens County, South Carolina where he was a graduate of Clinton High School.

Jay Jay was employed as a direct support staff member with The Laurens County Disabilities and Special Needs Board (LCDSNB) helping individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

In addition to his commitment to serving others, Jay Jay found great joy in spending time with those he loved. He also enjoyed fishing and was a huge San Francisco 49ers fan.

In addition to his father, Gilbert was preceded in death by his paternal grandparents: Willis Bill Fortson and Anna Lee Fortson; and his maternal grandmother, Savannah Pressley.

Mr. Gilbert Bernard Fortson, Jr. departed this life on Thursday, July 23, 2026, in Laurens County, South Carolina at the age of forty-four.

He leaves to cherish his memories, in addition to his mother, his loving children: two sons: Jalen Malik Fortson and Ja’Kydrae Brayshawn Fortson; and three daughters: Miquala Breauja Fortson, Ja’Kyria Bernaja Fortson, and Gi’Brayla Bre’nautica Fortson; one brother, Bobby O. Brown; two sisters: Tara (Johnny) Turner and Paketha (Kelvin) Cheeks; and a host of nieces, nephews, other relatives, and friends.

MEMORIES OF THE Heart

*Feel no guilt in laughter, he knows how much you care.
Feel no sorrow in a smile that he’s not here to share.
You cannot grieve forever; he would not want you to.
He’d hope that you would carry on the way you always do.*

*So, talk about the good times and the ways you showed you cared.
The days you spent together, all the happiness you shared.
Let the memories surround you, a word someone may say
Will suddenly recapture a time, an hour, a day.*

*That brings him back as clearly as though he were still here,
And fills you with the feelings that he is always near.
For if you keep those memories, you will never be apart
And he will live forever locked safe within your heart.*



Order OF SERVICE

Musical Prelude

Processional Clergy and Family

Opening Selection Choir

Scripture Reading

Old Testament Minister

New Testament Minister

Prayer of Comfort Reverend Tony Cunningham

Selection Mr. Anthony Anderson

REMARKS

(Three Minutes Please)

Acknowledgements Funeral Home Staff

Selection Reverend Barry Caldwell

Words of Comfort Reverend Mona Cunningham

Closing Prayer Minister

Committal Service

Prayer, Committal, and Benediction

Recessional

