

LIFE'S REFLECTIONS

James Earl Christmas

James Earl Christmas was born May 10, 1951, in Yazoo County, Mississippi. He was the sixth child of Joseph Christmas Sr. and Lovie Lee Crockett.

He was preceded in death by both parents; his sister: Rosie Mae Harris-Hodge; brothers: Joseph Christmas Jr., Isaac Christmas, Larry Christmas and Sylvester Lloyd Christmas.

James accepted Christ at an early age and was a member of Tri-Union Missionary Baptist Church under the leadership of Rev. B.T. Miles.

James received his education from the Yazoo County school systems. Followings in his brothers' footsteps he moved to Chicago, Illinois at the age of 18 and after various jobs was also hired by U.S Steel as a Merchant Marine where he worked with his brothers traveling the great lakes. After leaving U.S Steel he was employed as a mechanic at a Ford dealership on the south side of Chicago.

On March 22, 1975, James married Linda Jones. They were married for over 19 years. There were no children from their union.

James moved back to his hometown of Yazoo City in 1996. His greatest joy was sitting on the lake bank fishing with his sister Rosie Mae and aunt Mag. That was the one thing that he talked and laughed about every day.

After a two-year battle with colon cancer James transitioned on Tuesday, June 25, 2024, with his family by his side.

James leaves to cherish his memory, his sisters: Elizabeth Christmas-Jones, Joyce Marie Christmas and Clara Ann Christmas, all of Chicago, Illinois; his brothers: Charles A (Mary) Christmas of Norcross, Georgia and Eddie Lewis Christmas; sister-in-law: Trina Rambert-Christmas; one aunt: Lennie B. White; and a host nieces, nephews and friends.



WHEN TOMORROW STARTS WITHOUT ME

When tomorrow starts without me, please try to understand

That an angel came and called my name and took me by the hand.

The angel said my place was ready in Heaven far above

And that I'd have to leave behind all those I dearly love.

But when I walked through Heaven's Gates, I felt so much at home

For God looked down, smiled at me and told me "Welcome Home"!

So, when tomorrow starts without me, don't think we're far apart

For every time you think of me, I'm right there in your heart.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The family of Elmer Lee Christmas and James Earl Christmas gratefully acknowledge with profound gratitude all expressions of sympathy and all acts of kindness extended to our family during our time of bereavement. Weather it was a phone call, a floral spray, a prayer or simply a kind word. Your thoughtfulness is greatly appreciated. We want to especially thank our sisters-in-law: Trina Rambert-Christmas, Tiamundria Christmas and Sycerra Christmas for showing up for whenever and wherever needed. Marilyn Powell for the many doctor visit trips back and forth to Jackson, MS; Joann Johnson being such a great friend to our brothers; the Perkin family for being such caring neighbors; Gloria Allen, Leandrew Smith, the staff of the Yazoo City Rehabilitation and Healthcare Center; and St. Joseph Hospice for the excellent care they gave both of our brothers.

HONORARY PALLBEARERS

Family & Friends

ACTIVE PALLBEARERS

Family & Friends

FLOWER BEARERS

Family & Friends

INTERMENT

Glenwood Cemetery
395 Mike Espy Drive
Yazoo City, MS 39194

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES ENTRUSTED TO



1401 E. Broadway Street
Yazoo City, MS 39194
662.746.0046

IN LOVING MEMORY OF



Elmer Lee
CHRISTMAS

Sunrise: July 29, 1946

Sunset: June 27, 2024

James Earl
CHRISTMAS

Sunrise: May 10, 1951

Sunset: June 25, 2024

Forever In Our Hearts

Saturday, July 13, 2024 | 11:00 a.m.

SCOTT MEMORIAL FUNERAL HOME

1401 E. Broadway St. - Yazoo City, MS 39194

Rev. Arthur Young, Officiating Pastor

LIFE'S REFLECTIONS

Elmer Lee Christmas

Elmer Lee Christmas was born July 29, 1946, in Yazoo County, Mississippi. He was the fourth child of Joseph Christmas Sr. and Lovie Lee Crockett.

He was preceded in death by both parents; his sister: Rosie Mae Harris-Hodge; brothers: Joseph Christmas Jr., Isaac Christmas James Earl Christmas, Larry Christmas and Sylvester Lloyd Christmas.

Elmer accepted Christ at an early age and was a member of Tri-Union Missionary Baptist Church under the leadership of Rev. B.T. Miles.

Elmer received his education from the Yazoo County and Humphrey County school systems. At the age of 18 he moved to Chicago, Illinois and after working various jobs he was hired by U.S Steel as a Merchant Marine which allowed him to travel all the Great Lakes of the United States and Canada. After leaving U.S Steel he was employed as a machinist at Bodine Electric until his retirement in 2008. After his retirement Elmer started a lawn care business. Elmer was a member of the Belton Lodge #63 A.F & A. M in Chicago and held the status of a Master Mason.

Elmer was married to Betty Fuller for more than 20 years and they were blessed with one daughter, Monique Christmas. He also shared in raising of his step-son Corey Gathings. He was hard working and dedicated to his family. He loved working outside and could repair just about anything. He also loved talking about his daughter and granddaughter accomplishments and letting people that he was a great granddad.

Elmer was diagnosed with lung cancer in March 2024 and transitioned on Thursday, June 27, 2024, at the Yazoo City Rehabilitation and Healthcare Center in Yazoo City, Mississippi.

Elmer leaves to cherish his memory, his daughter: Monique Christmas; son: Corey Gathings; granddaughter: Jada Clark; great grandson: Jace Andrews; sisters: Elizabeth Christmas-Jones, Joyce Marie Christmas and Clara Ann Christmas, all of Chicago, Illinois; his brothers: Charles A (Mary) Christmas of Norcross, Georgia and Eddie Lewis Christmas; sister-in-law: Trina Rambert-Christmas; one aunt: Lennie B. White; and a host nieces, nephews and friends.

THE LIFE THAT I HAVE

The life that I have is all that I have.
And the life that I have is yours.
The love that I have of the life that I have
Is yours and yours and yours.
A sleep I shall have, A rest I shall have
Yet death will be but a pause, for the peace of my years
In the long green grass, will be yours and yours and yours.

ORDER OF SERVICE

Program Guide: Lathia Davison

Prelude	Soft Music
Song	
Scripture	Old & New TestamentBro. Claude Collum
Prayer.....	Sis. Gloria Allen
Song	Sis. Debra Woods
Expressions	Three (3) Minutes PleaseAnyone Desiring
Acknowledgement of Condolences	Lathia Davison
Obituary.....	Read Silently.....Soft Music
Solo.....	Sis. Debra Woods
Eulogy.....	Rev. Arthur Young
Scott Memorial Funeral Directors in Charge	
Recessional	Clergy, Family & Friends

MEMORIES



TRIBUTES

When I first learned of both my brothers' fate, the first thing that crossed my mind was how can this happen and said a silent prayer asking for a miracle that somehow, we would wake up and it would be over. But that was not God's will or His plan. So, as it became clear to me of His plan, I asked that He provide us the strength, the knowledge and patience to do whatever was needed for both our brothers. He did that and I am so grateful for every moment that I got to spend with them.

Love Elizabeth and Clara Ann

To My Dad (Elmer)

If I could give one thing, it would be the ability to see yourself through my eyes. You were very outspoken, brutally honest and fair. Thank you for your consisted support of me through hard time and the good ones. You were there for me my entire life. A constant fixture in my life. You never had to say I love you because I just knew it. Please continue to watch over me.

Love always, Mona

Elmer was my grandfather, he raised me when I was young, he was a father figure for me. I am grateful now to have had a grandfather like him. I will forever cherish those memories and funny moments we had. You were strict but also brought laughter and happiness. The core memory that brings me happiness is my granddad meeting his great grandson before he left. I love you Elmer, thank you for being the great father that I needed.

Love, Jada

Elmer (affectionately known by me as El), As we gather to celebrate your life today, I am reminded of the extraordinary man you were. You were a man of few words, rarely raising your voice or speaking loudly but your words had a profound impact on the man I am today. Although you were not my biological father, you were a father in every sense of the word. You welcomed me in your heart and home with open arms. I am forever grateful for the love, encouragement, support, and guidance given as a father to his son. Your love and passion for the racetracks and horse racing is unmatched. I could count on seeing your big smile as you stood to your feet as the horse approached the final stretch saying, "come on, come on". Today I stand to my feet with the same bright smile, thanking you for being the father that you were to me at the time that I needed. Well, you fought a good fight and ran a good race. Rest in peace El!

Dr. Corey Gathings

Broken Chain

We little knew that morning that God was going to call your name.
In life we loved you dearly. In death we do the same.
It broke our hearts to lose you, you did not go alone,
For part of us went with you the day God called you home.
You left peaceful memories; your love is still our guide.
And though we cannot see you, you are always by our side.
Our family chain is broken, and nothing seems the same,
But as God calls us one by one the chain will-link again.
Love Sharon, Lathia, Michael, and Shundolyn