

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The family of James McLean wishes to express their deepest appreciation for the love, support, and kindness shown during this time of loss.



Professional Services Entrusted to:



Sanders Funeral Home
806 E Market St • Smithfield, NC 27577
Phone: (919) 934-8416

IN LOVING MEMORY

JAMES McLEAN

April 15, 1930 — May 16, 2026



Service

Monday, May 25, 2026
Sanders Funeral Home
2 PM

REFLECTIONS

James McLean, affectionately known for his warm smile and kind spirit, peacefully transitioned on May 16, 2026, at the age of 96. Born on April 15, 1930, James lived a long life filled with love for his family and dedication to hard work.

James was preceded in death by his beloved wife, Delores McLean, who departed this life in October 2023; his mother, Grace Sanders; brothers, Ralph Sanders, Thomas TJ Sanders, Rudolph Sanders, Bobby R. Sanders, Robert E. Sanders, James E. Sanders, Monk Sanders, LJay Sanders, and Willie Sanders; sisters, Betty Jean Sanders, Carrie L. Sanders Benson, Doris N. Sanders Talbert, and Linda Kay “Pig” Singletary (George); and daughters Jackie and Connie.

He leaves to cherish his memories his loving children: Carolyn, Pamela, Betty, Gloria, and his only son, Vincent, along with a host of grandchildren, nieces, nephews, extended family, and friends who will forever hold him close in their hearts.

James worked for many years as a cook in several well-known hotels throughout North Carolina and also spent time working in construction. He was known as a hardworking man who took pride in providing for his family.

Above all, James loved spending time with his family. Whether gathered for holidays or simple visits at home, those moments brought him great joy. He always greeted others with a big smile and a kind word, leaving lasting memories with everyone who knew him.

His family is grateful for the precious time shared with him and will deeply miss his presence. Though their hearts are heavy, they find comfort in knowing he is now resting peacefully, free from pain and loneliness, reunited once again with his beloved wife.

A GENTLE SOUL REMEMBERED

A gentle soul, so kind and true,
Has left this earth from our view.
Though tears may fall and hearts may ache,
The love he gave will never break.

His smile could brighten any day,
His caring words would light the way.
He loved his family through and through,
And shared that love in all he'd do.

The moments shared, the laughs, the talks,
The holiday meals and peaceful walks,
Will live forever in our hearts,
For love like his never departs.

Though he now rests in peaceful sleep,
His memories are ours to keep.
Free from pain and worry now,
He rests beneath God's gentle brow.

So we will hold him close each day,
Though he has quietly slipped away.
And in our hearts, his light will stay,
Guiding us gently along the way.