

A Letter to DADDY

Dear Daddy,

I will always remember....

- when you made breakfast, you would cut the toast in a triangle, and you taught me how to cook my first egg at 10yrs old
- when you told me to always bring my books home from school even if I didn't have homework and to stay away from boys
- when you put sardine oil on Racquel's and my cheeks when we had the mumps
- when you tried to make boys out of us boys by timing us on the track field as little kids in Utica...eventually settling for supporting us in playing Basketball
- when I found out the reason you didn't consume eggs, butter or milk and would put orange juice on your cornflakes had nothing to do with allergies and how the real reason was hilarious
- when you made me laugh right before I said a prayer on stage in elementary school when I wasn't supposed to
- when you smiled the biggest and brightest for any and everything I may have accomplished in life
- when you sent me into the world shielded with the "Battle" name..."you are a "Battle".... you don't have to take nothing off of nobody"
- when I thought you were the smartest man in the world and how proud I was to be your daughter
- when I was a student in your Chemistry and Physics classes and how lucky I was seeing you do what you did best
- when you gave your advice on handling men and relationships...use a lot of CS (Common Sense)
- when you told me you were sick and how we made plans on how to proceed. I knew it was my turn to take care of you and both of our lives was about to change
- when our trips to the doctor appointments would last almost all day and we would go to lunch or to the movies
- when you talked and shared so much during our long drives and how I learned so much more about you as person
- when you were still trying to be a ladies' man; even from a hospital bed while make the nurses and aids laugh and smile
- when I was leaving for home on my last visit I said, "see you later, Daddy" and you held my hand with a big grin and said "Okay, don't take too long"
- when you were laughing and talking and arguing with Racquel on our last visit during the holidays.... had no idea it was the last visit, but those days will be definitely cherished the most

Today our hearts may be broken, but we are also here to honor a man who lived his life his own way and made no apologies. I am sure he is giving the Angels a hard time. He touched a lot of lives, and he meant a lot of different things to a lot of different people. He was known as James, Jim, Battle, Mr. Battle, Coach Battle, June Bug and Bug. To us, he will always simply be "Daddy"

We love you.....forever, *Romunda and Racquel*

Acknowledgements

Our family acknowledges with deep appreciation, the many cards, comforting words, calls, prayers and other expressions of loving kindness shown during our hours of bereavement. We would also like to thank Leslie Killingsworth, Rosa Broome and Emma Robinson for providing 24-hour Senior Care Services and Demetirus (Zeek) Young owner of Top Knotch for providing continuous Grooming Services

Honorary Pallbearer

Mr. Demetrius (Zeek) Young Mr. Robert L. Battle
Mr. Howard Battle

Active Pallbearers

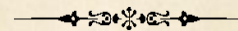
Mr. Edward E. Battle Mr. Joseph C. Battle
Mr. Dwight Battle Mr. Daryl Jenkins

Interment

Natchez Trace Memorial Park Cemetery
Madison, Mississippi

Repast

Couture Clubhouse
1711 Raymond Road Suite A
Jackson Mississippi 39204



Arrangements and Professional Services Entrusted to:

Willis and Sons Funeral Home, Inc.

5235 Robinson Road Ext. · Jackson, Mississippi 39204
(601) 372-0346 · (601) 624-4429
Arthur N. Willis, Owner

Celebration of the Life of Brother James Daniel Battle, Jr. June 18, 1945 – January --, 2024



Thursday, January 18, 2024
Time

Willis and Sons Funeral Home Chapel
5235 Robinson Road
Jackson, Mississippi 39204

Reverend _____, Officiating
Ms. Monica Buggs, Program Guide

"For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought a good fight. I have finished my course, I have kept the faith"

II Timothy 3:6-7

Reflections of the Life of *James Daniel Battle, Jr.*

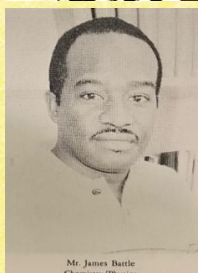
Brother James Daniel Battle, Jr. was born June 18, 1945 in Vancleave, Mississippi. He was born into a loving Christian home to Mr. James Daniel Battle, Sr. and Mrs. Mary Parker Battle. Brother Battle's parents and two siblings Melvin and Eddie Lee preceded him in death along with a daughter Deidra (Dee).



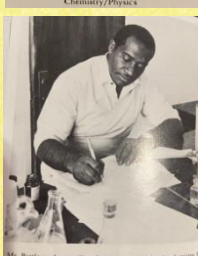
James completed his high school education at Elizabeth H. Keyes High School, Ocean Springs, Mississippi where he played football and was a member of the track and baseball teams. After graduating High School, he was awarded a Full Football scholarship to attend Mississippi Industrial College in Holly Springs, Mississippi which was later converted to an academic scholarship. He majored in Biology and earned his Bachelor of Science degree under the leadership and supervision of Dean Carter and Dr. Florestine Walton Evans. While there, he was a member of the M Club, Cavalier Club and he married his college sweetheart.



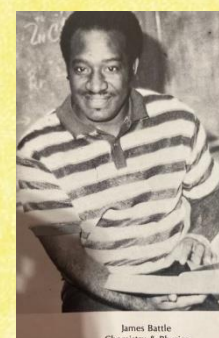
After graduation, James and his wife moved to Drew, Mississippi in Sunflower County and he was employed with the Drew Separate School District at Hunter High School as a Biology Instructor, Head Track Coach and Assistant football coach. As the Head Track Coach, he won the high school's 1st State Championship.



James was awarded a Stipend from the National Science Foundation to attend the University of Mississippi and enroll in the very first Combined Masters of Science program (8 years after desegregation) which he completed with a 4.0 GPA. Coach Battle was academically inclined and always successful in his studies at all levels, later in life he obtained his AAA Specialist at Jackson State.



After 5 years of working at Hunter High School, he moved his family to Utica, Mississippi after accepting employment at Hinds County Agricultural High School on the campus of Utica Junior College (later Hinds Community College). There, he was a Biology, Chemistry and Physics instructor. He was also an assistant football coach, head track coach and head softball coach. As head track coach, since 1970, he won five District 62A championships, 9 Region, 7 University in 1989 championships and 6 State championships. During the 1999-2000 school year, he was honored as MAC Boy's track coach of the year. Coach Battle had the distinct honor of coaching a 2004 Olympic Track Champion, Otis Harris Jr., who won a silver and gold medal. In 2007 Coach Battle was inducted into the Hinds County Agricultural High School Athletic Hall of Fame. His passion and dedication as a faculty member continued until his retirement in 2004. He guided many students to higher goals and improved the quality of life of those he served.



Cherishing his memories and continuing his legacy are: daughters, Romunda, Racquel, Erica, Jenice, Denise and Kala; son Barry; four, sisters, Thelma, Joyce, Sally (cousin) and Pearl; four brothers, Robert, Howard, Joseph and Edward.



...My Dad...

*A father's touch, a Daddy's kiss,
A grieving Daughter,
The Dad I will always miss,
An empty house, an empty chair,
A father's love, no longer there,
A broken heart, tear filled eye,
Another soul in the sky.
The times we shared,
The laughs we had,
Things I miss when I think of
MY DAD.*

Order of Service



Ms. Monica Buggs, Program Guide

Processional ~~~~~ Ministers and Family
Soft Music

Scripture Reading ~~~~~ Lester Ownes
Old Testament; Psalm 27:1-4
New Testament; John 14: 1-3

Prayer ~~~~~ Dwight Battle

Solo ~~~~~ Benita Racquel Battle
"My Help"

Reflections and Expressions ~~~~~ Family and Friends
(Two - Three Minutes Please)

Acknowledgements ~~~~~ Daryl Jenkins

Obituary ~~~~~ Read Silently ~~~~~ Soft Music

Song ~~~~~ "Order My Steps"

Eulogy ~~~~~ Awaiting Mr. Willis

Directors of Willis and Sons Funeral Home in Charge

Recessional ~~~~~ "I'll Fly Away"