



## **BENNIE BETTS JR.**

May 15, 1951 - June 1, 2012

Bennie Houston Betts, Jr., 61, of Kankakee, died Friday, June 1, 2012 at St. James Hospice House in Chicago Heights, IL, Family and friends will gather from 11:30 a.m., Saturday, June 9, 2012 at Lax Mortuary until time of memorial services at 12:00 p.m. Pastor Brad Prairie will officiate. Memorials may be made to the family.

Bennie Houston Betts, Jr. was born May 15, 1951 in Kankakee, IL. He was the younger of two children born to Bennie H. and Charmaine Elaine (Callahan) Betts, Sr. He was baptized at Caldwell Chapel AME Zion Church at a young age by Reverend Nathan Richmond. Bennie was a 1969 graduate of Westview High School.

He was united in holy matrimony to Evelyn James, September 20, 2008 and one child was born to their union. He was employed at Betts Tavern, working for his father; he also worked for the United States Post Office. A lifelong resident of Kankakee, he enjoyed cars, especially "Hot Rods" and the game of football.

He leaves to cherish his memory, his devoted wife, Evelyn James-Betts of Kankakee, IL; three sons and one daughter in law, Marcel and Melissa Betts, of Milford, IL, Chris Betts of Long Beach, CA, and Jemome James of Kankakee, IL; three daughters, Tara Betts of Binghamton, NY, Nicole Fulford

of Clinton, KY, Kaisha Thompson of Kankakee, IL; two granddaughters, Mikeyla Crumble and Imiani Crumble; three grandsons, Joearie Crumble, Asher Betts and Tobias Betts; one aunt, Doris Ross and one uncle, Vernon Betts, both of Jackson, Michigan; brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law, Delores Davis, of Kankakee, IL, Ella James of St. Paul, MN, Deborah Brent of Bloomington, MN, Kathrine James of Kankakee, IL, Jessie and Bernice James of Albany, GA, Jerry and Marsha James of Forrest, IL and Melvin James of Minneapolis, MN; a play nephew, Leonard Mosbley of Kankakee, IL; a play brother, Bruce Davis of Calhoun, GA; special nieces, Jamyla Radford and Shaquiyah Calmes both of Kankakee, IL and Sanayia Hampton of Bloomington, IL; three special friends, Haywood Booker, Q-Don Brown and Anthony Garner, all of Kankakee, IL; special nurse, Ruth Franzen; special cousin, Glenn Harris of Chicago, IL and a host of other relatives and friends.

He was preceded in death by a son, Houston Lee Betts; his parents, Bennie and Charmaine Betts Sr.; a sister, Audrey Betts; maternal grandparents, Knute and Lillian Lashley Callahan; paternal grandparents, Henry and Bessie Williams Betts; his mother-in-law, Lucy Bee James; two sisters-in-law, Emma Mae Torrey and Campanella James; a brother-in-law, Jimmie Will James; two aunts, Lillian Worlds and Marjorie Overall and four uncles, Herschel Betts, Russell Betts, Vergil Betts and Dr. Lem D. Callahan.

# Tribute Wall

EP

“ *Tara, you are not alone in this: trust!*

Eric Priestley - June 08, 2012 at 12:00 AM

EF

“ *I AM SO SORRY TO HEAR OF YOUR LOSS, MY AND MY FAMILY PRAYERS ARE WITH YOU. KNOW THE LORD WILL GIVE YOU THE STRENGTH TO CONTINUE....GOD BLESS YOU*

EARL FRANKS - June 07, 2012 at 12:00 AM

CJ

“ *I just want to say to the family that God is holding him now and he is waiting for you. I know its hard when you lose a loved one but just remember its not just a funeral but a homecoming and you will be reunited. Loads of prayers for the Betts Family. Go*

Catrina Jackson - June 07, 2012 at 12:00 AM

LT

“ *From the Richardson/Thompson family. May the Lord comfort you at this time. Mr. Betts was and always will be a Corner Stone of the Kankakee Community. He was truly one of the Founders of Black owned businesses and contributed to making Kankakee what it i*

Latisha Edwards/Richardson/ Thompson - June 07, 2012 at 12:00 AM

RW

“ *my prayers r wit u nd ur family much love*

ROSIE WALACE - June 07, 2012 at 12:00 AM

LJ

“ Evelyn i'm so sorry to hear about your loss. May God comfort you and give you peace during this time.

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**linda jefferson** - June 07, 2012 at 12:00 AM

BB

“ WE LOVE YOU BENNIE JR. MS. RITA HAWKINS, BARBARA, SONJA AND QUINN!!!!!!!!!!

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**BARBARA BENNETT** - June 07, 2012 at 12:00 AM

SH

“ Bennie Jr. was graced with kindness even as a youth. He and his family extended that sense of neighborhood and made the old Harrison Avenue memorable. You will always be remembered for your smile and sense of community by me. My life is richer having kn

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**Shelia** - June 07, 2012 at 12:00 AM

DB

“ GOD BLESS AND KEEP YOU, YOU ARE IN MY PRAYERS NOW AND ALWAYS. HE IS AT REST AND WILL SEE YOU AGAIN SOMEDAY .

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**DEBORAH BRENT** - June 07, 2012 at 12:00 AM

DB

“ May Almighty God bless, comfort and console the family of my childhood neighbor and friend, Bennie (Pookie) Betts. He was such a good man and will be missed by all who knew him. You all are in my prayers. Rev. DCB

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**Danny C. Brewster, Sr.** - June 07, 2012 at 12:00 AM

EC

“ *With sympathy during the loss of your loved one.*

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**Elayne Coffie** - June 07, 2012 at 12:00 AM

BF

“ *RIP and God Bless.*

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**Bryan Davis and Family** - June 07, 2012 at 12:00 AM

PJ

“ *My condolences to the James and Betts family on the death of your loved one. May you find peace in the coming days through prayer meditation. May God continue to Bless each of you.*

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**Patricia Jamison** - June 06, 2012 at 12:00 AM