



Melvin "Bo" James

April 27, 1964 - December 17, 2025

Melvin Gene "Bo" James was born April 27, 1964 in Kankakee, IL to George James Sr. and Ozie Evans James. He was the youngest of 21 children. Melvin was baptized at a young age by Pastor William H. Copeland Jr. at Morning Star Baptist Church, and was a faithful member, who loved the Lord.

Melvin graduated from Westview High School in 1983, where he participated in basketball and track.

He was united in holy matrimony to the former Carolyn Green on April 27, 2006.

Melvin worked at John Malone Convenience Store on East Court St. for many years as a clerk and stockman. He then worked with his brothers at James Brothers Lawn Care Services until his health failed. He will be remembered for his expertise in lawn services, perfect painting services and being a handyman problem solver for odd jobs. He was always willing to help others with odd repairs. He especially loved helping his niece, Oletha, with her annual garage sales.

He loved to tease and to be the jokester with his family and friends. He enjoyed playing cards, Dominos, dancing and music. His favorite sports teams were the Chicago Bears and the Chicago Bulls. He loved chicken and

Mountain Dew.

He leaves to cherish his memory, his wife, Carolyn Green James of Kankakee, IL; one stepchild, Oshea Israel of Minneapolis, MN; step-grandchildren, Myoshea, Oshea Jr. and Omeisha; his brothers, George James Jr. and Theotis (Ramona) James, both of Kankakee, IL and Richard James of Minneapolis, MN; his sisters, Annie Winfield-Brooks of Kankakee, IL, Bertha James-Scott of Minnesota and Mary Anthony of Spring Hill, TN; God-sister, Willie Lou King and special sister, Tiet James, both of Kankakee, IL; special nieces and nephew, that were with him to the very end, Marilyn Williams, Lakesia Winfield and Oletha and Anthony Grant Sr.

He was preceded in death by his parents; brothers, Joe, Willie, Tommie, Jessie and James; sisters, Jesse Mae, Lize Sweets, Jessie Mae Virgin, Mattie Dell Coleman and ten other siblings; several aunts and uncles; nephew, Kelvin "Ril Dil" Winfield; brother-in-law, Major Anthony and special friends, the Pinskis, the Seatons and the Jacksons.

Melvin "Bo" James was a beloved member of the Kankakee community and he will be deeply missed.

Cemetery Details

Kankakee Memorial Gardens

Kankakee, IL

Previous Events

Visitation

JAN 2. 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Lax Mortuary
187 S. Greenwood Avenue
Kankakee, IL 60901
(815) 935-0090
laxmortuary@laxmortuary.com
<http://laxmortuary.com/>

Visitation

JAN 3. 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM (CT)

Morning Star
570 N. Harrison
Kankakee, IL

Service

JAN 3. 10:00 AM (CT)

Morning Star
570 N. Harrison
Kankakee, IL

Tribute Wall

BD

“ Prayers and condolences to the family



Bryan and Lori Davis - January 31 at 03:28 PM

JW

“ Condolences to The James Family! The Whalum Family



Jeanette Whalum-Chambers - January 08 at 03:04 AM

TJ

“ We grew up on South 3rd with Bo and James family lived next door to them many years very sad to hear about his passing my mother Lizzie and ozie and arlean and Ollie Taylor were the golden girls of South 3rd bo RIP IN PEACE 🕊️ FAMILY we take it from here!! On behalf of the Jackson family we extend our sincere condolences to the James Evans family members and friends!! God bless you all remember there are no earthly sorrows God cannot heal!! Psalms 91 🙏

Tony Jackson - January 04 at 08:54 AM

MG

“ Condolences to my family. Bo will truly be missed. If I can do anything please let me know. Love you all. Praying for your strength.



Mary Gaddy - January 02 at 03:59 PM

SM

“ Shirley Moore lit a candle in memory of Melvin James



Shirley Moore - January 02 at 12:42 AM

SM

“ Prayers & Condolences From The Moore Family To The Family Of Bo James 🙏🙏🙏🙏🙏🙏 Bo Was was a good person, always polite, hard worker, He loved everybody he will Truly be missed. We love you Bo 🌹 Continue to rest in God's arms ❤️

Shirley Moore - January 02 at 12:41 AM

AJ

“ R. I. H Bo 🕊️



Annie Johnson - December 31, 2025 at 12:15 PM

AB

“ *My sincere condolences. Praying for the family. From your cousins in Crawford, Mississippi. Sis.Julie, children Willie George*



Amanda Brooks - December 30, 2025 at 01:44 PM

TF

“ *The Pankey Family lit a candle in memory of Melvin James*



The Pankey Family - December 29, 2025 at 06:03 PM

AM

“ *Our condolences to the family Mark and Annie Calbert*



Annie Calbert and Mark - December 29, 2025 at 11:56 AM

JF

“ *JOANN FORD-BOX lit a candle in memory of Melvin James*



JOANN FORD-BOX - December 28, 2025 at 12:45 PM

CT

“ *Cedric Terrell lit a candle in memory of Melvin James*



Cedric Terrell - December 27, 2025 at 12:45 PM

LW

“ *Rest Now Cuz, Work here is done you earned your wings although we will miss you dearly. Gonna miss our talks when we seen each other talking about when we stayed next door to each other, Big prayers for my Family.*

Larry Whitlow - December 26, 2025 at 06:37 PM

CW

“ *Cheryl Wilson lit a candle in memory of Melvin James*



Cheryl Wilson - December 26, 2025 at 11:01 AM

CH

“ *My sincere condolences to the families. Cousin Bo always had a smile for me. His light shined bright. Praying for my family*



Carolyn Hester - December 26, 2025 at 10:45 AM

AG

“ *Our Sincere Condolences to the Family.*



Arthur Gray - December 25, 2025 at 09:00 PM

CW

“ *My Condolences and Prayers for my Family*



Cynthia K Wells - December 25, 2025 at 04:46 PM

AS

“ *Where do I start well true good friend of mind we go back a long way since the late 70s Bi you will be missed my buddy love you continue to rest*

Allen Saulsberry - December 25, 2025 at 12:27 PM

EF

“ *Euell/Boykin Family lit a candle in memory of Melvin James*



Euell/Boykin Family - December 25, 2025 at 10:14 AM

CM

“ *My family, Bo will be missed by many, RIH
Cousin Bo* 🎈 🎈



Carla Brooks Miles - December 25, 2025 at 01:48 AM

MB

“ *minnie brewer brewster lit a candle in memory
of Melvin James*



minnie brewer brewster - December 24, 2025 at 11:04 PM

MB

“ *minnie brewer brewster lit a candle in memory
of Melvin James*



minnie brewer brewster - December 24, 2025 at 10:54 PM

PJ

“ *Rest easy Bo, that slow walk that you had,
made me think, that you knew something that
no one else knew, on your way to heaven. My
prayers and condolences to the family.*



Patricia Jamison - December 24, 2025 at 04:28 PM