



James E. Tatum Sr

September 19, 1938 - August 14, 2016

On August 14, 2016, James E. Tatum, Sr. peacefully entered into eternal rest at Hospice of the Chesapeake, Pasadena, Maryland. Born on September 19, 1938, in Swan Lake, Mississippi, to the late Agnes Bostic and Fletcher Tatum, James graduated from Arkansas AM&N (now University of Arkansas – Pine Bluff). Soon after, he settled in Marvel, Arkansas, and began teaching and coaching at a local high school. While there, he met and married Verlene Hamilton and began a family that would grow to include a daughter, Vanessa, and a son, James, Jr.

James relocated his family to Albuquerque, New Mexico in 1966. There, he began a 30 plus year career with the United States Department of Agriculture as a Soil Conservationist. It was also there that he began his lifelong commitment to helping others. James and his family joined Grant Chapel AME Church where he served on the Trustee Board. Additionally, James coached the church's basketball team.

Although committed to his church and community, James did not neglect his family.

He either coached or was the team parent for his children's youth sports teams. James rarely missed one of his children's (and later grandchildren's) extra-curricular activities.

After receiving his Master's degree from Syracuse University in 1979, James and his family settled in Prince George's County, Maryland. In 1980, James and his family became members of Allen Chapel AME Church in Washington, DC. There, James served as a Trustee and in 1981, became President of the Lay Organization that he helped to revive.

James was proud that both Vanessa and James, Jr. graduated from college (Johns Hopkins University and Harvard University, respectively, and professional school (Tulane University School of Medicine and Duke University School of Law, respectively). He was extremely proud when Verlene earned her doctorate from Syracuse University. Recently, he attended his grandson's, James, III (Tre'), graduation from Manhattanville College.

James and Verlene opened their home to countless young people who were attending college, interning or working in the Washington, DC metropolitan area. Family, friends and friends of friends always knew they would receive a warm welcome. In addition to his hospitality, James was known for his delicious bar-b-que and fried catfish.

James enjoyed spending time with family and friends, attending the numerous activities involving his grandchildren and politics. James was a member of the Alpha Phi Alpha fraternal organization. He was also past President of his local UAPB alumni chapter. James was also a founder and past President of the National Organization of Professional Black Natural Resources Conservation Service Employees.

James is survived by his loving wife of 54 years, Verlene; his son, James, Jr. and daughter in law, Sherri; his grandchildren, Tre', Margaret and Trinitee; a brother, Maurice, and four sisters, Shirley Ann, Sue, Thelma and Clara; many nieces, nephews, other family members and friends. His daughter, Vanessa, and brother, J.H. Tatum, predeceased him.

Services will be held on Monday August 22, 2016 at Allen Chapel AME
Church

2498 Alabama Ave SE, Washington, DC 20020

viewing 10 am service 11 am

Interment: Lincoln Memorial Cemetery

Tribute Wall



“ *James E. Tatum Sr*

January 28, 2023 at 02:13 PM



“ *James E. Tatum Sr*

January 28, 2023 at 10:26 AM



“ *James was a dear friend of mine and my family for 33 years. He was a very kind and loving friend. Whenever he would visit us for our annual Christmas fondue party, he would always bring us a gift of his famous BBQ sauce to use with the dinner. All of our guests looked forward to it for many years.*

We considered him and his loving family as part of our family. We have many wonderful memories of him. We will miss his loving smile and his wonderful stories of his many experiences throughout his lifetime. He was a strong fighter of his health issues. He is now at peace with the Lord.

Tillie R. Jordan and family

Tillie R. Jordan - August 19, 2016 at 05:29 PM