

I Am Free

by: Shannon Lee Moseley

Don't grieve for me, for now I'm free,
I'm following the path God laid for me.
I took His hand when I heard Him call,
I turned my back and left it all.
I could not stay another day, to laugh,
To love, to work or play.
Tasks undone must stay that way
I've found that peace at the close of the day.
If parting has left a void,
Then fill it with remembered joy.
A friendship shared, a laugh, a kiss,
Ah, yes, these things I too will miss.
Be not burdened with times of sorrow
I wish for you the sunshine of tomorrow.
My life's been full, I savoured much
Good friends, good times, a loved one's touch.
Perhaps my time seemed all too brief,
Don't lengthen it now with undue grief.
Lift up your hearts and share with me,
God wants me now,
He set me free.

Pallbearers

United States Army Honor Guard

Floral Bearers

Family and Friends

Acknowledgement

We, the family of Mr. James Arstello Barnes, Jr. would like to thank each of you for your prayers and support shown to us during the passing of our loved one. A special thank you to the VA Hospital Warriors Walk Hospice and the Ridgewood Missionary Baptist Church.

Repast

Ridgewood Missionary Baptist Church
5326 Ridgeway Street
Columbia, South Carolina

In Honor of your Memory of

Mr. James Arstello Barnes, Jr.



Thursday, February 8, 2024
1:00 p.m.

Leevy's Funeral Home Chapel
1831 Taylor Street
Columbia, South Carolina

Minister Sean Dreher
-Officiating-

CONTACT US:
Taylor Street Chapel
803-771-7799
Lower Richland Chapel
803-776-6922
WWW.LEEVY.COM

Services Entrusted To
Leevy's
Chris Leevy Johnson
Managing Director

SIGN THE ONLINE REGISTRY:



Leverette A. Williams, II
General Manager

Obituary of Mr. James Arstello Barnes, Jr.

Mr. James Arstello Barnes, Jr. was born on February 22, 1937, in Columbus, Georgia, to the late James A. Barnes, Sr. and Sylvia Louise Johnson Barnes. He entered peaceful rest on February 3, 2024.

As a child, James attended elementary schools in Columbus, Georgia, Washington, D.C., and Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. At the young age of 16, James joined the U.S. Army, because he "thought he was smarter than the teachers" in school. After basic training, he spent 31 months of his 36-month enlistment in Hanau, West Germany. In 1958, James received his diploma from South Girard High School in Phenix City, Alabama.

After graduating from high school, James briefly attended Howard University in Washington, D.C. He then re-enlisted into the U.S. Army, and retired after completing an additional 22 years of dedicated service. In November 1976, James received the 33rd degree, the highest honor in Freemasonry, in Washington, D.C.

After retirement, James obtained a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Secondary Education from the University of South Carolina (USC). It was his intention to teach high school English, but decided to change directions after what he called, a "negative student teaching experience." He subsequently obtained a job as Maintenance Manager with the U.S. Postal Service, retiring after 20 years.

In his senior years, James received an unexpected blessing when he met the former Linda Marie Oxner. They were joined in wedded bliss in 2004. They shared 19 wonderful years traveling, attending church, going to social events, where they sometimes wore matching outfits, and serving as active members of the Greenview Park Senior Club. James and Linda also cherished the time they spent singing together with the Greenview Park Senior Club Old School Choir.

James attended the Main Post Chapel, Ft. Jackson, where he was active on the Church Council and participated in the Men's Bible Study. He was a member of the Ft. Jackson Retiree Association, United Postmasters/Managers, the USC Alumni Club and was a South Girard High School Class of '58 Alumnus.

What a lasting impression James left on those who knew him - he will be sorely missed for his unique sense of humor, booming voice, love for family, generous heart, and selfless spirit. We are so grateful to have known and loved him. May he rest sweetly until we meet again...

James' parents, sister Jennifer, and daughter, Martina Barnes, preceded him in death.

He leaves to treasure his memory, his devoted wife Linda Oxner Barnes; daughter, Jennifer M. (Earnest) Murry of Fairfax Station, VA; two sons, Rontrez D. (Jillian) Mayes of Oak Grove, KY, and Ricky R. (Crystal) Mayes of Pembroke, KY; bonus children, Tracey Brooks of Irmo, SC, and John (Robbin) Brooks, Jr. of Little Mountain, SC; grandchildren, Martin, Kayleigh, Nici, Ricky, Ja'Rae, and NaJayia; bonus grandchildren, Laken, Justin, Brittany, Johnathon, Sean, and Lyric; bonus great-granddaughter, Avari; godsons, James Fisher III and Stephon Thorn; sister-in-law, Diane Oxner Hardy; brothers-in-law, Jule (Kathryne) Oxner III, Phillip (Juanita) Oxner, and Samuel (Arlene) Oxner; a special cousin, Pastor Claudette Moss; and a host of additional cousins and friends.

Memories



A Service of Remembrance

- Musical Prelude
- Processional
- Viewing.....Funeral Directors
- Hymn of Comfort....."Oh I Want to See Him"
- Old Testament.....Psalm 24:1-5.....Pastor Claudette Moss
- New Testament.....John 14:1-6.....Pastor Leon Page
- Prayer of Comfort.....Minister Earnest Murry
- Musical Selection.....Greenview Park Senior Club Old School Choir
- Remarks.....Chaplain Claypoole
- Musical Selection.....Ms. Betty Dewelt
- Words of Comfort.....Minister Sean Dreher
- Recessional
- Postlude



Committal, Benediction and Interment

11:00 a.m.
Friday, February 9, 2024
Fort Jackson National Cemetery
4170 Percival Road
Columbia, South Carolina