

When I Must Leave You

When I must leave you for a little
while,
Please do not grieve and shed
wild tears
And hug your sorrow to you
through the years,
But start out bravely with a
gallant smile;
And for my sake and in my name
Live on and do all things the
same,
Feed not your loneliness on
empty days,
But fill each waking hour in
useful ways,
Reach out your hand in comfort
and cheer
And I in turn will comfort you
and hold you near;
And never, never be afraid to die,
For I am waiting for you in the
sky!

Pallbearers

Family and Friends

Floral Bearers

Family and Friends

Acknowledgement

We, the family of Mr. James Lester, would like to thank each of you for your prayers, love, and support shown to us during the passing of our loved one. It is our prayer that the Lord blesses each of you in a very special way.

Repast

Leevy's Lower Richland Chapel
9120 Garners Ferry Road
Hopkins, South Carolina

Homegoing Service
Celebrating the Life
of
MR. JAMES LESTER



MONDAY, DECEMBER 22, 2025
10:00 AM

SECOND NAZARETH BAPTIST CHURCH
2300 ELMWOOD AVENUE
COLUMBIA, SOUTH CAROLINA

REVEREND JOHNNY RAY NOBLE, PHD
-PASTOR-

Services Entrusted To:

Taylor Street Chapel 1831 Taylor Street Columbia, SC 29201 (803)771-7799 I. S. Leevy Johnson -Owner & Director-	Leevy's FUNERAL HOME Chris Leevy Johnson -President & Managing Director-	Lower Richland Chapel 9120 Garners Ferry Road Hopkins, SC 29061 (803) 776-6922 Leverette A. Williams, II -General Manager-
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Obituary

Mr. James "Tracksey" Lester unexpectedly passed away on Sunday, December 14, 2025, at his home. His beloved wife awakened in the early morning hours to find him deceased. James died of a pulmonary embolism. He was 59 years old. Words cannot fully express the shock and profound sorrow his family feels in the wake of his sudden passing.

James was born on February 4, 1966, in Atlanta, Georgia to James Eady Lester and Frances Williams, both who preceded him in death. He spent his formative years in Mullins, South Carolina; Marion, South Carolina; and the DMV area (District of Columbia, Maryland, and Virginia). James was raised in a close-knit family with his father, James Eady Lester, his cherished great-grandmother, Marie McMillan, whom he affectionately called "Mama" and four devoted aunts: Shirley May Ross Coleman, Reatha Mae Felder, Andrena "Bean" Lester, and Marie Williams who together shaped the man he became.

James was a proud graduate of Oxon Hill High School in Oxon Hill, Maryland. Following graduation, he honorably served four years in the United States Army. After completing his military service, James made Columbia, South Carolina his home so he could be near his cousin, Mark Weeks. He worked various jobs throughout the years, with his longest tenure being 16 years at Anchor Continental, now known as Intertape Polymer Group (IPG). Prior to his retirement in 2020, James spent his final years in the workforce at the William Jennings Bryan Dorn Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Columbia, South Carolina.

A true sports enthusiast, James had a deep passion for football, basketball, and baseball. He enjoyed watching both collegiate and professional games and engaging in long, often spirited conversations about sports with family and friends. His heart belonged to the Washington Commanders, whom he supported with unwavering loyalty and pride.

Above all else, James was known for his steadfast love and devotion to his family and friends. He had a remarkable way of making everyone feel valued, beginning and ending each conversation with the words, "I love you." His love was evident in his warm sense of humor, kindness, loyalty, and consistent presence. Those who knew James recognized him as a man of faith who trusted in the Lord and lived with a heart full of love and gratitude.

James was preceded in death by his beloved great-grandmother, Marie McMillan; his dearly loved aunts, Andrena "Bean" Lester and Reatha Mae Felder; a loving cousin, Julious Lester; and a brother, Jerome Oaddams.

James leaves to cherish his memory; his devoted and loving wife, Lucretia Hook Lester; three beloved daughters, Elan Lester of Aiken, South Carolina, and Sierra Lester and Faith Lester, both of Columbia, South Carolina; two adored grandchildren, Ava Lester (age 12) of Aiken, South Carolina, and Chaton (CJ) Nesmith, Jr. (age 9) of Columbia, South Carolina; two cherished aunts, Marie Williams of Marion, South Carolina, and Shirley May Ross Coleman of Oxon Hill, Maryland; a treasured cousin who was more like a sister whom he was raised with, Chandra Williams of Bowie, Maryland; two sisters, Deborah Oaddams and Brenda Starr-Moon, both of Atlanta, Georgia; two brothers, Marc Oaddams of Columbus, Georgia, and Marlon Cockerham of Charlotte, North Carolina; and a host of loving cousins, nieces, nephews, extended family members, and dear friends.

Though James' physical presence is no longer with us, his spirit, love, and legacy will continue to inspire and uplift all who were blessed to know him. He will be deeply missed by all who loved him, but as 2 Corinthians 5:8 says, "to be absent from the body, is to be present with the Lord."

Memories



A Service of Remembrance

- Musical Prelude
- Processional
- Viewing.....Funeral Directors
- Musical Selection..... We'll Understand it Better By and By
- Scripture Readings..... Brother Marc Oaddams
- Prayer.....Brother Marc Oaddams
- Musical Selection.....Take Me to the King
- Remarks.....(2 minutes please).....Friends
Family Members
- Musical Selection.....The Battle Is Not Yours
- Words of Comfort.....Evangelist Tommy Woods
- Recessional.....I'll Fly Away
- Postlude



Committal, Benediction and Interment

**Fort Jackson National Cemetery
4170 Percival Road
Columbia, South Carolina**