

**FLORAL BEARERS**  
*Family & Friends*



**PALL BEARERS**  
*Family & Friends*



## **Acknowledgements**

*We the family of James Lester Brown is filled with hearts of gratitude for all the love and support that have been shown to us during the passing of our loved one. We ask God to pour out a special blessing upon each of you as you.*

## **I AM HOME IN HEAVEN**

*I am home in Heaven, dear ones; Oh, so happy and so bright!  
There is perfect joy and beauty in this everlasting light.  
All the pain and grief is over, Every restless tossing passed;  
I am now at peace forever, Safely home in Heaven at last.  
Then you must not grieve so sorely, For I love you dearly still;  
Try to look beyond earth's shadows, Pray to trust our Father's Will.  
There is work still waiting for you, So you must not idly stand;  
Do it now, while life remaineth, You shall rest in Jesus' land.  
When that work is all completed, He will gently call you Home;  
Oh, the rapture of that meeting, Oh, the joy to see you come!*



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**CUNNINGHAM & SONS MORTUARY, INC.**  
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# **CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF OUR BELOVED**



*Sunrise*  
*November 12, 1936*

*Sunset*  
*May 19, 2020*

## ***James Lester Brown***

**Thursday, May 28, 2020 • 12:00 PM**

**CUNNINGHAM & SONS MORTUARY CHAPEL**

3809 Raeford Road • Fayetteville, North Carolina

*The Rev. Roland T. McKoy, Eulogist*  
*The Rev. Lorraine Jackson, Officiating*

# Programme of Worship

Prelude

Officiant .....Rev. Lorraine McKoy Jackson  
Pastor, Jerusalem Missionary Baptist Church  
Council, North Carolina

Musical Selection .....Rev. Martha McKoy  
*Pastor, St. Stephens Church*  
Whiteville, North Carolina

Scripture .....Ms. Willa McMillan

Prayer of Comfort ..... Deacon Harold McLean

Acknowledgements and Obituary..... Read Silently

Solo .....Mr. Michael Rogers

Eulogy .....The Rev. Roland T. McKoy  
*Pastor, Faith Holiness Church*  
Durham, North Carolina

Mortician's Brief ..... Funeral Director

Benediction .....Rev. Lorraine Jackson



**INTERMENT**  
SANDHILLS STATE VETERANS CEMETERY  
400 Murchison Road  
Spring Lake, North Carolina



Dear Bladen Central High,  
Now we must say good-bye,  
But with us we'll carry  
Memories of you.

Sounds of betrayed emotions  
Speak of our dear devotion  
To faces and features  
Of dear Bladen High.

Each moment we'll treasure,  
Each thought, each deed.  
Without these memories,  
What would life be?

So let our ills be pardoned;  
Let us march on with honor,  
And follow the gateway  
To Trials unknown.

Of to a new horizon,  
To battles that must be fought,

We'll carry the banner  
Of dear Bladen High.

(TUNE "LET IT BE ME")

A TRIBUTE TO THE  
LIFE OF COUSIN JAMES  
*From the Baxley and Bordeaux Family*

Growing up in the New Light Community of White Oak, NC, I knew of “Mr. Brown” who lived just “up the road” from my family. He was well-known throughout the community as a schoolteacher—he taught my older siblings. But it was in 2007, during the planning of our first Baxley/Bordeaux family reunion that I had the pleasure of getting to know him on a personal basis. Having heard that we were planning the reunion, he called and identified himself as my father’s cousin on the Baxley side. So now, he was not just “Mr. Brown” to me, he was my cousin as well. We spent hours on the phone that night. He not only shared the history of the Baxley family, he also imparted valuable history about my Bordeaux relatives, my mother’s family. I was fascinated! This man was a well of knowledge; the more it spurred out, the more I wanted. I quickly branded him the family historian. He gladly accepted the role (as a silent partner). He immediately began reaching out to family members (some I knew, others I did not) to encourage reunion participation. That first reunion turned out a memorable event and much of the success is attributed to the contributions of our dear cousin, James.

Over the years, Cousin James and I spent numerous hours on the phone sharing and reminiscing about the family and upcoming reunions, and the bonding quickly grow into a friendship. Whenever I came home to NC, it was always a pleasure to spend time with him and his wife, Jean, as he always had more to impart about our family. He was the epitome of family togetherness and was always supportive and dedicated to strengthening the bond. The valuable insight he gave into the history of the Baxley and Bordeaux family will be cherished and passed on from generation to generation—He was an inspiration to our family, and we are blessed beyond measure to have had such a positive family member and role model in our lives. His extraordinary commitment to the field of education and our family lives on and will impact the lives of those who knew him forever.

Humbly submitted,

*Mildred L. Baxley-Jackson*

Mildred L. Baxley-Jackson  
Baxley and Bordeaux Family Reunion, Committee Chair



# FOREVER LOVED...



# A TRIBUTE TO MR. JAMES BROWN

Mr. Brown, you were a hardworking, powerful man. A Teacher to many, a husband, son and friend. You were a Work of art, a priceless Masterpiece who we shall never forget. You were one of our special Bladen Central Faculty Bulldogs and will forever be in our lives as we pay tribute to our activities, scenes and faces when remembering our days at Bladen Central School. We, the Class of 1967 cannot help but show our love, as you have given us your time, talent, encouragement and valuable assistance. We are truly thankful to look back and see all the sacrificial times and efforts that were made in our behalf. We salute you today and give reverence to Almighty God for allowing such a man to be a part of our lives and one of the voices for us at Bladen Central High School. We were deeply saddened by your home going, however; we know that you are on your way to get your crown. God Bless and We love You!

*Class of 1967*  
**BLADEN CENTRAL  
 HIGH SCHOOL**



Brother James Brown, My thoughts of Brother Brown are fond ones. Brother Brown believed in God and the power of prayer. He was devoted to his family and he treated his wife like a queen in both sickness and health.

He was always a very pleasant man even in the face of heartache and adversity. He was interesting man with pleasant conversation and I always enjoyed my visits with him as did Deacon McLean. During the visits he often spoke fondly of his church family and wanted to keep up with what was happening at Lewis Chapel. He will be missed.

*Deacon Sanya Eller*

Joshua 1:9 "Have not I commanded thee? Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the Lord thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest." Isaiah 40:31 "But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint." John 3:16 "For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." John 13:34-35 "A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye also love one another." Thank you, James Lester, for showing us courage, hope, and how to love one another.

*-John Brown's girls (Betty, Linda, Pat, Phyllis, Vickie, and Meldia)*

Mr. Brown was God sent to me. *-Curtis @OpenArms*

We just love cousin James Lester to death. He was so caring. *-Bennie Lee, Lela, & Family*

Mr. Brown was a blessing to me. So easy to talk to. *-Robert Sutton*

May God bless! Yall my friends. It was my pleasure helping care for you and your wife.

*-Beverly Elliott, Caregiver at Open Arms*

Our first cousin: James Lester Brown, "Mr. Brown". Personality plus a friendly smile and a big hello for all. A storyteller, a scrapbook collector, a musician, a lover of music, outstanding teacher and mentor. Our first cousin, Mr. James Lester Brown, a life well lived brings closure to the Brown family name of New Light Community of White Oak, NC. Peace, your first cousins.

*-Marvin Dunham (Shirley) of Suitland, MD. Milton Dunham (Dorothy) of Philadelphia, PA.*

*William Roger Dunham (Barbara) of Upper Marlboro, MD.*

*Cousin Addie Bell (Buster)Melvin's Family*

Many are the afflictions of the righteous, but God delivers him out of them all. Psalm 34:1

*Edna, Gaylor Elizabeth, Robert, Clifton, Blondean, and Kenny.*

Cousin Julia (Archie) Council's Family, Remember the Sabbath Day and keep it holy.

*Osilean, Stella, Henry, Mary, Eddie, Brenda, Loretta, and Judy.*

Cousin Lair (John Neal) Council's Family. Romans 1:16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth; to the Jew first, and also the Greek. *John Lenward, Carver Lee, Lair Francis, Elbert, Roger and Daily.*

Our Cousin James Lester was so good in telling me about our family tree. He new our family from birth. Thanking God for allowing me to have known him. I will miss you.

*Love, Mary Bridges*

## The Obituary

***"For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: Henceforth, there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing."***



**M**R. JAMES L. BROWN was born on November 12, 1936 in White Oak, North Carolina to the late Mr. Addie Bradley Brown and Mrs. Jannie Rebeckah Baxley Brown. He was called by God into his heavenly home on Tuesday, May 19, 2020.

**MR. BROWN** attended the public schools of Bladen County and graduated from Bladen County Training School in 1954. He continued his education at North Carolina Central University in Durham, North Carolina graduating with a Bachelor's Degree in Business Education. Having a desire to serve his country, he joined the army after receiving his Bachelor's Degree. He later returned to school and received his Masters' Degree in School Administration.

**MR. BROWN** began his career as an educator in Bladen County at Bladen Central High School. He also taught at Elizabethtown High School and East Bladen High School before becoming an Assistant Principal at East Bladen High School. Mr. Brown later accepted a position in Cumberland County Schools at Westover Middle, where he remained until his retirement as an educator. In addition to teaching Business Education in the public schools, he taught at Fayetteville Community College.

**MR. BROWN** was married for 54 years to the "Love of His Life" the late, Jean Bassett Byrdsol Brown and to this union, one son was born named Reginald Vernon Brown, who proceeded them in death.

**MR. BROWN** gave his life to Christ at an early age and joined First New Light Missionary Baptist Church. He later joined Lewis Chapel Baptist Church where he remained a devoted member until his demise. When in attendance, he was a faithful member of the Male Chorus and the Mission Group Phoebe.

**MR. BROWN** was a loving and compassionate man who believed in helping others. He was an inspiration and encourager to his former students, who never left his presence without knowing that you could be anything you wanted to or go anywhere you wanted to go, if you apply yourself. He also was a "Faith Walker" which was exemplified daily in his love for and sharing with others.

**MR. BROWN** leaves to cherish his memories: one sister-in-law, Claudia F. Montgomery (Lawrence) of Eldersburg, MD; two nieces, Adrienne Montgomery and Penelope M. Benjamin (Lawrence) a special cousin and family, Mrs. Bernice Bennett, her husband Charles and son Carlos; a special formal student, Mrs. Helen Rogers, who was like a daughter and a host of other cousins, relatives, classmates, former students and friends.



## MEMORIAL TRIBUTES, REFLECTIONS AND EXPRESSIONS OF SYMPATHY

### *The Man Who Made the World So Much Better*

Love, joy peace  
 Patience, kindness, goodness  
 Faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control  
 The Bible says the tree is known by the fruit it bears  
 So, here he is– a man among men  
 A wonderful, loving husband in the 3rd Degree  
 A consummate musician with a voice that now resonates into eternity  
 A father to many  
 A teacher to all  
 A friend who has always answered the call  
 A reader  
 A leader  
 That catches before and after a fall  
 A thinker, a giver, a virtuoso  
 Ever evolving finding novel ways to grow  
 A beautiful tree of righteousness  
 Planted by God  
 Gracious, considerate, serving humbly with all his heart  
 GRATEFUL  
 A man of wisdom and matchless integrity  
 That is you and more, our Cousin James

WITH LOVE, YOUR FAMILY

*Cousins Pat, Willa, Ronald, Charlene and Shelia*

#### FROM DEACON HAROLD MCLEAN:

*Brother Brown and his late wife were members of Mission Group Phoebe of the Lewis Chapel Baptist Church. It was Deacon Eller's and my pleasure to be of service to him and his wife. "When he was able , he was a very helpful part of the mission group. He always volunteered to play the opening song on the piano. He was also a dedicated member of the male chorus of Lewis Chapel Baptist Church.*

*He was a diligent caretaker of his family. Especially his late wife, Jean.*

*Brother Brown will certainly be missed.*

*Deacon Harold McLean and Mission Group Phoebe.*



## MEMORIAL TRIBUTES, REFLECTIONS AND EXPRESSIONS OF SYMPATHY

JAMES LESTER was one of the most interesting men in the world. Forget the “Dos Equis” man, it was James L. Brown. James was an educator, served in the military, loved to travel, compassionate, loved his wife, and most importantly was a man of faith and loved God.

JAMES wasn't a teacher; he was an Educator. A teacher is someone who teaches, and then their job is finished. Some students may grasp it and others may not. An educator educates and inspires. An educator uses a variety of methods to make sure everyone is learning and grasping the information. An educator motivates and inspires others to succeed. An educator delivers the information and then assesses to make sure everyone understands. An educator truly believes in no one being left behind. All of James students praise him for not only what he taught them in the classroom, but also what he taught them about life. James truly believed that knowledge is power.

JAMES loved to travel and collect antiques. Even when he wasn't able to travel, he would recall places he visited and great memories from each location. Each souvenir triggered memories. He loved books. James always encouraged us to treasure every moment and try to be the best person that you can.

JAMES believed that you should show others that you love and care for them while they are alive. You can't say I'm sorry to them while they are gone. They are not going to here you say “I love you” when they are gone. It is too late when they are gone. Say it to them while they are still alive and can hear you. A simple letter, call, text, or visit is all it takes to brighten someone's day. James truly cherished everyone who took the time to do those things. As the Bible says in Proverbs 18:24, “A man that hath friends must shew himself friendly, and there is a friend that sticketh closer than a brother.”

During James last few days, he was at peace. He knew God and was prepared to meet his wife Jean and son Reggie in Heaven whenever God was ready. Romans 10:9 “That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.”

JAMES LESTER, you are a blessing. You were more than family. The Lord has brought another one of his angels back home. We love and miss you.

THE BENNETT'S  
*(Ben, Pat, & Carlos)*