



Mr. James Kennebrew

January 5, 1935 - March 17, 2023

James Kennebrew, affectionately called “Killa” was born into his earthly flesh on January 5, 1935, in Atlanta Georgia to the beautiful union of Jimmy Lee Kennebrew, Sr., and Rena May Thompson, who preceded him in death. James took his fleshly departure from the physical body on March 17, 2023, in Chicago Illinois, where he was surrounded by his loved ones. James’ wife, Emma Carter, predeceased him and is waiting on that hug in the sky. Also awaiting his arrival are his past loves and mother of his children, Juanita, Bettie and Pollie. He accepted and acknowledged Christ at an early age and could often be caught referencing scripture while handing out words of encouragement, sharing his wisdom through advice and counsel, or telling a joke which he did most times. His contagious smile and infectious laughter could light up any room or occasion. James had a love for fishing, traveling and spending time with family and friends. Though his many endeavors have physically ended, his spirit will live on forever.

The family moved to Arkansas in 1944, when he was 9 years old for a better quality of life. James attended and graduated both elementary and high school and immediately went into the work world. He obtained his first job at the tender age of 16 at Chair Factory and this was only the beginning of his work experience journey. The next year in 1952, the family uprooted to Chicago, Illinois. When he was 19, James stepped out on faith and took his talents to Flint, Michigan where he worked for General Motors until 1967.

Shortly thereafter, “Killa” returned to the Windy City where he worked for Domino Sugar until 1979. He was then gainfully employed by the City of Chicago from 1979 until 2002, when he retired.

His previously departed siblings, brothers Jimmy Lee Kennebrew, Jr., Johnny “Hamp” Kennebrew and 1 sister, Fannie Swanigan, are all awaiting his untimely arrival. He is survived by his only aunt, Grace Rucker Davis of California. James’ legacy continues with his 6 children, Laverne Kennebrew, Dwyane (Bridgett) Stewart, Cheryl Hunter, Michael Stewart, David Stewart, and Jacqueline Stewart. His 6 step- children, Emma and Roderick (preceded in death), Robert, Renard, Randall, and Retrolla. 14 grandchildren, 21 great grandchildren, 3 great great grandchildren and a host of extended grandchildren,. James also leaves behind 6 nieces, Ofilia Stigall, Celestene (Hinds) McDaniels, Dorothy Goosby (preceded in death), Johnnie Mae (Samuel) Webb (preceded in death), Barbara Gosberry, Janet Stewart and 2 nephews who also preceded him in death, Cleveland Swanigan and Brain Mitchell. God Son and best friend Samuel “Sammy” Cline Jr. who is awaiting his arrival with a smile and a tribe of relatives and friends, including friend and caregiver, Karen Christmas.

James was a pillar and staple in the community that has inspired multiple generations. The kindness he exhibited to all and the grace he extended will always be remembered and missed tremendously.

Previous Events

Visitation

MAR **24**. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

McCullough Funeral & Cremation Services
851 East 75th Street
Chicago, IL 60619
(773) 488-8900
info@mcculloughfuneralservices.com

Service

MAR **24**. 11:00 AM (CT)

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Tribute Wall



“ *Mr. James Kennebrew*

October 04, 2023 at 06:11 PM