



Mr. James Barnes Fort

June 10, 1943 - February 7, 2026

JAMES "SONNY" FORT was born to Katie Mae Fort and James Barnes Sr of Lewisville, Arkansas. He was the first child of Katie Mae Fort.

At age six, James got his forever daddy, Bonnie Ray, when he and his mother, Katie Mae Fort married. James graduated in May of 1963 from Foster High School in Lewisville, Arkansas. He attended Vo-Tech School in Hope, Arkansas and obtained an Associate Degree in Auto Mechanics. His first job was at Edward's Service Station in Lewisville, Arkansas. Later he worked at Lone Star Ammunition and Day and Zimmerman in Hook, Texas.

In 1970, he moved to Dallas, Texas.

James married Judy Martin on December 20, 1972, and acquired a son, Thomas Williams.

While in Dallas he was employed with Fridgeaking, and later with Vinson Supply in Arlington, Texas from which he retired in 1995. After retirement from Vinson Supply, he moved back home to Lewisville to be closer to his mother and then worked for Waste Management as a mechanic.

He was preceded in death by his parents.

James leaves behind his brother, Ronnie D. Ray of Lewisville, Arkansas; sisters, Bonnie Lynn Ray of Augusta, Georgia and Lesa Rene Ray-Braddock (D'Angelo) of Jonesboro, Arkansas; nephews, Ronnie Ray Jr of Hughes, Arkansas, Xavier D. Price of Fort Smith, Arkansas; nieces, Elicia D. Ray of Jonesboro, Arkansas and Treyell Price of Augusta, Georgia; great nieces, Maesyn Dior' James Ray of Jonesboro, Arkansas, Brandy Rushing of Memphis, Tennessee, Ayiona and Zy'claius Ray of Hughes, Arkansas, Alala Boyd of Marion, Arkansas, Arlo Ray of West Memphis, Arkansas and Kyra Unique Ray of West Memphis, Arkansas; great-great nephew, Nasir Rushing of Memphis, Tennessee; a special and dear friend, Juanita Billings of Lewisville, Arkansas; and a host of cousins and family members.

Celebration of Life services will be held Saturday, February 28th, 2026, at St. Paul Baptist Church in Lewisville, Arkansas at 11:00 a.m., with burial to follow at Old Town Cemetery in Lewisville, under the direction of R.L. Reed Funeral Home, LLC.

Visitation will be Thursday, {Feb. 27th}, from 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. at R.L. Reed Funeral Home in Magnolia, Arkansas.

“For precaution due to the COVID-19, Masks are Encouraged but Not Required While Attending the Services and During Visitation Hours. However, wearing masks ensures safety for you and others. Thank you.”

Cemetery Details

Old Town Cemetery

Lafayette County Rd #13
Lewisville, AR

Previous Events

Visitation

FEB 27. 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM (CT)

R.L. Reed Funeral Home
100 Hwy 79 North
Magnolia, AR 71753
(870) 901-3536

Celebration of Life

FEB 28. 11:00 AM (CT)

St. Paul Baptist Church
303 Fort St.
Lewisville, AR 71845

Tribute Wall

JB

“ *Joerle and Barbara Blackman purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Mr. James Barnes Fort.*



Joerle and Barbara Blackman - February 25 at 05:12 PM

KM

“ *Kay Marshall & Family, Kansas City, MO purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Mr. James Barnes Fort.*



Kay Marshall & Family, Kansas City, MO - February 24 at 11:40 AM

JU

“ *Prayers to the family. I will miss my birthday partner. He always said I interrupted his birthday party when I was born. Love you and miss you Sonny. ❤️🌹🙏*



Julia - February 18 at 05:52 PM

MC

“ *James and I are cousin have not heard from him n a long time.but he was always on my mind. See you n paradise one day*

Martha Cox - February 15 at 09:12 PM

DF

“ Sending the Family our deepest condolences and strength during this difficult time! Praying always! Bobby & Dora Forte 🙏

DForte - February 10 at 03:21 PM

CF

“ Cathy Revels McNeil & Family sent a virtual gift in memory of Mr. James Barnes Fort



Cathy Revels McNeil & Family - February 09 at 03:19 PM

DH

“ Dearlean Hughes sent a virtual gift in memory of Mr. James Barnes Fort



Dearlean Hughes - February 08 at 02:28 PM

AL

“ Armegine Lee lit a candle in memory of Mr. James Barnes Fort



Armegine Lee - February 08 at 10:04 AM

AL

My deepest condolences to the family.

Armegine Lee - February 08 at 10:05 AM

SJ

Sending my condolences to the family of James Fort. You will be missed.

Sonja Jackson - February 08 at 05:55 PM

JE

My deepest condolences to the Fort family

Jo Ann Embrey - February 16 at 09:22 AM

KM

Sharing my condolences to my family in the passing of the patriarch of the Fort family. I pray that THE LORD OUR GOD will give comfort in our time loss.

Kay marshall - February 24 at 11:20 AM