



Mr. James Allen Gilbert

January 26, 1952 - October 8, 2021

The incomparable Mr. James Allen Gilbert was welcomed to the world on January 26, 1952, in Village, Arkansas, by his parents, Richard and Earnestine Gilbert. On Friday, October 8, 2021, he answered God's call to enter into eternal rest.

James received his formal education in the Village School District; and he graduated in 1971. He worked for Alumax, presently known as Sapa, until retirement after 42 years of service. He then made a grand entrepreneurial investment in the community with the launch of Mister James Restaurant located in the heart of the city of Magnolia, Arkansas on July 3, 2009. Anyone who had the golden opportunity to partake in the goodness of this eatery never left without a warm greeting and a smile if Mr. James was present. The business became such a success in Magnolia that it was able to become a chain in Cedar Hill, Texas, on October 29, 2015. The ambiance of the restaurant has proven over the years to be food for not only the body, but also mind and soul because of James and his wonderful staff.

As proprietor and founder of Mister James Restaurants, James's fixture in the city was also solidified by his generosity with giving back to the community. Even though he was humble in nature and did not look for recognition, he received compliments and accolades from organizations because of his willingness to see his community thrive. His scholarship program at Southern

Arkansas University was indeed a blessing to a deserving student needing that extra assistance. One SAU student testified that Mr. James's concern with her not having a parking sticker and racking up parking tickets yielded him giving her the money to buy the parking sticker so that she'd no longer have trouble with the law. His light in this life will be sorely missed.

James was blessed to know love through the eyes and heart of his Queen, Dorothy Lewis. Their love story began almost half a century ago and withstood the tests of time until death departed them. Their union produced a doting daughter and blended the family with treasured sons from previous relationships.

He was truly a wonderful man who was highly revered by everyone he encountered. His wit and infectious smile were not uncommon to witness every time you saw him. His loving kindness drew you and will forever be etched in the lives he touched.

James was preceded in death by his parents, Richard and Earnestine Gilbert, and siblings, James, and Jean Wilson.

Those left to cherish his memory are his adored partner, Dorothy Lewis; daughter, Crystal (Rawlin) Howell; sons, Kevin Gilbert and DeWayne (Kassondra) Vines; siblings: Repoleon (Mildred) Gilbert, Marzel Taylor, Dorothy Porchia, Charles Gilbert, Velma (Leonard) Jamerson, and Arustine Cooper; daughter-in-love, Tanya Gilbert; sister-in-love, Sherion Maltbia; god-daughter, Sheila Ellis-Green; grandchildren: Jermaia Gilbert, Kevin Gilbert, Jr., Lynette Ross, Tyderrian Turner, Gavin Raney, Mason Gilbert, Ga'Camron Ellis, Kris'shonda Garland, Xavier Howell, Krystal Howell, Rawlin Howell, Jr., Ka'maury Howell, D'Andrea Green, Wynesha Vines, and DeAndrea Vines; great grandchildren: Jayce Mathis, Jordan Gilbert, Phoenix Burroughs, Kenya Gilbert, Kaliyah Turner, Aubree Runyon, and Kendall Ivory; very special bonus

family member and friend, Debra Steward; and a host of nieces, nephews, other relatives, and friends who will miss him dearly.

Celebration of Life services will be held Thursday, October 14th, 2021, at R.L. Reed Funeral Home Chapel in Magnolia, AR, at 1:00 p.m., with burial to follow at 23rd Psalms Cemetery in Magnolia, AR, under the direction of R.L. Reed Funeral Home, LLC. Rev. Earnest Moore, eulogist.

Visitation will be Wednesday, October 13th, from 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.

Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, “Everyone Is Required to Wear A Mask While Attending the Services and During Visitation Hours”. This ensures safety for you and others. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Cemetery Details

23rd Psalms Cemetery

Columbia Rd # 30 East
Magnolia, AR

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

OCT **14**. 1:00 PM (CT)

23rd Psalms Cemetery
Columbia Rd # 30 East
Magnolia, AR

Tribute Wall

JD

“ Thank you Mr. James for your kindness always. You will be so missed. You always provided great customer service and excellent quality food. You have the best staff that we appreciate so much. Your loss will be greatly felt. Love and prayers for your family, friends and love ones. You will never be forgotten. RIP Mr. James until we meet again. Love from Judi & DL from Stamps. Love Lives Forever ☹️ 🙏🙏🙏

Judith & DL - October 16, 2021 at 02:35 AM



“ Angela Wesley sent a virtual gift in memory of Mr. James Allen Gilbert



Angela Wesley - October 15, 2021 at 08:50 AM

JG

“ Jim and I ate at Mr James restaurant many times and always was a pleasure to see him and enjoy his food. He will be missed. May God bless all his family at this time.
James and Judy Grant

Judy Grant - October 14, 2021 at 08:34 PM

EM

“ *Esther Murray lit a candle in memory of Mr. James Allen Gilbert*



Esther Murray - October 14, 2021 at 04:51 PM

AH

“ *Amanda Hudson lit a candle in memory of Mr. James Allen Gilbert*



Amanda Hudson - October 14, 2021 at 12:20 PM

KG

“ *Kelly Gentry lit a candle in memory of Mr. James Allen Gilbert*



kelly Gentry - October 14, 2021 at 12:17 PM

KG

“ *Rest In Peace Mr. James. Thanks for helping so many peoples in the community! You will be greatly missed, Condolences To The Family 🙏🙏🙏*

kelly Gentry - October 14, 2021 at 12:16 PM

LJ

“ Lesa Johnson sent a virtual gift in memory of Mr. James Allen Gilbert



Lesa Johnson - October 14, 2021 at 09:36 AM

BP

He will be missed and prayers for your loss .

Brenda Parker - October 14, 2021 at 10:33 PM

NS

“ Norrissa Sharp lit a candle in memory of Mr. James Allen Gilbert



Norrissa Sharp - October 14, 2021 at 08:26 AM

ML

“ Monica “Tweet” Love sent a virtual gift in memory of Mr. James Allen Gilbert



Monica “Tweet” Love - October 14, 2021 at 01:06 AM



“ James and I have been friends for MANY years. We worked together in the hayfield when we were still in school. He always had that bright smile and was always willing to help people. I really enjoyed eating at his restaurant. We ALWAYS had a good visit. He was definitely someone you would love having for a friend. My condolences to the family.

James Wilson - October 14, 2021 at 12:22 AM

MC

“ Mary Curtis lit a candle in memory of Mr. James Allen Gilbert



mary curtis - October 13, 2021 at 09:29 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Mr. James Allen Gilbert.



October 13, 2021 at 09:03 PM

AZ

“ Azlond lit a candle in memory of Mr. James Allen Gilbert



Azlond - October 13, 2021 at 07:46 PM

MP

“ We're thinking of you and lifting you up before the Lord as you celebrate your father's remarkable life. He will be missed by many.



Mary S. Pickings - October 13, 2021 at 04:58 PM



“ Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the family of Mr. James Allen Gilbert.



October 13, 2021 at 03:41 PM

GA

“ 3 files added to the tribute wall



Gavin - October 13, 2021 at 11:27 AM



“ Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Mr. James Allen Gilbert.



October 13, 2021 at 11:19 AM

TS

“ Teresa Smith lit a candle in memory of Mr. James Allen Gilbert



Teresa Smith - October 12, 2021 at 10:27 PM

SC

“ Sharon Cole lit a candle in memory of Mr. James Allen Gilbert



Sharon Cole - October 12, 2021 at 07:04 PM



“ Strength & Solace Spray was purchased for the family of Mr. James Allen Gilbert.



October 12, 2021 at 03:12 PM

TC

“ TAMMI COOPER sent a virtual gift in memory of Mr. James Allen Gilbert



TAMMI COOPER - October 12, 2021 at 01:06 PM

RG

“ *My condolences!!! Mr. James was truly a great man*

Roddrick Gentry - October 12, 2021 at 01:42 AM

CF

“ *Kevin and Crystal
So sorry for your loss
We pray that Almighty God
Bless and comfort the family
Now and in those long hard days
To come. Love y'all and remember
Almighty God has promised us that
Sickness and death will be brought
To a end.*

Cotis & Joyce Franks - October 11, 2021 at 11:57 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for
the family of Mr. James Allen Gilbert.*



October 11, 2021 at 10:45 PM

AP

“ *Angelia Parker lit a candle in memory of Mr.
James Allen Gilbert*



Angelia Parker - October 11, 2021 at 08:31 PM

TJ

“ Tonya Johnson sent a virtual gift in memory of Mr. James Allen Gilbert



Tonya Johnson - October 11, 2021 at 07:55 PM

TJ

“ Tonya Johnson lit a candle in memory of Mr. James Allen Gilbert



Tonya Johnson - October 11, 2021 at 07:54 PM

LM

“ Lori Morehead lit a candle in memory of Mr. James Allen Gilbert



Lori morehead - October 11, 2021 at 06:47 PM

VJ

“ Vevelyn Jackson lit a candle in memory of Mr. James Allen Gilbert



Vevelyn Jackson - October 11, 2021 at 06:34 PM

FJ

“ Fred Johnson lit a candle in memory of Mr. James Allen Gilbert



Fred Johnson - October 11, 2021 at 05:48 PM

FW

“ Frank & Tonitte White sent a virtual gift in memory of Mr. James Allen Gilbert



Frank & Tonitte White - October 11, 2021 at 05:10 PM

SG

“ Stephanie Goree lit a candle in memory of Mr. James Allen Gilbert



Stephanie Goree - October 11, 2021 at 05:00 PM

SG

Praying for the family strength.

Stephanie Goree - October 11, 2021 at 05:01 PM

AC

I just found out about J. Gilbert's passing. Crystal and Kevin I will be praying for ya'll during this difficult time. I truly enjoyed working with Gilbert at Alumax, he could always make me laugh even on the worst of days. He will be missed. Aline Clark

Aline Clark - October 14, 2021 at 07:33 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Mr. James Allen Gilbert.*



October 11, 2021 at 03:53 PM



“ *LEATHIA "LULU" WILLIS purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Mr. James Allen Gilbert.*



LEATHIA "LULU" WILLIS - October 11, 2021 at 03:47 PM



“ *Gladys Talley Jones lit a candle in memory of Mr. James Allen Gilbert*



Gladys Talley Jones - October 11, 2021 at 03:27 PM



Rest in peace Mr James! God bless the family 🙏🙏

Gladys Talley Jones - October 11, 2021 at 03:28 PM



“ *Paw Paw I want you to know I love you and thank you for every hug, kiss, talk, and genuine embracing me with love and care. I will truly miss you!!!*

Leathia Willis - October 11, 2021 at 03:04 PM

SM

“ *Mr James you will be truly missed. I'm so glad God joined our families together you became Pawpaw James to my kids grandkids. We will miss you dearly 🧐😊*



shawnta marsh - October 11, 2021 at 02:29 PM

JE

“ *Jackie Easter sent a virtual gift in memory of Mr. James Allen Gilbert*



Jackie Easter - October 11, 2021 at 02:23 PM

TC

“ *Tresie Carter sent a virtual gift in memory of Mr. James Allen Gilbert*



Tresie Carter - October 11, 2021 at 01:51 PM

MS

“ *Praying for strength and peace over the family*



maurice strong - October 11, 2021 at 01:08 PM

RC

“ *Reginald Curry sent a virtual gift in memory of Mr. James Allen Gilbert*



Reginald Curry - October 11, 2021 at 09:17 AM

DS

“ *Demetris Sharp sent a virtual gift in memory of Mr. James Allen Gilbert*



Demetris Sharp - October 11, 2021 at 07:51 AM

SC

“ *Sharon Cole sent a virtual gift in memory of Mr. James Allen Gilbert*



Sharon Cole - October 11, 2021 at 01:00 AM

CS

“ *For many years myself and two of my daughters worked for Mr. James at the cafe. He was always compassionate and wise with a heart of gold. I will miss him dearly and treasure that I did at least get to talk with him at the cafe when I was back home to visit in January. He was a wonderful man and will always be in our hearts.*



Cynthia Sarmiento - October 11, 2021 at 12:43 AM

CT

“ *Claudia Tucker lit a candle in memory of Mr. James Allen Gilbert*



Claudia Tucker - October 11, 2021 at 12:42 AM

AH

“ *Angela Faye Hunter sent a virtual gift in memory of Mr. James Allen Gilbert*



Angela Faye Hunter - October 10, 2021 at 02:15 PM

JO

“ *Praying for the family*

Joann - October 10, 2021 at 02:13 PM



“ *Pamela Shaw lit a candle in memory of Mr. James Allen Gilbert*



Pamela Shaw - October 10, 2021 at 09:54 AM

BW

“ We are praying for the family of Mr. James Gilbert. He was such a friendly and outgoing gentleman. May God bless his family. Much love, Billy & Patricia Williams



Billy & Patricia Williams - October 09, 2021 at 09:19 PM

GT

“ Gracie W. Tucker sent a virtual gift in memory of Mr. James Allen Gilbert



Gracie W. Tucker - October 09, 2021 at 08:13 PM

GT

We've lost another great Trail Blazer in our community. Mr. James exhibited a humble personality. He was always friendly and treated all of his costumers as someone special. He will truly be missed. RIL Mister James, your job on earth have been stamped completed.

Gracie W. Tucker - October 09, 2021 at 08:22 PM

DT

“ I love Mister James and his family! He was such a nice man and his daughter and granddaughter are 2 of my favs! My Godsons send their condolences as well!! 🙏🙏🕊️



Deidra Thompson - October 09, 2021 at 04:28 PM

AE

“ *Arnetta Easter lit a candle in memory of Mr. James Allen Gilbert*



Arnetta Easter - October 09, 2021 at 03:18 PM

PB

“ *Paula Bishop lit a candle in memory of Mr. James Allen Gilbert*



Paula Bishop - October 09, 2021 at 01:46 PM

LC

“ *So sorry for your loss! Mr. James was always a good man with a brilliant smile. He passed that smile on to his children. God bless the family and friends.*

Lynsandra Curry - October 09, 2021 at 01:24 PM

GH

“ *Gwen Hardwell lit a candle in memory of Mr. James Allen Gilbert*



Gwen Hardwell - October 09, 2021 at 12:36 PM

GH

WONDERFUL MAN WILL BE MISSED

Gwen Hardwell - October 09, 2021 at 12:37 PM

JB

“ Jennifer Burton lit a candle in memory of Mr. James Allen Gilbert



Jennifer Burton - October 09, 2021 at 12:20 PM

JB

A great man, and will be truly missed

Jennifer Burton - October 09, 2021 at 12:21 PM

ER

“ Edna Rowden lit a candle in memory of Mr. James Allen Gilbert



Edna Rowden - October 09, 2021 at 11:28 AM

MC

“ Mary Curtis lit a candle in memory of Mr. James Allen Gilbert



mary curtis - October 09, 2021 at 11:11 AM

MC

“ *Michael Clayton sent a virtual gift in memory of Mr. James Allen Gilbert*



Michael Clayton - October 09, 2021 at 08:35 AM

AC

“ *April Colvin lit a candle in memory of Mr. James Allen Gilbert*



April Colvin - October 09, 2021 at 08:17 AM



“ *Fercia Marshall lit a candle in memory of Mr. James Allen Gilbert*



Fercia Marshall - October 09, 2021 at 05:53 AM

TS

“ *Terry Scott-Hill lit a candle in memory of Mr. James Allen Gilbert*



Terry Scott-Hill - October 08, 2021 at 11:45 PM

TS

Sending Prayers and Condolences to the Family of James Gilbert. May God give You Comfort and Strength during your time of Bereavement. James will truly be missed. Rest in Peace Mr. James.

Terry Scott-Hill

Terry Scott-Hill - October 08, 2021 at 11:50 PM

GC

“ LOVE PRAYERS OF STRENGTH AND
CONDOLENCES TO THE FAMILY DURING
THIS DIFFICULT TIME 🕊️💙🕊️



Gwen Carter - October 08, 2021 at 11:27 PM

FW

“ Felicia Williams sent a virtual gift in memory of
Mr. James Allen Gilbert



Felicia Williams - October 08, 2021 at 09:49 PM



“ Praying for the family



Shavone Aubrey - October 08, 2021 at 06:37 PM


Jennifer
White

“ *Jennifer White lit a candle in memory of Mr.
James Allen Gilbert*



Jennifer White - October 08, 2021 at 05:08 PM

PG

Praying 🙏 for the family

Patricia Glover - October 08, 2021 at 08:52 PM

PG

Praying 🙏 for the family

Patricia Glover - October 08, 2021 at 08:53 PM