

Order of Service

Processional

Song

"Oh Happy Day" Sis. Cynthia McCain

Scripture

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 Rev. Nathaniel Frison

Hymn Rev. Rubert Morgan

Prayer Rev. Zannie Leland

Song

"This Joy I Have" Sis. Classie Dixon

Obituary Read Silently

Resolution Deacon Board

Expressions

As A Choir Member Sis. Patricia Barksdale

As A Co-Worker Sis. Mattie Spears

Others (Limit to 3 minutes please)

Solo Rev. Carl Brown

Acknowledgment Sis. Debra M. Brown

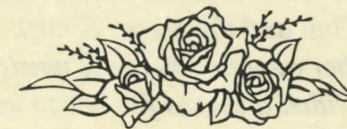
Song

"Almighty God" Sis. Emma Hentz

Eulogy Rev. John H. Snow, III

Recessional

1935 - 1999



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Obituary

Leola Burney James was born May 22, 1935 in Nettleton, Mississippi to John Winster and Odessa Vales Burney. She was the fourth child of six children. Her parents, John and Odessa Burney, her husband, Bobby M. James, Sr., and sister, Idessa L. Harris, all preceded her in death.

After receiving Christ as her Lord and Savior at an early age, "Siso", as she was lovingly called by family and friends, became a member of Springhill M. B. Church. She soon discovered that her love for God could be easily expressed through the very gift that He had given her - singing.

After graduating from high school, Leola headed to Okolona, Mississippi, where she not only earned an A.A. degree in Business Education and vocalized with the Campus' Choral Group at Okolona Junior College, but she met and married the love of her life, Bobby Milton James. To this union three children were born: Bobby Milton, Jr., Cheryl Lynn, and Eric Allen.

After completing college they moved to Chicago, Illinois for several years. In 1965, Leola found herself sharing a call with her husband and moved back South, but this time a couple hundred miles west of her home to Batesville, Mississippi.

She joined Concord Missionary Baptist Church and immediately got busy. She was involved in various auxiliaries such as the Alpha Omega Club and the Usher Board; but of course, the choir got much of her attention because music was a source of inspiration and provided a means for her to honor and worship God and share with others. As time moved on, songs she sang like Christ Is Alive, Holy Ghost, This Joy I Have, Every-

day Is A Day of Thanksgiving, Almighty God, and Oh Happy Day, became standards and attributed to her conviction for the cause of Christ.

Her Business Education degree was soon put to use when she started working as Secretary at the West Batesville Farmers Coop and Mid State Opportunities, and as Bookkeeper at Delta Hills Educational Association. "Lee" - as she was known around the Delta Hills office - soon found that serving children and their families would guide her career path for the next 25 years. When the Institute of Community Services (ICS) became grantee of the Head Start program, a door was opened for her to reach out and touch more lives by becoming a Family Service Worker. After many years of training through workshops and even college again at Rust College, "Lee" became a licensed Social Worker and served in Panola, Quitman and Tallahatchie counties. Because of her commitment and education, the Head Start program added immense meaning to her life.

On the evening of March 8, 1999, Leola peacefully slipped away from this life and went to her eternal home.

She left to cherish her memories: two sons - Bobby (Sandra) James of Jackson, MS, and Eric (Sandra) James of San Antonio, TX; one daughter - Cheryl James of Batesville, MS; one stepson - Ray (Diane) Turner of Milwaukee, WI; one sister - Johnnie (Sammy) Hall of Nettleton, MS; three brothers - Milferd (Jeraldine) Burney of Grand Rapids, MI, Lavel (Ida) Burney of Peru, IN, and Winston (Pat) Burney of Nettleton, MS; eight grandchildren - Fredrick, Cory, Candice, Shondolun, Richard, Robert, Reginald, and Chauncey; two step-grandchildren - George and Cody; one great-grandchild - Shaquivia; and a multitude of nieces, nephews, relatives and friends.

