

In memory of our beloved husband, father, and grandfather, whose life was a testament to devotion, we extend our deepest gratitude for the love, support and kindness shown during this difficult time. Your presence, prayers, and condolences provide solace as we honor his legacy of unwavering dedication.

With heartfelt appreciation,
The Martin Family

I go, Lord, where Thou sendest me;
Day after day I plod and toil:
But, Christ my God, when will it be
That I may let alone my toil
And rest with Thee?
-Christina G. Rossetti



"Sympathetic and Efficient Service Since 1922"
231 North Lafayette Street | Shelby, NC 28150
Telephone: 704-487-9598 | Fax 704-487-1504 | www.enloemortuary.com

Celebrating

The Life and Legacy of

James Furrose Martin, Sr.



SEPTEMBER 20, 1933 - MARCH 14, 2024

Tuesday, March 19, 2024

3:00 PM

Waddell Chapel AME Zion Church

314 Buffalo Street

Shelby, North Carolina 28150

Rev. Sylvia Perry, Pastor

ORDER OF SERVICE

Processional

Reception of Friends..... 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM

Congregational Hymn.....Blessed Assurance

Scripture Reading

Old Testament.....Rev. Nathan Bratton

New Testament.....Rev. Steven Wingate

Prayer of Comfort.....Rev J. Q. Boykin

Song Selection

Remarks (limited 3 minutes)

Mr. Joe Spikes, Former Student

Mr. Kenneth Crews, Friend

Mrs. Loulena London, Church Member

Mr. Jerry Ratchford, Nephew

Song Selection

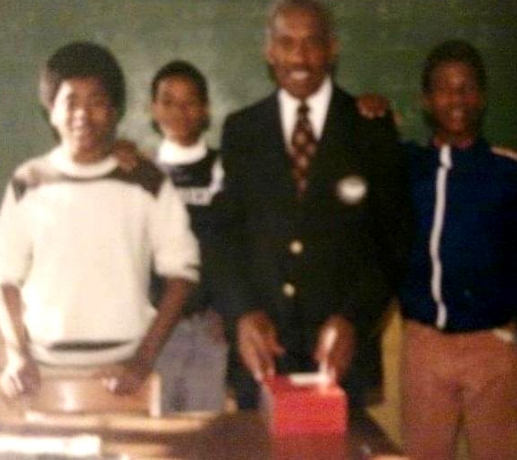
Words of Comfort.....Rev. Patsy J. Martin, Wife

Song Selection..... “On the Battle Field”

Recessional

—Interment—

Cleveland Memorial Park
Shelby, North Carolina





A Peek into The Life of James A. Martin, Sr.

James was known for being a man's man, a one of a kind who traveled a road less traveled, kindhearted, a giver not expecting something in return, supportive, loving, a sense of humor and yes, hot tempered. Over the years, courtship the sixty years of marriage he talked of his life's negatives and positives. The following is a peek - The environment (good, bad, or indifferent) we live in has a lot to do with who we are! "Judge not, that you be not judged," Matthew 7:1

In the Beginning

In the little town of Mooresboro (Cleveland County, NC) lived Mr. Marion M. Martin and Ms. Maggie Wray. Ninety years ago, September 20, 1933 was an "O HAPPY DAY!" kind of day. It was the day they had been waiting nine months for! This was the day James Avrose Martin was born!

James was the youngest of five doting adult siblings: Fred, Willie (Mildred), Sarah Martin and Flay (Mary Jane) and Curly Wray. They got along lovingly as long as they didn't try to boss him. The "battles" got pretty heated at times! He resented being treated like they were his dad. They were over it by the time they saw each other.

Back to his name, one of Miss Maggie's neighbors noticed the way James crawled. **Amazed! she said,** "He hops like a toad!" When word got out the nickname TOAD spread like wild-fire. AND the rest is history.

For whatever reason, Miss Maggie decided to take James and move back to Shelby. He had many happy memories living in the country with his daddy. He was in awe just looking at the forest that surrounded him, the plowed fields waiting to be seeded, and the daily care of the hogs and other farm animals. Equally, he enjoyed his time with his mother. As a city boy there were other families next door, across the street, and mothers who were mothers to all the kids, stores within walking distance and water from a faucet.

Facing His Challenges

Life for him had many challenges to face. Like a bouquet of beautiful roses, they came from a bush that received a lot of tender loving care. James didn't get a lot of tender loving care. Langston Hughes poem **Mom to Son** shares with son her struggles:

So boy, don't you turn back. Don't set down on a step 'Cause you finds it's kinder hard. Don't you fall now---For I'se still goin' honey, I'se still climbin' and life for me ain't been no crystal stairs.

As a child, James had two challenges that brought tears to his eyes.

(1) When he started school there was a group of students that harassed him. When he retaliated someone would tell his dad. Without giving him a chance to tell his side, he would beat him unmercifully. All he could do was cry! But a day of reckoning came! He decided beating or not, he was going to defend himself! To their surprise, he did just what he said, he defended himself! That was the day the harassment stopped!

(2) By the time he was 10/11 his dad put him to work plowing, chopping the grass and weeds from around the plants or feed and water the livestock daily regardless of the weather. He learned quickly that being a farmer is hard work. His dad was a hard task master. He expected perfection or suffer the consequence. He suffered the consequence several times!

James was always happy when Miss Ola Belle came to live with them, she would sometimes bring her nephew, Logan Boykins with her. Not only did Logan help him with chores, they had fun playing games, going fishing and hunting together and Miss Ola Belle was a mother-like figure plus she would come out and help “the boys” with their chores especially during cotton picking time.

(2) By the time he was 10/11 his dad put him to work plowing, chopping the grass and weeds from around the plants or feed and water the livestock daily regardless of the weather. He learned quickly that being a farmer is hard work. His dad was a hard task master. He expected perfection or suffer the consequence. He suffered the consequence several times!

James was always happy when Miss Ola Belle came to live with them, she would sometimes bring her nephew, Logan Boykins with her. Not only did Logan help him with chores, they had fun playing games, going fishing and hunting together and Miss Ola Belle was a mother-like figure plus she would come out and help “the boys” with their chores especially during cotton picking time.

His Happy Days

At last, he was a teenager getting ready to go to Green Bethal High School in Boiling Springs. Right away he knew this school was a perfect fit for him. The staff and students were cordial. The student body was not only high spirited, they were very competitive and he was too. Their ultimate goal was to be the best or at least place.

James found happiness like he never knew existed. He did odd jobs after school, holidays and summers for other farmers and their wives to earn money to help support himself:

- (1) his dad extended his curfew, it gave him the privilege to go where he wanted. He never abused his curfew.
- (2) The money he earned he saved until he had enough to buy school clothes.

The Beginning of Manhood

After graduation, he served two (2) years, ten (10) months, 28 (twenty-eight) days in the U.S. Army. His rank was Specialist Three (3). His Company Commander suggested him to go to college after his discharge. When he returned home his cousin, Ms. Iris Koonce and a life-long friend, Mr. Daniel Jolly also encouraged him to go to college. College!? He didn’t think he was college material but decided to give it a try. So, January 1957, he registered and College, Salisbury, NC majoring in elementary education. Enrolled at Livingstone College

Indeed, he was college material! In addition to all his class studies and assignments he played football, (GO BLUE BEARS), intramural basketball, inducted into the Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity (HERE COME THE BLUE AND WHITE) and a little time to socialize AND still he was able to stay on the Dean List every semester except one and graduated with a B.A. Degree from Livingstone and later, a Master Degree in Administration from NC A&T University, Greensboro, NC.

He taught fourth thru sixth (4-6) grades at three (3) different schools (Green Bethel, Lattimore, and Burns Middle School). His philosophy was all students can learn if taught. (one exception, that is, if he/she wants to). He went the extra mile, used different strategies to make learning fun and more understandable. He was stern yet warm-hearted and fun-loving.

In addition to his day job, at the request of the late Mr. Clarence Palmer of Holly Oak Park, he accepted the job heading an after-school tutorial program at Hunter School on Pinkney Street for students who wanted or needed extra help with homework, etc...

James enjoyed his leisure time:

- going fishing and hunting, that’s a Martin “thang!”
- shooting the breeze with his friends on the corner, pool room and Holly Oak Park
- going or watching a game if the game had a ball attached to it. For years he was an official and a coach.

Also, he was proud of his:

- collection of his favorite presidents, vice presidents, wives (Carter, Clinton, Obama and Biden) memorabilia,
- fishing trophies,
- awards, certificates, and plaques
- book-caddy he made in shop class while in high school

One requirement of every student at Livingstone was all must sit in their assigned seat every Wednesday at twelve noon for chapel. They were allowed three unexcused absents. He didn’t remember what the consequences were nor did he remember if the same rule applied for Vespers held every Sunday evening.

The auditorium had many seats, guess who sat directly in front him, his future wife, Patsy Ruth Jackson. Even though he had a significant other on campus, he looked as if he got a kick out of teasing her, pulling her hair, calling her sweet P and winking his eye at her. When his significant other graduated, he had to use his special charm before he could win Patsy’s affection again.

Martin seldom did anything conventional. He was very romantic and often gave me “just because” gifts in addition to those he gave for holidays. Instead of falling on one knee to propose, he said,” We might as well get married.” That was December 13, 1963 and we married February 1, 1964. February 1, 2024 was our sixty (60) years of marriage. Which was filled with bliss, disagreements, silent treatments, remembering our wedding vows, worshipping together and birthing two children, James, Jr. 1968 (Hope) and Lori Jeannine, 1973-1982; two grandchildren, Jeremiah and Jeannine (Dikal Johnson) and two (2) great grandsons, Micah and Josiah.

We had never been apart more than five (5) days (work related or conferences) until he was placed in a veteran nursing facility in Columbia, SC which is about three hours away.

Spiritual Journey

James’s work and service and the life he lived were exemplar and so was his financial support. James also spent hours working to help keep Waddell Chapel AME Zion Church structurally sound and aesthetically pleasing to the eye.

Service wise, he volunteered at no cost to the church for equipment, cleaning supplies and paint, to be the janitor. Evidently his services weren’t up-to-par and another janitor was hired and added to the payroll.

AND now, pertaining to the life he lived. He tried to live an exemplary life that was Godly both inwardly and outwardly. Like all of us, he wasn’t born holy!

He knew the works and the services he rendered would be nullified and always questionable even though he confessed and accepted Jesus as his personal savior He tried to live sin-free, but found himself yielding to temptation by thought, word and deed. Often, he could be heard praying for forgiveness. (Micah 7:18-19) He never reached perfection, but he tried! He realized all the while that a church membership can’t save you. He knew Roman 10:9 by heart and kept repeating it before his sickness and in the hospital. He also said, “If I have wronged anyone, please forgive me”.