

ORDER OF SERVICE

Officiating Minister, Rev. Dr. M. Lamont Littlejohn

Prelude

Processional

Receiving of Friends

11:30AM - 12:00 PM

Selection - Congregation

“Soon and Very Soon”

Scripture Readings

Old Testament - Rev. Brandon Miles

New Testament - Pastor Nathaniel Craig

Prayer of Comfort

Deacon Tony Simmons

Selection

Mr. Earl Watkins and Patricia Epps

Remarks (Two Minutes)

Deacon Paul London

Others

Special Acknowledgement

Ms. Ros Sullivan

Silent Reading of the Obituary

Selection

Minister Patricia Epps

Words of Comfort

Rev. Dr. M. Lamont Littlejohn

Recessional Selection

—Interment—

Sunset Cemetery

Shelby, North Carolina



Footprints

One night I had a dream. I dreamed I was walking along the beach with the Lord and across the sky flashed scenes from my life. For each scene, I noticed two sets of footprints in the sand; one belonged to me, and the other to the Lord.

When the last scene of my life flashed before me, I looked back at the footprints in the sand. I noticed that many times along the path of my life there was only one set of footprints. I also noticed that it happened at the very lowest and saddest times in my life.

This really bothered me and I questioned the Lord about it, "Lord, you said that once I decided to follow you, you'd walk with me all the way.

But I have noticed that during the most troublesome times in my life, there is only one set of footprints. I don't understand why in times when I needed you most you would leave me."

The Lord replied, "My precious, precious child, I love you and I would never, never leave you during your times of trial and suffering. When you saw only one set of footprints, it was then that I carried you."



FLOWER BEARERS

Family and Friends

PALL BEARERS

Family and Friends

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The family of Mr. James L. Gardner, thank you for caring and sharing during this difficult time. May God bless each and every one of you.

Arrangements Were Entrusted to:

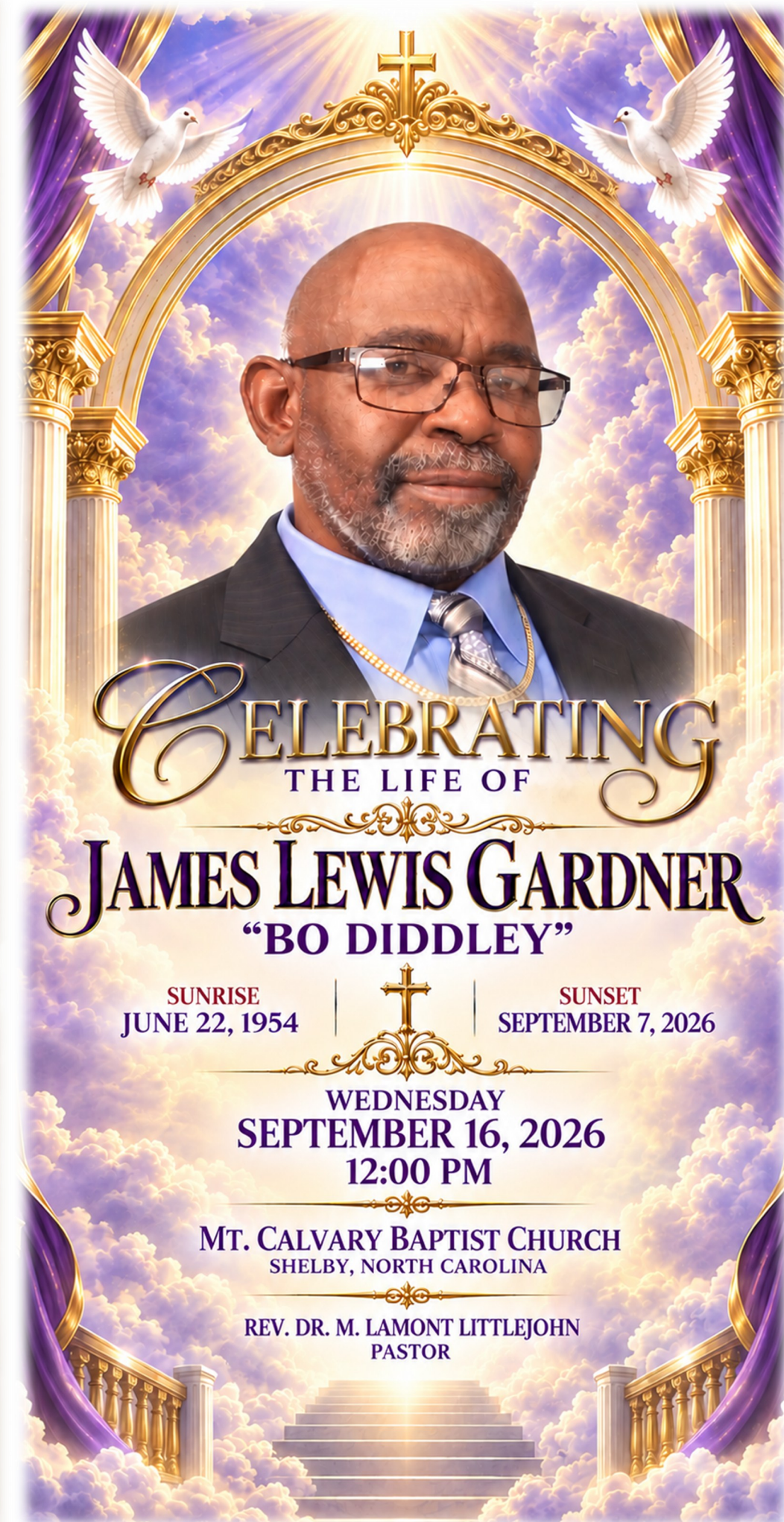
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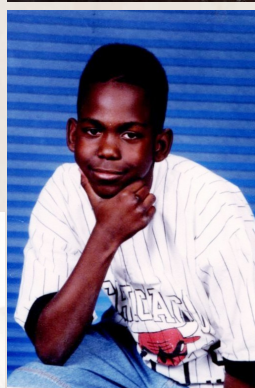
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The Life of JAMES L. GARDNER

Mr. James Lewis Gardner was born on June 22, 1954, in Shelby, North Carolina, to the late Bessie Gardner and Melvin Crawford. He peacefully entered eternal rest on Monday, September 7, 2026, at the Wendover Hospice House facility in Shelby, North Carolina surrounded by the love and comfort of his family and friends.

James was a graduate of Shelby High School and a member of Mt. Calvary Baptist Church until his health began to decline. Throughout his life, he held various jobs, including at Enloe Mortuary and Philanne Florist, and took pride in owning and operating his own J & J Limousine Service. He loved basketball was a huge Los Angeles Laker fan.

Known for his generous heart, he is preceded in death by his mother, Bessie Gardner; father, Melvin Crawford; grandparents, Willie and Louise Roberts; and a host of aunts and uncles.



James leaves behind a legacy of love and cherished memories with his family: his devoted wife, Wyonella Gardner; children, Jared Gardner (Brittany), Nicholas Parott, and Temesheia Eberheart; five beloved grandchildren, Raquaha Wimbush, Kenada Eberheart, Jayceon Gardner, Jordan Gardner, and Memphis Fielder; and two great-grandchildren, Ivie Smith and lyla Morris. He is also survived by his sister, Debra Gardner; and niece, Katia Gardner, along with many very special cousins.

His presence as a father figure, mentor, and friend will be deeply missed by all who were blessed to have known him.

