

James Otis Burden Obituary

Mr. James Otis Burden was born on January 29, 1940 in Concord, Georgia, to the union of Clarence and Nina Mae Burden. He was the second-born son in a large, close-knit family and received his education through the Pike County Public School System. At the young age of 16, he met the love of his life, Burnett. The two would go on to marry when he was 18 years old, beginning a lifelong partnership that would span 67 years.

Together, they raised five children: Morytt, Pamela, Tonya, Ewon, and Antonio. They built a life first in Lincoln Homes Subdivision and later established a forever home on Cascade Road in Southwest Atlanta.

Their home stood as a cornerstone in a thriving Black community during a time when successful Black families were planting roots and creating generational stability. As a husband, father, and grandfather, he was a true provider, ensuring his children and grandchildren never went without. From homes, to cars, to college, he made sure their needs were met and their futures secured.

A man of unmatched work ethic, Mr. Burden began his career in Florida working in an orange factory before returning to Georgia to work at the National Library Bindery Company for over 40 years. Across the street from the bindery, he worked as a mechanic, repairing cars and putting his hands to whatever honest work would support his growing family. He eventually started his own lawn care business, which evolved into the now-legendary Burden Movers, proudly known by its motto, "We take the burden out of moving." Even without a post-secondary education, his entrepreneurial drive and determination built several successful businesses. His initials, J.O.B., were fitting, he was always working and always keeping a moving job on the schedule, even well into his 80s.

His work ethic was matched only by his love for family. He shared a special bond with his sons Morytt and Tony, who worked beside him as he built and expanded Burden Movers. The loss of Morytt in 2023 was deeply felt, yet his spirit lived on in the work they started together.

Mr. Burden was also a man of deep faith and community commitment and deep faith. He was a faithful member of Mt. Vernon Baptist Church and, prior to that, a dedicated member of Mt. Zion Baptist Church.

He was proud to be raised to the Sublime Degree of a Master Mason as a member of the Prince Hall Masons, and a Gold Card member of Plymouth Rock Lodge No. 86, where he served alongside his sons Tony and Morytt, his sons-in-law, and his grandson, continuing a legacy of brotherhood and service.

Mr. Burden was preceded in death by his parents, Clarence and Nina Mae Burden; his beloved son, Morytt Burden; and siblings Perry Burden, Eddie Joe Burden, W.C. Burden, Lewis Burden, Horace Burden, Bessie Daniel, Rebecca Ann Burden Adams, and Betty Jean Burden Gilbert.

He leaves to cherish his memory his devoted wife of 67 years, Burnett Burden; their children, Pamela (Michael), Tonya, Ewon (Finnie), and Antonio "Tony" (Sonya). He was also blessed with daughters Veronica "Sharon" (Kenneth) and Janika, whom he and his wife loved deeply; his beloved fur baby, Prince Burden; his baby brother and best friend, Charles (Betty) Burden; brother Frank Burden; sisters-in-law Sylvia and Dian (Jerome); 18 grandchildren; 14 great-grandchildren; 1 great-great grandchild; and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, God-children, and friends who will miss his sweet and loving spirit.

Mr. Burden's life was a testament to hard work, determination, and unwavering love for family. He built a lasting legacy with his own two hands, one that will continue to inspire generations to come.