



James Bates,

February 24, 1917 - February 8, 2008

Funeral service will take place at 11:00 a.m. on Friday, February 15, 2008 at Mt. Olive Baptist Church, 1114 N. 6th Street. The Rev. Marvin T. Smith will officiate with interment in Forest Lawn Cemetery. Friends may call at the Browne's Mortuary, 441 N. Jefferson Avenue, on Thursday from 2:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. James Martinus Bates Sr. passed away on Feb. 8, 2008 at the age of 90 in the home of his daughter after a brief illness. James was born on Feb. 24, 1917 in Washington D.C. to James Andrew Bates and Fannie H. Javins Cole. When he was 4, his family moved to Whitsitt, Pa. James received his early education in Washington and Pennsylvania and attended high school in Saginaw, Mich. In his late teens, he moved back to the D.C. area. James married Annoise Lorraine Bates of Quantico, Va., on July 31, 1940 in Manassas, Va. In 1942, the family moved back to Saginaw where he went to work for General Motors. James worked at the Central Foundry Division; he retired in 1973 after 31 years of employment. He loved to travel, visiting his siblings in Pennsylvania and other relatives in Virginia and Washington D.C. James was a farmer at heart and for more than 40 years planted vegetable gardens both on a rented lot and in his own backyard, growing everything from corn to strawberries. He gave up his backyard garden when his health started to fail and the family still misses those fresh collard greens and tomatoes. James was well-known for his backyard cookouts and fabulous homemade sauce. Although his children have tried for years to duplicate it, so far no one has been succeeded. James' homemade Christmas eggnog

brought many friends from as far as Bay City to the family home during the holiday season. James was a devoted husband and loved his wife of 67 years, his "Sweet Lorraine." He was a loving and supportive father to his 11 children, their children and their children's children. James also was a caring brother, brother-in-law, uncle and loyal friend. James is survived by his wife, Lorraine; two sons, Jeffrey L. Bates of Saginaw and John E. Bates of Virginia; seven daughters, Joyce Williams, Jacqueline (Thomas) Triplett, Jeraldine Burnell, Julia (Tonza) Price, Jocelyn (Maurice) Jackson, Jeanetta Bates and Jennifer Bates; son-in-law, Willie Wright Sr.; 20 grandchildren, Regina (Wright) Ryan, Cynthia Wright (Donnell) Clayton, Willie (Dawn) Wright Jr., Tangya Moore, Jana Chambers-Bates, Rachel Burnell, Rochelle Burnell (Damon) Grant Sr., Herschel Burnell III, Justin Burnell, Torrance Burnell, Bria Burnell, Tonza Price II, Jonathan Price, Winfred Morgan Jr., Corey (Ketiombe) Morgan Sr., Jenise Bates (Willie) Peebles Jr., Jamia Bates, Jamarr Bates, Charles Bates Sr., and Shontell Tillman; 19 great-grandchildren, Clifton Ryan IV, Christopher Ryan, DeVona (Charles) Carthers, Antrell Wright Sr., SaRina Baber Gaines, Victor Peterson II, LaToria Peterson, LeBarron Coates, Brandon Moore, Damon Grant Jr., Bryce Grant, Taiesha Morgan, Arianna Morgan, Corey Morgan Jr., Steven Bates-Bell, Kamarri Bates, Charles Bates Jr., Christian Bates and Corrión Bates and one great-great grandson, Antrell Wright Jr.; three brothers, Jesse (Fanny) Bates, Reginald (Luretta) Bates and Walter (Barbara) Bates; three sisters, Edith (Bates) Singleton Peterson, Pauline (Bates) Diggs and Marcene (Bates) Ramsey; three sisters-in-law, Sylvia (Bates) McCurdy, Dorothy (Bates) Thomas and Emma (Thompson) Bates; two step-brothers, Lawrence (Virginia) Davis and Gilbert Davis; brother-in-law, Rev. Frederick S. Jones and a host of nieces, nephews and other relatives. James was preceded in death by his parents Andrew and Fannie Bates; son, James M. Bates Jr.; daughter Joan O. Wright; three infant grandchildren; son-in-law, Donald L. Williams; daughter-in-law, Martha (Clark) Bates; his stepmother, Catherine (Davis) Bates; two brothers, Earl Cole and Marvin Bates; five sisters, Pearl (Bates) Mallory, Geraldine Bates, Alene Cole,

lone (Cole) Sykes and Odella (Cole) McClenton; his father and mother-in-law, Robert L. and Ovella (Miller) Bates; two sisters-in-law, Mary (Bates) Jones and Phyllis (Robinson) Bates; and 10 brothers-in-law, Robert E. Bates Sr., Joseph McCurdy Sr., Roland Thomas Sr., Willie Sykes, Floyd Diggs Sr., Charles Ramsey Sr., Hebert Mallory Sr., Herman Peterson, Oscar Singleton Sr. and Walter McClenton.

Tribute Wall

BF

“ Hello to all of the Bates family, it has been many years. I would like to extend my prayers and best wishes to you all during this time. God Bless you.

Bruce Frierson - February 08, 2008 at 12:00 AM

FS

“ To the Bates Family, We will like to express our condolences. May god be with you during this time of need.

Freddie/Louise Simpson - February 08, 2008 at 12:00 AM

CC

“ My granddaddy will be miss.I send my love out to the Bates family.Right now we need to focus on the wonderful memories we had and shared with him. He was a good man not only to his family but everyone he came in contact with. He is in a better place now.We all have to look to the hills that cometh are help all our help come from GOD!! Love Cynthia

Cynthia Clayton - February 08, 2008 at 12:00 AM

RH

“ JEFF AND JOSLYN, WHAT A BLESSING TO HAVE HAD YOUR DAD WITH YOU THESE MANY YEARS. BE ENCOURAGED AND MY GOD BLESS YOU AND KEEP YOU STRONG DURING THIS TIME OF GRIEF...YOU WILL GET THROUGH THIS. LOVE AND KISSES!

RITA HALL - February 08, 2008 at 12:00 AM