



## Mr. James Lee DeBardelaben

February 8, 1970 - November 4, 2025

Mr. James Lee DeBardelaben was born on February 8, 1970, in Galveston, Texas, to Donald and Idilla Marie (Lewis) DeBardelaben. He passed away on November 4, 2025, at the age of 55.

James was raised in Saginaw, Michigan where he graduated from Nouvel Catholic Central High School and later received a Bachelor of Science degree from Albion College. He worked for the Saginaw School System for several years.

He was a lover of all sports, with football being his favorite. He was a man of great integrity and was always ready to lend a hand. He loved his family and friends and had a special love for all his grandchildren, who called him "Da".

Mr. James Lee DeBardelaben is survived by his loving wife, Angela Gray of Saginaw, Michigan; seven children, Elizabeth (Leandre) Jackson, Ashley Gray, Clifford (Dominique) Simon, and Quinton Gray, all of Wisconsin, and Takisha Gray, Courtney Gray, and Tyler DeBardelaben, all of Saginaw, Michigan. He also leaves behind his father, Donald DeBardelaben; two siblings, Rodney Green and Andrea DeBardelaben of Saginaw, Michigan; three nieces, Ayanna Green of Dallas, Texas, Alexandria Green of California, and Makeda (John) Bradley; two nephews, Myron DeBardelaben and Malik Williams DeBardelaben; 22 grandchildren; a host of other relatives and

friends, including special friends, Chad Burgess, Derek Gordon, and Navillus Hamilton.

James was preceded in death by his mother, Idilla DeBardelaben; his great-grandmothers, Thelma Lewis, and Johnnie DeBardelaben.

The family would like to thank MyMichigan Health and Compassus for their care and support.

Funeral service will take place at 11:00 a.m. on Monday, November 17, 2025 at Evan's & Browne's Funeral Home, 441 N. Jefferson Ave., Saginaw, Michigan 48607. Pastor Taurus Simpson will officiate with interment in Forest Lawn Cemetery, 3210 S. Washington Ave., Saginaw, MI 48601. Visitation will take place at the funeral home on Sunday, November 16, 2025 from 12:00 p.m. until 4:00 p.m.

# Cemetery Details

## Forest Lawn Cemetery

3210 S. Washington Avenue  
Saginaw, MI

# Previous Events

## Visitation

NOV 16. 12:00 PM - 4:00 PM (ET)

Evans & Browne's Funeral Home  
441 North Jefferson Avenue  
Saginaw, MI 48607

## Funeral Service

NOV 17. 11:00 AM (ET)

Evans & Browne's Funeral Home  
441 North Jefferson Avenue  
Saginaw, MI 48607

# Tribute Wall



“ *Evans & Browne's Funeral Home created a Webcast in memory of Mr. James Lee DeBardelaben*



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**Browne's Mortuary** - November 17, 2025 at 10:56 AM

DM

“ *Doloris Mixon sent a virtual gift in memory of Mr. James Lee DeBardelaben*



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**Doloris Mixon** - November 30, 2025 at 06:39 AM

CF

“ *Couch And Harper Family lit a candle in memory of Mr. James Lee DeBardelaben*



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**Couch and Harper family** - November 24, 2025 at 09:32 AM

KH

“ *Mr DeBardelaben, Rodney and Andrea and the family of James May God Comfort You All during this very difficult time. Love Kim .*



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**Kim Harrold** - November 18, 2025 at 09:16 PM

CF

“ *Claudine Fife lit a candle in memory of Mr. James Lee DeBardelaben*



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**Claudine Fife** - November 18, 2025 at 03:14 PM

IT

“ *Inez Tyson lit a candle in memory of Mr. James Lee DeBardelaben*



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**Inez Tyson** - November 17, 2025 at 10:16 AM

DO

“ *To James' family, & friends please accept my condolences on his passing. I met James my freshman year at Nouvel when he was a junior. We never had classes together but all of us kids who lived on the east side pretty much all knew each other. I will always remember James as a nice and kind person with a big smile. Rest peacefully my friend. Donna Killen, Nouvel Class of 1990*

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**Donna** - November 17, 2025 at 12:45 AM

GB

“ *Gwendolyn White Bowman lit a candle in memory of Mr. James Lee DeBardelaben*



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**Gwendolyn White Bowman** - November 16, 2025 at 08:44 PM

MM

“ *Mary A Moten lit a candle in memory of Mr. James Lee DeBardelaben*



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**Mary A Moten** - November 16, 2025 at 01:05 PM

HC

“ *This guy was nice always, you will be missed, Hollie Cooper*



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**Hollie C** - November 16, 2025 at 07:41 AM

NS

“ *Natalie Sanders lit a candle in memory of Mr. James Lee DeBardelaben*



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**Natalie Sanders** - November 16, 2025 at 01:45 AM

DT

“ *Diane Turner lit a candle in memory of Mr. James Lee DeBardelaben*



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**Diane Turner** - November 15, 2025 at 06:54 PM

JH

“ *My heart and condolences goes out to the DeBops Family. Last time we talked we laughed and the Als Market crew way back when he was 13 14 years old. He was a little gentleman in the early 80s Him, Ervin Ellis, Joe .and Rodney the five Personalities of greatness.*

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**Joey Hunt** - November 14, 2025 at 07:57 PM

TW

“ *My Deepest Condolences go out to the DeBardelaben Family, So Sorry for your loss.*



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**Tracey White** - November 14, 2025 at 04:54 PM



“ 61 files added to the album Life Tributes



Browne's Mortuary - November 14, 2025 at 01:32 PM

MW

“ James and I were friends in high school. He was a wonderful person and I am glad I had him in my life for a brief time.

Michele Welz - November 14, 2025 at 01:20 PM

CL

“ Clarse Lovejoy lit a candle in memory of Mr. James Lee DeBardelaben



Clarse Lovejoy - November 14, 2025 at 11:33 AM

SH

“ Sonny And Freddie Hodges sent a virtual gift in memory of Mr. James Lee DeBardelaben



Sonny and Freddie Hodges - November 14, 2025 at 11:32 AM



“ *White Sympathy Standing Spray was purchased for the family of Mr. James Lee DeBardelaben.*



November 13, 2025 at 11:35 PM



“ *Tomekia & Patsy Willis Family lit a candle in memory of Mr. James Lee DeBardelaben*



**Tomekia & Patsy Willis family** - November 13, 2025 at 07:33 PM



“ *Our sincere condolences to the family* 🙏❤️



**Jimmie & Felicia Truss** - November 13, 2025 at 06:02 PM



“ *Condolences to your family from the Gordon family.*



**Renail Gordon** - November 13, 2025 at 05:03 PM

DJ

“ Doris Jones sent a virtual gift in memory of Mr. James Lee DeBardelaben



Doris Jones - November 13, 2025 at 03:24 PM

TM

“ My deepest sympathy to Angie and the rest of the family. May James Rest Easy I'm there in spirit. Love y'all always ❤️💔🙏



Tracy Morgan-Avery - November 13, 2025 at 03:06 PM

CR

“ Carl And Rosemary Ruth lit a candle in memory of Mr. James Lee DeBardelaben



Carl and Rosemary Ruth - November 13, 2025 at 10:36 AM

GB

“ Gloria Blackmon lit a candle in memory of Mr. James Lee DeBardelaben



Gloria Blackmon - November 12, 2025 at 04:19 PM

KY

“ To Ms. Angela the entire family of Mr. James Lee Debardeleben, my condolences and continuous prayers are with you all. Mr. James will be truly missed...



Kisha M Young - November 12, 2025 at 12:43 PM

SB

“ My condolences to the family and friends grew on 9th street



Sabrina D Brittain - November 12, 2025 at 10:54 AM

SJ

“ Shalon Johnson lit a candle in memory of Mr. James Lee DeBardelaben



Shalon Johnson - November 11, 2025 at 02:10 AM

SJ

“ Shalon Johnson lit a candle in memory of Mr. James Lee DeBardelaben



Shalon Johnson - November 11, 2025 at 02:09 AM

SJ

“ *Stella, Shalon & Valecia Johnson lit a candle in memory of Mr. James Lee DeBardelaben*



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**Stella, Shalon & Valecia Johnson** - November 11, 2025 at 02:08 AM

SJ

“ *I remember James to be such a kind and loving little boy. He grew up to have that same personality and spirit as an adult. On behalf of my girls and my departed husband, the DeBardelaben and Benson Family have our sincerest condolences. May God strengthen and keep you in HIS care! We are lifting ALL of you up in prayer. The Johnson Family*

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**Stella Johnson** - November 11, 2025 at 02:05 AM

CJ

“ *CYNTHIA JONES lit a candle in memory of Mr. James Lee DeBardelaben*



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**CYNTHIA JONES** - November 10, 2025 at 10:35 PM

VB

“ *Vicki Bradley lit a candle in memory of Mr. James Lee DeBardelaben*



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**vicki Bradley** - November 10, 2025 at 07:18 PM

WF

“ Wanda Faye Reynolds And The Reynolds Fam lit a candle in memory of Mr. James Lee DeBardelaben



Wanda Faye Reynolds and the Reynolds fam - November 10, 2025 at 01:27 PM

DB

“ To the entire Debardelaben and Benson family, my heart and prayers are with you all during this most difficult time. I pray God's peace and comfort for all of you.  
- Dawnika

Dawnika Benson - November 10, 2025 at 09:04 AM

DL

“ James was my next door neighbor on 14th Street growing up. I still here his grandma ( Momma Thelma) calling him by name when she needed him. James Lee!! She yelled. Sleep on James until the day we meet again my friend.

DONALD D LITTLE - November 08, 2025 at 10:06 PM

TM

“ Tracy McMillon lit a candle in memory of Mr. James Lee DeBardelaben



Tracy McMillon - November 08, 2025 at 04:29 PM

EH

“ *Edna Hamilton sent a virtual gift in memory of Mr. James Lee DeBardelaben*



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**Edna Hamilton** - November 07, 2025 at 10:59 PM

CB

“ *Charles Burt lit a candle in memory of Mr. James Lee DeBardelaben*



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**Charles Burt** - November 07, 2025 at 04:52 PM

DM

“ *Derrell Martin lit a candle in memory of Mr. James Lee DeBardelaben*



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**Derrell Martin** - November 07, 2025 at 04:13 PM

RB

“ *Rosette Blakes lit a candle in memory of Mr. James Lee DeBardelaben*



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**Rosette Blakes** - November 07, 2025 at 01:58 PM

J(

“ I am so sorry to hear about the passing of James. I coached James for 6 years in Semi Pro Football. 4 years with the Livingston County All Stars and 2 years with the Flint Falcons. James was a one of the best athletes I ever had the privilege to coach. He was like a coach on the field always making sure players were lined up right on our defense. James was not only a great playmaker on the field. He was a great guy off the field. I met James in the spring of 1992 and remained friends with him all this time... James Will be missed but never forgotten..... RIP my friend. Until we meet again....  
Coach Jeff Minock



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**Jeff Minock. (coach)** - November 06, 2025 at 02:43 PM

SC

“ *Silva Casey lit a candle in memory of Mr. James Lee DeBardelaben*



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**Silva Casey** - November 06, 2025 at 08:18 AM

BF

“ *Blair Family sent a virtual gift in memory of Mr. James Lee DeBardelaben*



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**Blair Family** - November 06, 2025 at 07:53 AM

AJ

“ Prayers and Condolences to the family



Adele Johnson - November 05, 2025 at 04:37 PM

GB

“ Gwendolyn White Bowman lit a candle in memory of Mr. James Lee DeBardelaben



Gwendolyn White Bowman - November 05, 2025 at 02:44 PM

MW

“ Maurice & Marie Washington lit a candle in memory of Mr. James Lee DeBardelaben



Maurice & Marie Washington - November 05, 2025 at 02:14 PM

KM

“ Kathi Mitchell lit a candle in memory of Mr. James Lee DeBardelaben



Kathi Mitchell - November 05, 2025 at 02:12 PM

DD

“ *Demetria Draine lit a candle in memory of Mr. James Lee DeBardelaben*



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**Demetria Draine** - November 05, 2025 at 01:40 PM

VH

“ *Vanessa HumesJohnson lit a candle in memory of Mr. James Lee DeBardelaben*



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**Vanessa HumesJohnson** - November 05, 2025 at 09:10 AM

NS

“ *Natalie Sanders lit a candle in memory of Mr. James Lee DeBardelaben*



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**Natalie Sanders** - November 05, 2025 at 08:11 AM

SL

“ *Stephanie And Sophia Lawrence lit a candle in memory of Mr. James Lee DeBardelaben*



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**Stephanie and Sophia Lawrence** - November 05, 2025 at 08:06 AM

RB

“ Rosette Blakes lit a candle in memory of Mr. James Lee DeBardelaben



Rosette Blakes - November 05, 2025 at 07:54 AM

FB

“ My condolences to the family. I'm sorry for the loss of your loved one. The memories of him with NOUVEL'S basketball team, another great player gone. Family may you be strengthened by God's comfort, peace and love. I'll leave you with these encouraging words: PSALMS 121:1-2.



Faye Burt - November 05, 2025 at 07:11 AM

KH

“ Kathy Hamilton sent a virtual gift in memory of Mr. James Lee DeBardelaben



Kathy Hamilton - November 05, 2025 at 05:35 AM

TF

“ Sending my condolences 2 the family praying 4 u

Tammy n family - November 05, 2025 at 04:01 AM

GB

“ *Gloria Blackmon lit a candle in memory of Mr. James Lee DeBardelaben*



**Gloria Blackmon** - November 04, 2025 at 07:12 PM

GB

*So sorry for your loss, my extended family. May God keep his loving arms and angels around you all. Praying for your strength at this time.*



**Gloria Blackmon** - November 04, 2025 at 07:15 PM

DB

“ *Annette, my heartfelt condolences to the family, as you endure the loss of your loved one, May God give you all peace and comfort at this difficult time.*



**DIANE BLACKMON** - November 04, 2025 at 06:16 PM



“ *Joanie Williams sent a virtual gift in memory of Mr. James Lee DeBardelaben*



**Joanie Williams** - November 04, 2025 at 05:09 PM