

Celebrating the Life of  
**JAMES EDWARD PENN**

SUNRISE  
March 25, 1949



SUNSET  
May 25, 2024

**TUESDAY, JUNE 18, 2024**  
**10:00 A.M. VIEWING | 11:00 A.M. SERVICE**

FROM THE HEART CHURCH MINISTRIES®  
5055 ALLENTOWN ROAD | SUITLAND, MARYLAND 20746  
BISHOP JOHN A. CHERRY, II - PASTOR



# OBITUARY

**J**ames Edward Penn was born on March 25, 1949, to the late Edward “Pete” Lee Penn and the late Barbara Louise Penn. James, also known as “Jim” or “Teeny Baby,” was the firstborn of nine children.

James grew up on Melon Street in Norfolk, Virginia; and attended Booker T. Washington High School where he was commonly referred to as “The Professor” because of his extensive thirst and love for knowledge and reading.

At the tender age of eighteen, James enlisted in the United States Air Force. His yearslong decorated military career took him from the sunny coasts of California to the pristine islands of Okinawa, Japan. However, his true calling was the Good News Jail and Prison Ministry, a non-profit organization whose mission is to provide spiritually mature, equipped, and motivated Christian chaplains to serve in correctional facilities nationally and internationally. Moreover, as an ordained minister, James dedicated his life to serving God and rehabilitating inmates serving time in detention centers and prisons. He would always say, “Breaking the cycle of crime one life at a time,” and “Close the jail gates, don’t let anyone get away from the gospel.” Deciding that this was his calling, Senior Master Sergeant James Penn retired from the U.S. Air Force after 25 years of service.

Continuing his calling and career with the Good News Jail and Prison Ministry, James rehabilitated, and genuinely impacted hundreds of lives through his work. Furthermore, he continued spreading the uncompromising Word of God through community outreach programs, and local churches; and he inspired countless volunteers to join the Good News Jail and Prison Ministry.

Reverend James Penn was an ordained elder in the house of God. He joined From the Heart Church Ministries (FTH) in 1992 and was actively involved in the life of the ministry. He was a faithful and dedicated member of the Prison Ministry. He will be remembered for his unwavering love for God and his commitment and dedication to serving God’s people. His impeccable character and integrity were an inspiration to his co-laborers in the Gospel at FTH.

In addition to his devotion to church and enjoying time spent with family and friends, James was a diehard Washington Commanders (formerly Washington Redskins) fan. And despite their losing seasons, you could always find James sporting his beloved Commanders’ blanket, hat, slippers, and anything else that had the team’s logo on it. He also loved barbecuing, crabbing, fishing, and dining out often.

James accomplished many amazing things throughout his lifetime; however, his greatest pride in life is the legacy he leaves behind. He was blessed with five children from his first marital union: Ernest, Tracey, Lisa, Matthew, and Martin who preceded him in death several years ago. Through a second marital union with the late Sarah Yvonne Best, he was blessed with bonus children, James and Nikki. In addition to his children, James is survived by seventeen grandchildren; a great-grandchild; and eight siblings: Tony “Anthony,” David, Carolyn, Jackie, Debra, Nadine, Junny, and his baby sister, Gwendolyn.

**In the loving memory of a dad, brother, husband, granddaddy, great-granddaddy, and friend, James will truly be missed.**



# ORDER OF SERVICE

## *Invocation*

*Congregational Hymn* ..... "Blessed Assurance"

## *Scripture Reading*

*Old Testament: Psalm 23*  
*New Testament: John 14:1-6*

## *Prayer of Comfort*

*Selection*.....FTH Adult Choir

## *Acknowledgements*

## *Remarks*

*Mr. Jon Evans, President of Good News Jail and Prison Ministry*  
*Ms. Michelle Prunty, Niece*  
*Mr. Edward Penn Jr., Brother*  
*Mr. Ernest Penn and Mr. Matthew Penn, Sons*

## *Obituary (Read Silently)*

*Song of Preparation* .....FTH Adult Choir

*Message of Hope* .....Bishop John. A. Cherry, II - Pastor

## *Call to Christ*

## *Committal*

## *Benediction*

## *Recessional*



# FAMILY SENTIMENTS

## I HOPE YOU KNOW

*~ by Hope Harrington Kolb~*

*I hope you know how much  
You're loved, how many people  
care...how often someone  
says your name, whispered  
In a prayer...*

*I hope you know how many  
lives are touched by what you  
do... How high the hopes, how  
deep the need to know you're  
being true*

*I hope you know how Heaven sees  
the difference you can make... The  
unique role, the special road that  
only you can take...*

*I hope you know God's love for  
you since long before your  
birth... His great desire to go  
with you anywhere on earth...*

*For if you know, you'll venture  
forth with faith and joy and  
power... And rest within the love  
that's yours every single hour.*

## AS I SIT IN HEAVEN

*~ by Hazel Birdsall~*

*And watch you everyday,  
I try and let you know with signs,  
I never went away.*

*I hear you when you're laughing,  
and I watch you as you sleep, I  
even place my  
arms around you, to calm you as  
you weep.*

*I see you wish the days away,  
Begging to have me home,  
So I try and send you signs,  
so you know you're not alone.*

*Don't feel guilty that you have life,  
life that was denied to me,  
Heaven is truly beautiful,  
just you wait and see!  
So live your life, laugh again,  
enjoy yourself,  
be free then I'll know with each  
breath you take,  
you'll be taking one for me.*



# FAMILY SENTIMENTS

Thank you, Chaplain Penn and Sister Penn, for your great and tireless service to the Prison Ministry and all the residents you served at the Prince George's County Correctional Center for 30 years. Thank you for all you sowed into me and assisting me in my journey to Chaplaincy. As you taught me, "I will honor, adore and love you God and will serve your people and serve the incarcerated until I draw my last breath. Amen." Rest in Power. **Chaplain Michele S. Reynolds**

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We are going to miss you so so so much. I want you to say hello to Sarah when you get up there, just want to say thank you for everything you've done for my family and for my mom. Love you. **Lester and Monique White**

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My dear brother, while my heart is heavy, and I miss you so much, my soul is at peace knowing that you are in a better place, healed and in the arms of our mother and father. Rest easy my brother and I will love you forever. **Debra Jones**

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My dearest brother, I thank you for all the memories you and I shared while I was growing up. You always made me feel so special. I love you and miss you. I look forward to seeing you on the better side. To say I'm here!! Love, **your Jack (Jacqueline)**

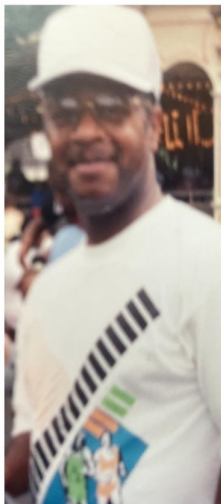
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Job well done! I pray when you opened your eyes in heaven, that it was all that you imagined. You impacted our lives in so many ways and we will truly miss you. Tell your cookie that won't crumble hello! Love you Pops, **James and Shonnie Montague**

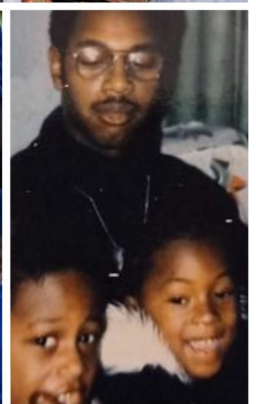
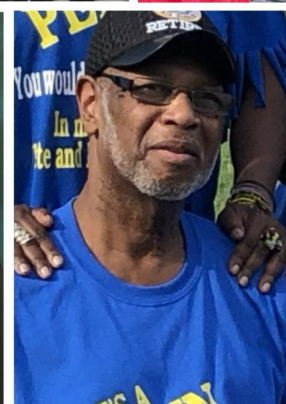
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I love you and thank you for being the person you always were! I will make you proud!!! **Asia Penn**











# CONGREGATIONAL HYMN

## *Blessed Assurance*

*Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine!  
O what a foretaste of glory divine!  
Heir of salvation,  
purchase of God,  
born of His Spirit,  
washed in His blood.*

*Perfect submission, perfect delight,  
visions of rapture now burst on my sight;  
angels descending, bring from above,  
echoes of mercy, whispers of love.*

*Perfect submission, all is at rest,  
I in my Savior am happy and blest,  
watching and waiting, looking above,  
filled with His goodness, lost in His love*

### *Chorus*

*This is my story, this is my song,  
praising my Savior all the day long,  
this is my story, this is my song,  
praising my Savior all the day long.*

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

*The family of Chaplain James Edward Penn acknowledges with deep appreciation every act of kindness and expression of love shown to us during our time of bereavement. We would especially like to thank: Bishop John A. Cherry, II and From the Heart Church Ministries, Good News Prison Ministry, Prince George's County Corrections, and so many Washington metropolitan area churches for nurturing and supporting Chaplain Penn's ministry.*

*Thank you to Mrs. Michelle Reese-Wiseman and Wiseman Funeral Home for exceptional care during this time. May God richly bless you. We love you all.*

### PALLBEARERS

*Family and Friends*

### FLOWER BEARERS

*Family and Friends*

### SERVICES ENTRUSTED TO:

*Wiseman Funeral Home and Chapel  
4591 Allentown Road  
Suitland, Maryland 20762*