

A CELEBRATION OF LIFE

for



James A. Bethel, Jr.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2025

Sunrise

MAY 2, 1947

Sunset

JANUARY 11, 2025

FAMILY HOUR: 10:00 A.M. | SERVICE: 11:00 A.M.

FROM THE HEART CHURCH MINISTRIES.

5055 ALLENTOWN ROAD | SUITLAND, MD 20746

BISHOP JOHN A. CHERRY, II - PASTOR

Obituary

James “Jimi” Alexander Bethel, Jr. was born on May 2, 1947, in Goode, Virginia, to the late James Alexander Bethel, Sr. and the late Edna Harliss Dyke. He passed away peacefully in Mesa, Arizona, at the age of 77.

Jimi grew up in Goode, Virginia; however, he later moved to Washington, D.C., to be with his mother, and sister, Dolores Smith. He attended Spingarn High School, where he played football and ran track. While at Spingarn, he met his wife, Beverly James. The couple was blessed with sons, James Bethel, III and Brandon Bethel.

In the sixties, Jimi joined the Metropolitan Police Department where he honorably served for 20 years. In his spare time, he enjoyed playing golf, creating inventions, and singing with the acapella group DC’s Finest, a group of active and retired D.C. police officers often referred to as “Doo Wop Cops.” The singers are known locally and internationally and have received numerous accolades from their thousands of adoring fans. In the 90s and 2000s, they performed for former presidents, George H.W. Bush, Bill Clinton, and George W. Bush. Additionally, they sang at the Pentagon for the former Secretary of State, Colin Powell. After the release of their album Arresting Sounds in 1995, they continued to perform with, or open for artists such as Stevie Wonder, Bobby Womack, Eddie Holman, and the Dells. One of Jimi’s most cherished performances was having the honor to sing at the inauguration of the Buffalo Soldier Monument in Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, in 1992.

In 1993 Jimi joined From the Heart Church Ministries where he received the uncompromising Word of God. He relocated to Arizona in 2018 and maintained his membership as a satellite member.

Jimi lived a life filled with love, kindness, and generosity—touching the hearts of all who knew and loved him. He will be deeply missed. Jimi leaves to cherish his memory, his wife, Larmie Mickens; children, James Bethel, III and Brandon Bethel; daughter-in-law, Nancy Bethel; stepchildren: Cecil Kent Mickens, III, Aaron Joshuah Mickens, and Amanda Danie Mickens; grandchildren: Alison, Olivia, and Ayden Mickens; niece, Karen; his great-nieces and nephews; and a host of other family and friends.

Order of Service

Invocation

Congregational Hymn“Leaning on the Everlasting Arms”

Scripture Reading

Old Testament: Psalm 91:1-7
New Testament: Matthew 19:13-17

Prayer of Comfort

Selection.....“The Last Mile of the Way”

Acknowledgements

Remarks

Reverend Manuel Rivera
Elder Willie and Donna Bordon
Ms. Karen Rodgers

Poem.....Ms. Pam Hale

Obituary.....Minister Aaron J. Mickens

Song of Preparation“Hallelujah, Salvation & Glory”

Message of HopeMinister John B. Coffie, Jr.

Call to Christ

Benediction

Recessional

Family Sentiments

My Husband,

Mr. James A. Bethel, Jr. a man of many voices, my friend of many choices and most of all a man of God. I asked you days before you left me if you were scared, you responded "no" because you knew where you were going! You were going to meet the King! At that point my mind had to be at ease. I am truly grateful you are no longer suffering with pain.

The times I would come home and share my day with you was something I looked forward to every day! Sometimes I could see the pain on your face, but you still listened to me and made me feel like every word I said was important for you to hear. If there was a problem your words were "We'll take care of it; don't worry." You were always my biggest cheerleader! When you and the guys took the golf trip to AZ and we met in the 'spice aisle at Safeway in Arizona' your awesome and unusually deep base voice drew attention! I felt the whole store knew you were there. I never got tired of you singing to me! I know you and I will record a duet in heaven together when we see each other. God gave me a song that I wrote in 2022, and you went with me to the recording studio to record it, but I didn't release it because I kept asking God who it was for and when. God finally answered me days after you passed. Now I know 'We've Got A Reason To Live' God wants us to know you may be gone but your family, friends and loved ones are still here and we still have work to do.

The grilled lamb chops you made for me I will miss. I can make them but there was something about the love you put into yours when you made them for me. I never wanted to share them with anyone. And your stepdad, dad, and grandpa skills were the best! Anything we faced, there were our five kids and two grandkids (Olivia Bethel-GranPa and Ayden Mickens-Pop Pop) together and they will always remember and love you for that. And all the many cash app requests we received were too many for you and me both to count but they always started with "I love you first," and we answered every one, you never complained and you never wanted anyone to go without! And I learned to give more because of your giving heart. I celebrate you today! I am now your biggest cheerleader! Well done! You are with the heavenly King now "King Jesus." If anyone should ever write our life story, Jesus is the best thing that ever happened to us. I love you dearly with all my heart and I am better because we met! Love you.

-Your wife, Larmie

Family Sentiments

A TRIBUTE TO JAMES "JIMI" A. BETHEL, JR.

J is for "JIMI," who we all know and love,

A is for ANGELS, who he is now with above.

M is for MEMBER, an officer with the DCMPD for over 20 years,

E is for ENTREPRENEUR, a football grill invented for his peers.

S is for SONS, Jay III and Brandon, truly loved and that's a fact,

A is for ALEXANDER, his middle name to be exact.

B is for BASS, his voice with D.C.'s Finest,

E is for ENERGY, outgoing and one of the kindest.

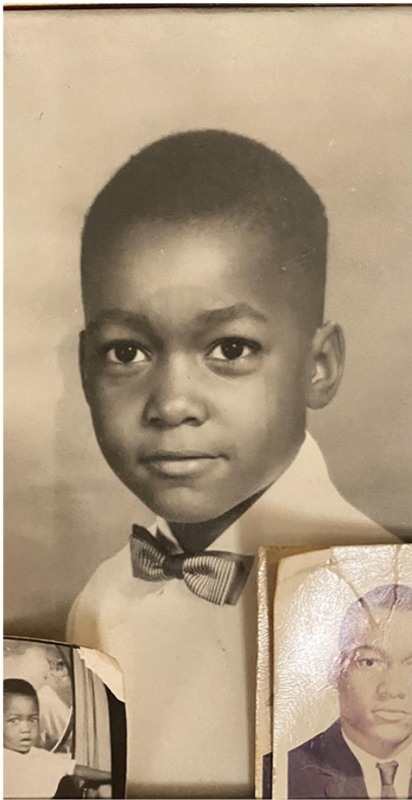
T is for THREE, Eyi, Dee and Karen very special folk,

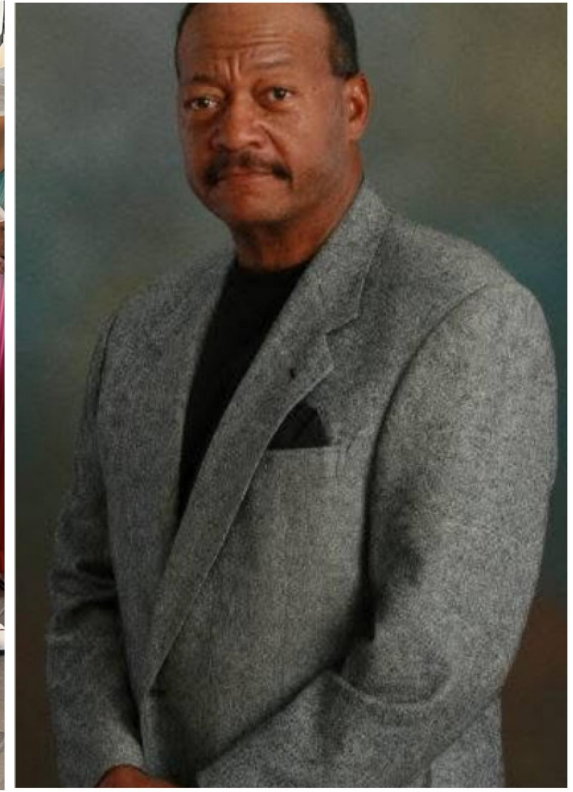
H is for HUMOR, he always had a joke.

E is for EVERLASTING, his love for his only grandchild, Olivia,
we always heard about,

L is for LIFE, family and friends will always remember him without
a doubt!!!

*Written with Love,
A Friend, Pat Hale-Savoy 2/14/25*





Congregational Hymn

Leaning On the Everlasting Arms

*What a fellowship, what a joy divine,
leaning on the everlasting arms;
what a blessedness, what a peace is
mine, leaning on the everlasting arms.*

Refrain:
**Leaning, leaning,
safe and secure from all alarms;
leaning, leaning,
leaning on the everlasting arms.**

*O how sweet to walk in this pilgrim
way, leaning on the everlasting arms;
O how bright the path grows from day
to day, leaning on the everlasting arms.*

[Refrain]

*What have I to dread, what have I to
fear, leaning on the everlasting arms? I
have blessed peace with my Lord so
near, leaning on the everlasting arms.*

[Refrain]

Acknowledgements

On behalf of the Mickens and Bethel families, we extend our deepest gratitude for the outpouring of love, prayers, and support during this difficult time. Your presence, kind words, and acts of kindness have provided comfort as we celebrate the life and legacy of our beloved James A. Bethel, Jr., devoted husband, father, grandfather, and friend.

Special Thanks

With heartfelt gratitude, we extend our deepest thanks to Bishop John A. Cherry, II and the entire From the Heart Church Ministries family for your incredible kindness, generosity, and unwavering support during this time of loss. Your welcoming team spirit and the beautiful homegoing service for our beloved James A. Bethel, Jr. are a true blessing to our family.

James found his spiritual home at From the Heart Church Ministries, and it was here that he gave his heart to God and became a member until he moved to Arizona. Knowing that he was honored in the very place where his faith was strengthened brings us great comfort. The love and care you showed, not only through the service to our family, touched our hearts deeply. Your compassion and generosity reflect the love of Christ, and we are forever grateful for your support in this difficult time. May God continue to bless you Bishop Cherry, the leadership, and the entire From the Heart Church family for the incredible work you do in serving others. May God bless each of you abundantly for your kindness. Please continue to keep us in your prayers as we cherish the moments and memories that will forever live in our hearts.

*With Love and Gratitude,
Mrs. James A. Bethel and Family*

Honorary Pallbearers

James Bethel III, Brandon Bethel, Aaron Mickens,
Cecil Mickens III

Flower Bearers

Amanda Mickens, Nancy Bethel
Other Family & Friends

Services Entrusted To:

John T. Rhines Funeral Home
1505 Kenilworth Avenue, NE | Washington, DC 20019