



James Vertis Stephens

November 23, 1940 - December 8, 2023

James was born to the late Mr. James A. Stephens and the late Mrs. Vera McDaniel Stephens on November 23, 1940, in Heflin, Alabama.

Growing up in Heflin, James received his education in the Cleburne County School System, where he excelled academically and demonstrated his unwavering determination. He embarked on a journey of service to his beloved country, enlisting in the US Army and serving with honor for three years until receiving an honorable discharge.

From an early age, James's faith in the Lord was evident. He united with Macedonia Baptist Church in Heflin, Alabama, and continued to serve and grow in his faith throughout his life. Relocating to California for work, he joined the Little Zion Baptist Church, where he faithfully served as a deacon and dedicated his time and energy to the church community. Upon returning to Alabama, he became an integral part of the Oak Ridge Missionary Baptist Church where he continued to serve as a deacon, and his unwavering devotion and wise counsel uplifted the congregation.

On December 29, 1965, James found his soulmate in Gertrude Johnson, and their love story blossomed into over 58 years of a blessed marriage filled with joy, support, and unwavering commitment. Together, they built a legacy of love, faith, and family, and their bond serves as an inspiration to all who knew

them.

Deacon James Vertis Stephens, a beloved husband, devoted father, and faithful servant of God, bid farewell to this earthly life on December 8, 2023, surrounded by his loving family at Regional Medical Center in Anniston, Alabama. He was welcomed home by his parents, Mr. James A. and Vera Stephens, son, Donovan Stephens, sisters, Beatrice Dates, Rena Mae Sears, and Dorothy Siders.

James leaves behind cherished memories that will forever be treasured by his devoted wife of 58 years, Gertrude Stephens; his loving daughter, Ameenah Stephens of Kennesaw, GA; his beloved sisters, Bessie (Neddie) Foster of Heflin and Mary J. Dark of Long Beach, CA; his dear brother, Wallace Stephens of Heflin. Within his extended family circle, James leaves behind nieces, nephews, cherished cousins, and a host of relatives and friends who have been touched by his kindness, humility, and unwavering faith.

Reflecting upon the life of Deacon James Vertis Stephens, we are reminded of a man whose gentle spirit and unwavering faith were the foundations upon which he built his life. His dedication to his family, his church, and his community exemplified the virtues of love, compassion, and selflessness. He will be remembered as a man of deep faith, whose unwavering commitment to God and his fellow beings leaves an indelible mark upon our hearts.

In this time of mourning, let us join together to celebrate the life of Deacon James Vertis Stephens and to offer solace and support to his beloved family. May his soul find eternal rest in the embrace of the Lord, and may his memory continue to inspire and guide us in our own journeys of faith and service.

Cemetery Details

Macedonia Missionary Baptist Church

123 County Road 927
Heflin, AL 36264

Previous Events

Public Viewing

DEC 14. 3:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Goodson Funeral Home / Anniston
830 Noble Street
Anniston, AL 36201

Celebration of Life

DEC 15. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (CT)

Oak Ridge Missionary Baptist Church
929 Bradford Street
Hobson City, AL 36203

Tribute Wall

PS

“ I SO MISS MY DAD!! JAMES WAS MY GOD FATHER, MY DADDY AND I WILL FOREVER BE HIS POKALEEN!!! AMEENAH CALL ME WHEN YOU CAN (510) 508-1293

Porsche Shumpert - November 27, 2025 at 12:14 AM

DJ

“ Oh how I miss you Uncle James. I am forever grateful for your presence in my life and all the precious memories. I will forever love you. Damali

Damali Jackson - December 30, 2023 at 02:35 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of James Vertis Stephens.



December 14, 2023 at 09:58 PM

NB

“ I love you Uncle James. You will be missed but I will always cherish my memories I have of you. RIP Uncle James



Nabaasa Buckley - December 12, 2023 at 09:34 PM

PT

“ *Pat Turner lit a candle in memory of James Vertis Stephens*



Pat Turner - December 12, 2023 at 09:58 AM