



James Joseph Starkes

James Joseph Starkes was born on September 4, 1955, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, to Thaddeus and Annie Lee Starkes, who both preceded him in death. He was the youngest son of eleven children and was preceded in death by his siblings Johnny Lee Starkes, William "Pop-Bill" Starkes, and Barbara Thomas.

James was educated in the Philadelphia Public School System. From an early age, he showed his many talents, singing in the choir at Emlen Elementary School and playing basketball at Germantown High School. A gifted athlete, he enjoyed baseball and basketball throughout his life and played on several teams at work and in his neighborhood. He was especially proud of his time with the New Breed Softball team at Mallon Playground and truly loved Sunday morning bball games with the fellas.

James was known as a hardworking man who believed in doing your best and taking pride in your work. He worked in retail, did construction and stucco work. Also, as a Facilities Manager for Children's Hospital of Philadelphia and later as a bus attendant for the School District of Philadelphia.

Music was one of James' greatest joys. He played the drums and piano, but his first love was singing. He especially enjoyed gospel and old-school music and was well known for singing "Happy Birthday" to everyone he loved. James was always there for his family and friends, offering support, love, and encouragement whenever it was needed. James was married, not once, but twice and later divorced.

James leaves to cherish his memory his loving siblings: Berthelma Jeffcoat of South Carolina; Vernell Ricks of Delaware; Karetha Lloyd (Herman) of Philadelphia, PA; Vernetha Jones (Richard) of Las Vegas, NV; Thad Ray Starkes (Barbara), Samuel Starkes, and Anna Marie Starkes, all of Philadelphia, PA.

He was a devoted father to three children, whom he raised with his dear friend Patricia deBraganza: Don-Alvarez deBraganza (Jessica), Jamae Starkes, and Nikida Starkes. He also leaves behind his beloved grandchildren: Alexis deBraganza; Shaniya and Shariff Starkes; Nyaih, Nyliaisha, and Nylah Lester.

James leaves a host of cousins, nieces, nephews, family, friends, and loved ones who will miss him dearly and forever carry his memory in their hearts.