



## James Melvin "JC" Cook

January 22, 1946 - April 3, 2024

To view the service via YouTube please use the link below:

<https://www.youtube.com/live/dOvSZc5YArk?si=QjeABPRxBoH1--1t>

To view the service via Facebook please use the link below:

<https://www.facebook.com/ZandersFuneralLIVE/>

James Melvin Cooks, affectionately known as "JC", was born January 22, 1946 in Opelika, Alabama, to parents James David Cooks and Ethel Bridges Cooks. JC attended primary school at Sanford Elementary in Opelika, Alabama. After moving to Florida with his family, JC attended Phyllis Wheatley Junior and High School. After graduating high school, JC attended Florida A&M University in Tallahassee, Florida, receiving his Bachelor's degree in Political Science. While there, he became known as "Apopka Red" and gained new friends, who would remain his life-long friends until the end.

In 1969, JC was drafted into the United States Army. Being his mother's sole surviving son, army officials did not deploy JC to Vietnam, but rather he served as a military police until being honorably discharged from the Army. After returning home to civilian life, JC furthered his education at Rollins College in Winter Park, Florida, where he earned his Bachelor's degree in Business Administration.

During his later years in New York, he was employed at Holy Cross Facility and Anderson School for disturbed and delinquent youth. JC received promotions to Supervisor while at both jobs due to his great job performance. Later, JC became employed with the state of New York at the Psychiatric Center until the facility's closure. Prior to his passing, he worked as a school bus driver for the school system. JC loved and enjoyed the students and the students respected him and cared for their "Mr. Cooks".

On January 24, 2003, JC married the joy of his life, Lavetta Cooks in Poughkeepsie, New York. He was a member of Ebenezer Baptist Church in Poughkeepsie, New York, where he served as a Trustee.

JC was a true lover of all sports, especially football and basketball. In his younger years, he was an amazing athlete who excelled at both football and basketball. He was known for having the best jump shot. He enjoyed playing the games in his younger days, and as he got older, he enjoyed watching them. JC also loved fishing and the peace he experienced being near the water.

James was preceded in death by his Father, James D. Cooks; Mother, Ethel Bridges Cooks; Brother, Dennis Cooks; Sisters: Pauline Webb, Lennell Shaw, and Deborah Fay Cooks.

Left to cherish his precious memories...Son, Eural Pryor of Apopka, FL; Bonus Daughter, Ashley D. Williams of Poughkeepsie, NY; Siblings: Ethel Jean Tarver of Apopka, FL and Allean Burrell of Orlando, FL; Granddaughter, Eurlicia Pryor of Apopka, FL; Goddaughter, Jamie A. Moore of NY; Aunt, Mary Bridges of Apopka, FL; and a host of nieces, nephews, great-nieces and nephews, great-great nieces and nephews, cousins, other loving relatives, the guys on the 5th floor at FAMU, and many, many friends from Apopka.



# Cemetery Details

## Florida National Cemetery

6502 SW 102nd Avenue  
Bushnell, FL 33513

# Previous Events

## Visitation

APR 12. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

New Hope Missionary Baptist Church  
927 South Central Avenue  
Apopka, FL 32703

## Service

APR 13. 11:00 AM (ET)

New Hope Missionary Baptist Church  
927 South Central Avenue  
Apopka, FL 32703

## Florida National Cemetery Burial

APR 16. 1:00 PM (ET)

Florida National Cemetery  
6502 SW 102nd Avenue  
Bushnell, FL 33513



# Tribute Wall

GB

“ *Gussie Lavern Baker lit a candle in memory of James Melvin "JC" Cook*



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**Gussie Lavern Baker** - April 15, 2024 at 01:32 PM

SB

“ *Al, Jean, and Family now and in the coming days there will always be sorrow but let pleasant memories sustain you all.*



*JC, as you soar towards your next perch smile, shine brightly, and have a safe journey.*

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**Shirley R. Baker** - April 14, 2024 at 01:41 PM

WF

“ *The West Family*



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**West Family** - April 13, 2024 at 11:37 AM

WE

“ Please accept our deepest condolences for the lost of your loved one James Cook. Wishing you peace during this difficult time. ~Thomas-McKnight Family.



Wendy - April 12, 2024 at 10:05 PM

DR

“ Take your rest, JC. You will surely be missed. ❤️



Darryl Rutland - April 12, 2024 at 11:41 AM

JS

“ My condolences to the Cook and extended family.



James Scott - April 12, 2024 at 08:56 AM

CD

“ Clara Desue sent a virtual gift in memory of James Melvin "JC" Cook



Clara Desue - April 11, 2024 at 10:47 AM

CB

*James, you were a model to me during our high school days. I still value those things I learned to do by observing how did it. You will be missed my friend. Rest in peace.*

**Chester Bennett** - May 19, 2024 at 12:43 PM

MS

“ *MONICA DENISE SCOTT lit a candle in memory of James Melvin "JC" Cook*



**MONICA DENISE SCOTT** - April 10, 2024 at 09:03 PM

EJ

“ *Evelyn Johnson my condolences goes out to the Cook family.*



**Evelyn Johnson** - April 10, 2024 at 06:27 PM

FF

“ *Prayers are with your family.*



**Freeman & McCray Family** - April 10, 2024 at 06:24 PM

CW

“ *Charlie Mae Warren lit a candle in memory of James Melvin "JC" Cook*



Charlie Mae Warren - April 10, 2024 at 02:23 PM

LM

“ *Lucius Monroe lit a candle in memory of James Melvin "JC" Cook*



Lucius Monroe - April 10, 2024 at 12:08 PM

TB

“ *Tangela Bellamy-Brown lit a candle in memory of James Melvin "JC" Cook*



Tangela Bellamy-Brown - April 10, 2024 at 10:46 AM

MK

“ *THE FAMILY IS IN OUR PRAYERS.*

*MINNIE LONG SCOTT  
MAMIE LONG KELLY*



MAMIE LONG KELLY - April 10, 2024 at 09:50 AM

AM

“ My condolences goes out to the Cook, Prince, Bridge’s family. James your smile will truly be missed. 🙏🙏🙏🙏



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**Arreta McKenzie** - April 09, 2024 at 08:57 PM