



Mr. James R. Charles

June 19, 1943 - January 24, 2022

James Ralph "Sonny" Charles was born June 19, 1943, to the late Emogene Wilson and James T. Charles in Johnson City, Tennessee. He attended Dunbar Elementary and was a part of the last class to graduate from Langston High School. Sonny held many jobs throughout his life. He started out working with his father delivering mail and then went to work for Sam Taylor's furniture for several years. Later, he worked for Strickland trucking, then General Mills, and then Roadway Trucking, where he eventually retired after 33 years in 2005.

Sonny enjoyed working and staying busy; he was known as the "handyman of town." He and his brothers could just about do anything you would ask. He later began his own yard/lawn care business. He often would cut your grass secretly. Sonny became a member of St. Paul A.M.E. Zion Church. He served many roles at the church but really enjoyed helping in any role.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Brenda G. Akins Charles; sisters, Bobby Charles, Jimmy Story, and Billie Perkins; and brother, Donnal Charles.

He leaves to mourn his children James R. "Sonny" Jr., Kentrell, and Danielle (Thomas) Hamby; honorary son, Steve Glazier; brothers, Carroll (Doreatha), and Escuse (Gail); sisters-in-law, Kathy Charles, Janice (Harlen) Wells, Nancy Posey, and Betty Robinson; grandchildren, Mignon, James "little Sonny,"

Adrian James "AJ," and Cameron; great-grandchildren, Luke, Evan, Junior, and Tabitha. He also leaves a host of nieces and nephews along with many, many great friends.

A celebration of life service for Mr. James Charles will be conducted Saturday, January 29, 2022 at 4 pm from St. Paul A.M.E. Zion Church, Johnson City, TN. The family will receive friends from 2 pm until the hour of service. He will be laid to rest 12 pm Sunday, January 30, 2022 at Washington County Memory Gardens.

Previous Events

Receive Friends

JAN 29. 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM (ET)

St. Paul AME Zion Church
201 Welbourne St
Johnson City, TN 37601

Celebration of Life

JAN 29. 4:00 PM (ET)

St. Paul AME Zion Church
201 Welbourne St
Johnson City, TN 37601

Interment

JAN 30. 12:00 PM (ET)

Washington County Memory Gardens
113 Memory Gardens Rd.
Johnson City, TN 37615

Tribute Wall



“ *Mr. James R. Charles*

January 29, 2023 at 10:28 PM



“ *Jan Malone lit a candle in memory of Mr. James R. Charles*



Jan Malone - January 30, 2022 at 07:47 AM



“ *Tiffany Ryans sent a virtual gift in memory of Mr. James R. Charles*



Tiffany Ryans - January 29, 2022 at 11:30 PM



“ *Our sincere condolences and prayers for the family. Sonny will truly be missed.*



Daryl and Deborah Grey - January 29, 2022 at 10:59 PM

KM

“ *Condolences to all of the family. Mr. Sonny was kind and helpful to all he met, possessed a servant's heart. Prayers for comfort and peace for the days ahead.*

Karen Morrison - January 29, 2022 at 10:21 PM

CA

“ *Crystal Anderson sent a virtual gift in memory of Mr. James R. Charles*



crystal anderson - January 29, 2022 at 04:11 PM

CA

“ *Crystal Anderson sent a virtual gift in memory of Mr. James R. Charles*



crystal anderson - January 29, 2022 at 04:10 PM

CA

“ *Crystal Anderson sent a virtual gift in memory of Mr. James R. Charles*



crystal anderson - January 29, 2022 at 04:04 PM

AN

“ Angelo Newman lit a candle in memory of Mr. James R. Charles



Angelo Newman - January 29, 2022 at 12:09 PM

LA

“ Blessings and comfort to the Charles Family



LAB - January 29, 2022 at 11:58 AM

NH

“ It has been a joy knowing Sonny over the years, beginning in high school at Langston. He was always quick to share a “big smile” and some kind words to everyone he met. Sonny had a “good heart” and would readily help anyone in need. This was evident as he worked throughout the community helping others in countless ways. Moreover, he was a “good family man” who loved his children and relatives. We will deeply miss his wonderful spirit and smiling face. We pray that God will comfort Sonny’s family and loved ones.
Nancy & Norman Howard

Norman & Nancy Howard - January 29, 2022 at 10:45 AM

CR

“ i m so sorry for the loss of a wonderful loving and caring man he will me missed
carl and francina rhea rest in peace my friend

carl and francina rhea - January 29, 2022 at 10:23 AM

RF

“ Renea Hall & Family lit a candle in memory of Mr. James R. Charles



Renea Hall & Family - January 29, 2022 at 10:09 AM

VR

“ Vangeline Rollins sent a virtual gift in memory of Mr. James R. Charles



vangeline Rollins - January 29, 2022 at 09:19 AM



“ Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Mr. James R. Charles.



January 29, 2022 at 09:04 AM

AH

“ It's time to take a rest my friend, neighbor, grounds keeper and handyman. But if there's a lawn mower in heaven, I'm certain you will be on it. Thank You for all of your hard work and dedication. Mom and I could always depend on you. You will be sorely missed.

Adrian Hammonds - January 29, 2022 at 12:29 AM

RM

“ *Ruth Mensah lit a candle in memory of Mr. James R. Charles*



Ruth Mensah - January 28, 2022 at 11:25 PM

JO

“ *Jimbo Oliver lit a candle in memory of Mr. James R. Charles*



Jimbo Oliver - January 28, 2022 at 08:04 PM

JO

Escuse, sorry to hear of your brother's passing, prayers for you and all the family.

Jimbo Oliver - January 28, 2022 at 08:21 PM

LB

“ *Sonny you will truly be missed by those who knew and loved you. Our prayers are with the family. Col. and Mrs, Leroy Butler*



Leroy and Roberta Butler - January 28, 2022 at 07:34 PM

FW

“ *Missing my neighbor~Freda*



Freda Wilson - January 28, 2022 at 06:20 PM

JK

“ *James Knaff lit a candle in memory of Mr. James R. Charles*



James Knaff - January 28, 2022 at 05:58 PM

JN

“ *Jean Neal lit a candle in memory of Mr. James R. Charles*



Jean Neal - January 28, 2022 at 03:08 PM

JN

Praying for the family

Jean Neal - January 28, 2022 at 03:10 PM

HR

“ *Holly Ruff lit a candle in memory of Mr. James R. Charles*



Holly Ruff - January 28, 2022 at 08:57 AM

Mary Rollins

“ *Mary Rollins lit a candle in memory of Mr. James R. Charles*



Mary Rollins - January 28, 2022 at 03:24 AM

HT

“ *May you and Brenda cruise together in Heaven, 2 married people I truly know that showed concern for all their love ones and friends Love you Both Rest In Peace* ❤️❤️🙏



Hope Turner - January 28, 2022 at 03:02 AM

TG

“ *Terea And Thomas Graham lit a candle in memory of Mr. James R. Charles*



Terea and Thomas Graham - January 27, 2022 at 10:38 PM

JP

“ *Janice Phillips lit a candle in memory of Mr. James R. Charles*



Janice Phillips - January 27, 2022 at 08:30 PM

JP

“ *Janice Phillips lit a candle in memory of Mr. James R. Charles*



Janice Phillips - January 27, 2022 at 08:27 PM

RB

“ *Rita Owens Bradley lit a candle in memory of Mr. James R. Charles*



Rita Owens Bradley - January 27, 2022 at 07:50 PM

TP

“ *Terry and Noelle Perkins. purchased the Serenity Wreath for the family of Mr. James R. Charles.*



Terry and Noelle Perkins. - January 27, 2022 at 04:23 PM

SS

“ Sandra Sylvers sent a virtual gift in memory of Mr. James R. Charles



Sandra Sylvers - January 27, 2022 at 04:15 PM

TE

“ TERESA lit a candle in memory of Mr. James R. Charles



TERESA - January 27, 2022 at 03:04 PM

VC

“ Victoria and Harvey Charles purchased the Beautiful Dreams for the family of Mr. James R. Charles.



Victoria and Harvey Charles - January 27, 2022 at 03:00 PM

NG

“ Nancy Greenlee lit a candle in memory of Mr. James R. Charles



Nancy Greenlee - January 27, 2022 at 02:49 PM

SW

“ *Our prayers are with the family.
Sonny will surely be missed.*



Susan Wagner - January 27, 2022 at 02:11 PM

SS

“ *Shelia Smith sent a virtual gift in memory of Mr.
James R. Charles*



Shelia Smith - January 27, 2022 at 02:11 PM

SW

“ *Susan Wagner sent a virtual gift in memory of
Mr. James R. Charles*



Susan Wagner - January 27, 2022 at 02:09 PM

CB

“ *Carol Bradley lit a candle in memory of Mr.
James R. Charles*



Carol Bradley - January 27, 2022 at 01:57 PM



“ Linda Workman sent a virtual gift in memory of Mr. James R. Charles



Linda Workman - January 27, 2022 at 01:44 PM



“ In Atlanta 4th of July enjoying family ❤️😭 More than a brother in law ...a friend Dawn Moncrief Orié



Dawn moncrief Orié - January 27, 2022 at 12:58 PM



“ Connie Thompson sent a virtual gift in memory of Mr. James R. Charles



Connie Thompson - January 27, 2022 at 12:28 PM



We will miss you Mr Sonny.

Connie Thompson - January 27, 2022 at 12:29 PM



“ *Shelia Bagwell lit a candle in memory of Mr. James R. Charles*



Shelia Bagwell - January 27, 2022 at 11:50 AM

CH

“ *Christine lit a candle in memory of Mr. James R. Charles*



Christine - January 27, 2022 at 11:14 AM

CH

“ *Christine lit a candle in memory of Mr. James R. Charles*



Christine - January 27, 2022 at 11:14 AM

GS

“ *We are praying that GOD comfort all of you during this difficult time.*

Ron& Gwen Smith



Gwendolyn Smith - January 27, 2022 at 11:01 AM

KB

“ Keith And Cynthia Brady lit a candle in memory of Mr. James R. Charles



Keith and Cynthia Brady - January 27, 2022 at 10:58 AM

MJ

“ Mary Ann James lit a candle in memory of Mr. James R. Charles



mary Ann James - January 27, 2022 at 10:52 AM



“ Phyllis Askew lit a candle in memory of Mr. James R. Charles



Phyllis Askew - January 27, 2022 at 10:37 AM

LP

“ Lori Parks lit a candle in memory of Mr. James R. Charles



Lori Parks - January 27, 2022 at 10:16 AM

LB

“ Lee & Lydia Bridwell sent a virtual gift in memory of Mr. James R. Charles



Lee & Lydia Bridwell - January 27, 2022 at 09:11 AM

DM

“ Darrell & Janice Murphy lit a candle in memory of Mr. James R. Charles



Darrell & Janice Murphy - January 27, 2022 at 08:56 AM

CB

“ Charles Buford sent a virtual gift in memory of Mr. James R. Charles



Charles Buford - January 27, 2022 at 08:46 AM

TB

“ Toni Bradley sent a virtual gift in memory of Mr. James R. Charles



Toni Bradley - January 27, 2022 at 08:03 AM

RN

“ *Ricky Nobleton lit a candle in memory of Mr. James R. Charles*



Ricky Nobleton - January 27, 2022 at 07:30 AM

JW

“ *Janice Wells sent a virtual gift in memory of Mr. James R. Charles*



Janice wells - January 27, 2022 at 07:28 AM

JW

“ *Janice Wells sent a virtual gift in memory of Mr. James R. Charles*



Janice wells - January 27, 2022 at 07:28 AM

JW

*He will be missed I loved him dearly he was the best brother in law any one could have he was loving in every way he was God Child he's happy now no more pain my sister is laughing and hugging him and telling him I know you missed me that's why God put us together again
GOD BLESS THEM BOTH AMEN*

Janice wells - January 27, 2022 at 07:41 AM

LJ

“ *Louis Locke Jr lit a candle in memory of Mr. James R. Charles*



Louis Locke jr - January 26, 2022 at 11:15 PM

KM

“ *Kathy Mills lit a candle in memory of Mr. James R. Charles*



Kathy Mills - January 26, 2022 at 09:53 PM

GF

“ *Gary & Moricina Fain lit a candle in memory of Mr. James R. Charles*



Gary & Moricina Fain - January 26, 2022 at 09:14 PM

LB

“ *Lynn & Rayetta Bachman lit a candle in memory of Mr. James R. Charles*



Lynn & Rayetta Bachman - January 26, 2022 at 08:59 PM

VP

“ *Viola Patton sent a virtual gift in memory of Mr. James R. Charles*



Viola Patton - January 26, 2022 at 08:37 PM



“ *Paulette Robinson sent a virtual gift in memory of Mr. James R. Charles*



Paulette Robinson - January 26, 2022 at 08:33 PM



“ *Paulette Robinson sent a virtual gift in memory of Mr. James R. Charles*



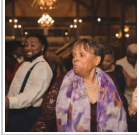
Paulette Robinson - January 26, 2022 at 08:33 PM

EB

“ *Elaine Brady sent a virtual gift in memory of Mr. James R. Charles*



Elaine Brady - January 26, 2022 at 06:55 PM



“ Carolyn Fain lit a candle in memory of Mr. James R. Charles



Carolyn Fain - January 26, 2022 at 06:07 PM



“ Elbert And Frazier Lyons lit a candle in memory of Mr. James R. Charles



Elbert and Frazier Lyons - January 26, 2022 at 06:04 PM



“ Jaymon,Edna and Adeline



Jaymon - January 26, 2022 at 05:46 PM