

CELEBRATING
THE LIFE & LEGACY

OF

James Earl Rhodes



March 3, 1960

October 6, 2017

OCTOBER 19, 2017 • 11:00 A.M.

JACKSON MEMORIAL BAPTIST CHURCH
534 FAIRBURN ROAD, N.W., ATLANTA, GA 30331

REV. DR. GREGORY SUTTON
SENIOR PASTOR

JAMES EARL RHODES



JAMES RHODES WAS BORN TO SUSIE WILLIAMS RHODES AND THE LATE JAMES EARL RHODES, SR. IN FORT WORTH, TEXAS ON MARCH 3, 1960. HIS FAMILY'S JOURNEY LED HIM TO ATLANTA AND INTO THE LIVES AND HEARTS OF MANY WHO WOULD ULTIMATELY BECOME HIS CLOSEST FRIENDS, CONFIDANTES AND COLLEAGUES. THE CITY BECAME HIS HOME AND HE GAVE AS MUCH TO HER AS HE GOT IN RETURN.

At a very young age, James professed his faith in Jesus Christ and was baptized at Ebenezer Baptist Church in Atlanta. A star basketball player at Henry McNeil Turner High School, James led his team to an undefeated season during his junior year. He was a proud graduate of the Atlanta Public School system and received a four-year scholarship to Baker University in Kansas.

James graduated from Clark Atlanta University (Clark College) with a B.A. in Business Administration with a concentration in Management. He spent several years at BankSouth (now known as Bank of America) before transitioning into the entertainment industry. He joined Time Warner and later Warner Music Group (WMG) and it is there that he found his calling. It's there that he would spend the next 30-plus years of his life.

At WMG, James did his job and he did it well. He prided himself on lending guidance and encouragement to those he met along the way, often mentoring interns and independent retailers with whom he crossed paths. He did likewise for artists. He met each project with a passion unrivaled by his colleagues and he worked diligently, efficiently and joyously. He loved his work and he loved people.

James also found time to indulge his personal passions, like spending time with his family and especially his nephew Jalen, fishing, tending to

his aquarium, and digging up historical tidbits. And his love for basketball never waned. He remained an avid fan and an Atlanta Hawks season ticket holder for many years.

An energetic and socially-conscious servant, James graciously lent his time and talents to various community and environmental initiatives.

Beyond his many personal and professional achievements, James' most notable attributes were his kindness and his integrity – traits that he never lost, regardless of circumstances or challenges.

James Rhodes' resume is long. His accomplishments are many. But of all the feats he mastered during his journey, none of them was greater than his capacity to love, to be a friend and a source of light and inspiration to every soul that stepped into his universe. He graciously allowed others to share his journey. And they're all the better for it.

James' journey ended on October 6, 2017 but the memories of this gentle soul, this courageous and noble warrior, will smolder in the hearts of those who knew and loved him for years to come.

James is survived by his mother, Susie Rhodes; sister, Sheila Rhodes; nephew, Jalen Thompson; aunt and uncle James and Gwendolyn Lee; aunt Mamie Williams; aunt and uncle Marshall and Kt Williams; aunt, Betty Williams; uncle Robert Tillman; and great aunt Catherine Green.

Order of Service

Prelude

Processional

Prayer..... Reverend Warren Brown
Liberty Baptist Church

Scripture Reverend Warren Brown
Job 14:1-2, 10-16

1 Corinthians 15:50 -55
Reverend Sheila Jones, Jackson Memorial Baptist Church

Musical Selection

Tributes..... Tonya Lee – Cousin

Larry Lundy – Cousin

D. Tobago Benito, DBS Sounds

Steve Corbin, Vice President of Sales, Warner Music Group

Sam Tingle, Label Services Representative, Warner Music Group

Scharla Ashe, Colleague & Friend

Dale Hill – Former Manager at Warner, Elektra, Atlantic & Friend

Video Reflections of James' Life

Musical Selection

Eulogy..... Reverend Warren Brown

Acknowledgments Tonya Lee

Benediction

Recessional

Repast immediately following the memorial service in the church banquet hall.



BELOVED SON, BROTHER & FAMILY MEMBER...

“
J. was the best son and I loved him deeply. Every night we recited the Lord's prayer. I thank God for the time we had together and will forever miss him.
— MOM



“
J. was my best friend and I will love him and cherish the memories forever.
— SHEILA
SISTER



“
Courage is the most important of all the virtues, because without courage, you can't practice any other virtue consistently.
— Maya Angelou



“
James Rhodes has been a highly influential person in my life, the closest person I have had to a father other than my own father. He has taught me everything a man should know to survive in this world and to live a life comfortably. I would always confer with him for advice and questions that I was unfamiliar with. I always appreciated him in everything he exposed me to — such as driving me to the mall. The littlest things mattered to me. I know he sacrificed his life to see someone as myself become somebody who can inspire others to be great. My life could have been drastically altered if he had moved or started a family of his own. In ending this statement, I went from looking up to the man to becoming the man of the house. I hope I made you proud of all my accomplishments.
— JALEN THOMPSON
NEPHEW



R RESPECTED FRIEND & COLLEAGUE...



“
Blood makes you related, bonds make you “family.” I always had a love for the game, but James taught me how to ball.

— RICO BROOKS
FRIEND



“
There are no words to express how I feel about J. J was the first person I ever considered a Big brother. From the first day we met, I knew it was something special about him. Soft spoken, but stern and cool at the same time. I never saw J out of character, never saying anything bad about anyone unless they deserved it. I learned alot from him and can truly say after 30 years of brotherhood and friendship, I’m going to miss him.

— RICK ROSS



“
James deeply loved his family and friends in “the industry.” He was a quiet voice of reason and a champion for all. When the littlest come together as one, Sky’s the Limit!

— JENNIFER PASLEY

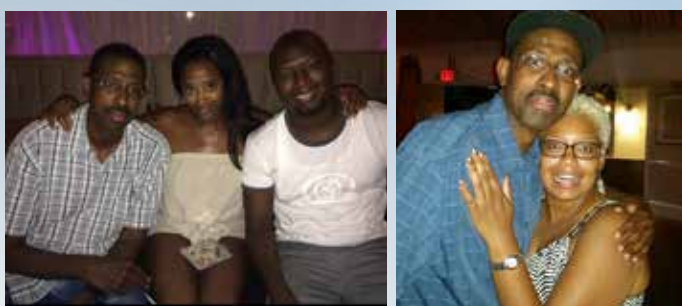


“
It is with a heavy heart that I have to say goodbye to one of my Heroes... Mr. James Rhodes. He was one of my former WEA Gladiators. James fought the good fight for almost ten years. He was a magnificent young Man... Fierce...Determined... Huge Heart...Sweet Spirit. Truly one of the all-time “Good Guys”. No more pain... No more suffering. Rest well sweet Man. Love...Honor...Respect.

— ORNETTA BARBER

“
James conducted his business with honesty and professionalism. He was a consistently straightforward advocate for our artists as well as our customers. Being honorable and doing the right thing came easily and without effort. His laugh, embracing smile, warm charm, and measured tone were always the right tools for the job. And when he faced adversity, it was always with grace and self-determined courage.

— DAMON VALENTINO
WARNER MUSIC GROUP





SPECIAL THANKS TO:

Warner Music Group Family
Dale Hill
Rhonda Baraka



Olatunji B. Alese, M.D.
Oncologist
Winship Cancer Center
Emory University School of Medicine



Peter Diaz, M.D.
Internal Medicine
Piedmont Hospital

Marjorie Wilson
Nurse
Amedisys Hospice Care



Dr. Stephen Batts
Chaplain

Jackson Memorial Baptist Church

Family & Friends

