



## James E. Ray

July 5, 1940 - May 13, 2025

“Precious Lord, take my hand; lead me on, let me stand  
I am tired, I am weak, I am worn  
Through the storm, through the night,  
Lead me on to the light; Precious Lord, take my hand; lead me home.”

James Ray was a loving husband, father, brother, grandfather, great-grandfather, great great grandfather, uncle, cousin, and friend. He transitioned to eternal life on May 13, 2025, at the age of 84. He was born on July 5, 1940, in Harrisonburg, Virginia to Marcelene (Ray) Jones and Wilmer Byrd, who preceded him in death. James was the eldest of two sons.

James attended Metropolitan Vocational High School in New York, New York and graduated in June 1958. He served in both the Navy and Air Force. After leaving active duty, he joined the Air Force Reserve where he retired in 1992. He met his wife, LaJunta Gayle Ray, and they were married for 56 years. Together, they reared their children: Elbert Leake (preceded in death), Linda Henderson, Gayle LaShawn Leake, Jahnun Latrece Lloyd,

Marcelene Ray,  
DeJuana Dixon, Shameeka Jones-Ray, Nashona Ray, and Richard Ray.  
James worked as a Bus Operator for over 25 years. After retiring from  
Metropolitan Transit  
Authority (MTA) in 2002, he worked as a school bus driver. He was a  
dedicated provider and  
devoted family man. He especially loved gardening, going to the movies,  
reading, and  
traveling. He and his wife went on many road trips throughout the United  
States with family  
and friends. They also loved going on cruises to foreign countries with their  
family.  
James had faith in Christ and accepted Jesus as his Lord and Savior. He was  
a devoted  
Christian and an active member of New Light Baptist Church under the  
leadership of Pastor  
Adrian Jarvis. He was an ordained Deacon, Chairman of the Deacon Board  
and  
Superintendent of Sunday School. He was recognized as the Father of the  
church. He loved  
his church and was known for dancing and praising the Lord.  
James leaves to cherish memories his wife, LaJunta Gayle Ray, his children  
Linda Henderson  
(James), Gayle LaShawn Leake, Jahnun Latrece Lloyd (Nathaniel),  
Marcelene Ray, DeJuana  
Dixon, Shameeka Jones-Ray, Nashona Ray, and Richard Ray, his brother  
Jeffrey Ray, Sister-  
In-Law Kathy Miller, Brother-In-Law Emmanuel Miller, his Aunt Ardell Curry,  
Uncle Howard Curry (Betty), a host of grandchildren, great-grandchildren,  
great-great-grandchildren, nieces, nephews, cousins, friends, and his New  
Light Baptist Church family.



# Cemetery Details

## Calverton National Cemetery

210 Princeton Blvd.  
Calverton, NY 11933  
(631) 727-5410  
[http://www.cem.va.gov/cems/nchp/calverton.a  
sp](http://www.cem.va.gov/cems/nchp/calverton.asp)

# Previous Events

## Church Viewing

MAY **23**. 9:30 AM - 10:30 AM (ET)

New Light Baptist Church  
135 Robbins Street  
Lindenhurst, NY 11757

## Church Service

MAY **23**. 10:30 AM - 12:30 PM (ET)

New Light Baptist Church  
135 Robbins Street  
Lindenhurst, NY 11757

## Burial

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**MAY 23** (ET)

Calverton National Cemetery  
210 Princeton Blvd.  
Calverton, NY 11933  
(631) 727-5410  
<http://www.cem.va.gov/cems/nchp/calverton.asp>

# Tribute Wall

RW

“ *My brother-in-law was one of the coolest men ever he embraced my son, as though he were his natural nephews, always treated me with kindness and respect a true Man Of GOD I will miss you brother in love. Take your rest. Love you forever. You do your sister in love.* Rochelle 📄❤️❤️❤️❤️🙏🙏🙏

Rochelle Wallace - May 23, 2025 at 06:32 PM

SH

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Shlonda - May 23, 2025 at 12:52 AM

HB

“ *Howard's & Rev. Samuel Bullock purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of James E. Ray.*



Howard's & Rev. Samuel Bullock - May 21, 2025 at 09:28 PM