



James Martin Walker, Sr.

August 20, 1941 - April 13, 2020

Obituary Narrated by Son, Marty Walker

My dad, James M Walker, Sr., (known as Martin) transitioned to Heaven on April 13th, 2020, from his home in Fort Washington, MD. He was born August 20th, 1941, to the late James A. Walker and Willie Mae Walker in Mecklenburg County, Virginia, in a town called South Hill (known to us as the country). Dad was the second of seven siblings. At the time, the only brother that he knew passed away at the age of two from illness. As the only boy in the family, my dad took on odd jobs at an early age to help put food on the table. There were many times that he would tell me of the poverty he experienced while growing up. Many times he did not have much to eat or no food at all. My dad often wore the same clothes and put cardboard in the bottom of his shoes to cover the holes in the soles. As an adolescent, he continued to work odd jobs around people's homes and brought what little money he made, back home to his mother. Even at this early age, Dad began to demonstrate his ability to engineer and to fix things, and he established an insatiable work ethic that would serve him and his family well the rest of his life. Dad could watch someone do a task and could quickly teach himself how to do that same task.

In sixth grade, Dad dropped out of school to better serve his family by working full-time. At the age of fourteen, Dad and a buddy of his left South Hill and their families in an effort to find higher paying work. They headed north to

Richmond, VA, where they worked six months or so. They decided to go further north and try their hand in the “Big Apple,” New York City. While traveling north, they stopped at his buddy’s uncle’s home in Alexandria, VA. My dad would tell me that he never made it New York City to live. He and his buddy “blew their money” while in Alexandria and were forced to find work.

My dad would once again find odd, low-paying jobs to work in order to “make ends meet.” At night, he would sleep on a couch or floor of a friend’s or relative’s home. Around this time, he got a job cleaning the bathroom at a Washington D.C. gas station. The station was owned by a white man who made it very clear to my dad that he didn’t like “black folk.” This man’s attitude didn’t stop my dad from pursuing his dream of making a better life for himself. One day, when his cleaning duties were complete he observed the man as he began to put some rear brake pads on a car. Just beginning the process of putting on the brakes, the man was called away outside of the garage. While the man was outside, my dad put the brakes on the car. When the man came back and saw the brakes on the car he asked, “Who put these brakes on the car?” My dad said proudly, “I did. I watched you do it before.”

This began my father’s career in the service station business as this man, who didn’t like “black folks”, took the time to teach my father everything he knew. Somewhere doing this time, my dad met my Mom, Runetta Brown, while working at a service station on South Dakota and Riggs Road in Northeast, DC. They married and I was born. In 1969, my father was one of the first blacks to graduate from Shell Oil Management training school and to own his first service station at the corner of Bladensburg Avenue and K St., NE DC (near the old Hechingers). To make a better life for themselves, my parents went on to move out of the city and had a house built in Silver Spring, MD when I was two and half years old. At the time, they were also one of the first blacks in their predominantly white development. They enjoyed having parties and events at the house. Dad went on to own two more Shell service stations:

one on the corner of South Dakota and V St., NE DC and one on the corner of Alabama Avenue and Massachusetts Avenue, SE DC. He also owned a repair shop off of Central Avenue in Seat Pleasant, MD, until he retired in 2015.

My parents went their separate ways when I was twelve. A few years later in 1983, Dad married my stepmom, the late Angela Lowery, from Wilmington, NC. They built a home and a life together in Fort Washington, MD, where they also enjoyed entertaining family and friends. My Dad would show off his cooking skills from the country at these events. When my stepmom became ill with a brain tumor, my dad stuck by her side. As her health deteriorated over the years, I saw my dad be a true companion to her as only he knew how, until her passing in 2016.

Dad enjoyed cooking, fishing with his friends, watching westerns, laughing, and having fun. One of his faults was that he was a Dallas Cowboy fan most of his adult life. (Well you can't have everything). James Martin Walker was a tremendous provider and demonstrated an outstanding work ethic. He didn't let where he came from, his lack of education, or the color of his skin to stop him from being successful.

He is preceded in death by his sisters: Julia Ann, Joann and June Rose. He is survived by sons: James Martin (Marty) Walker, Jr (Karen), Robbie Brown (Carla deceased), Keith (Ricky) Brown, (Steve deceased), and Harold Holden (Glenda); two sisters: Joan Crawford and Faye Goings and brother, Rodney Bracey; grandchildren: Robbie Jr., Erica, Marcel, Stevie, Daquan, Joshua, Diamond, Destiny, and Desire'; and a host of very dear nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends whom he loved dearly and who dearly loved him.

Previous Events

Visitation

APR **23**. 9:30 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Victory Ministries International
3911 St. Barnabas St
Suitland, MD

Service

APR **23**. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

Victory Ministries International
3911 St. Barnabas St
Suitland, MD

Tribute Wall



“ To View the Webcast of the Funeral for James M. Walker, Sr,
Please Click the Link below.



Marshall-March Funeral Homes - April 22, 2020 at 11:14 AM



I'm going to miss you all ways stay blessed see you soon

Michael Walker - April 24, 2020 at 12:27 AM

AD

The most decent, strong, loving, hardworking, compassionate man I have known in my lifetime! A GREAT MAN! I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU. My sincere condolences to his family that he loved more than life. Brokenhearted, Adele

Adele - May 14, 2020 at 11:30 PM

AD

MAY THE GOD OF ALL COMFORT GRANT YOU ALL STRENGTH BEYOND WHAT IS NORMAL TO ENDURE THE LOSS OF YOUR BELOVED MARTIN A BEAUTIFUL SOUL. IN JESUS NAME AMEN.

Adele - May 15, 2020 at 01:35 AM



“ James Martin Walker, Sr.

October 23, 2023 at 08:15 AM

BM

“ Rest in heaven brother Martin! My boss when I was a child on Bladensburg rd and South Dakota Ave. God bless you 🙏🙏🙏🙏

Brian Mccaskill - June 02, 2020 at 10:19 PM

DR

“ God gave you your wings! Go on and take your rest ! No more sickness! We love you cousin Martin

Darlene Rainey - May 06, 2020 at 09:47 PM

LW

“ I'm so gonna miss my uncle, he & my granddad!! I can hear them both now as I enter the room.. “Heeeeyyy Funny Looking” says my granddad & what u u looking at ugly is what my uncle would say 😂😂

LaToya Walker - May 06, 2020 at 09:35 PM

CC

“ ❤️❤️❤️



Cynthia Chambers - May 06, 2020 at 06:30 PM

CC

“ ❤️❤️❤️❤️❤️❤️

We miss you Uncle Martin and will always love you.



Cynthia Chambers - May 06, 2020 at 06:28 PM

DH

“ *This is My grandfather and I miss him so much! He has been everything to me. He loved me more than my family did and I will always love him. He is my rock, my protector and I'm glad for his life! Love you grandpa*

Diamond Holden - April 30, 2020 at 02:15 PM

GW

Diamond he was a wonderful man. I miss him so much too.

Gloria Washington - May 06, 2020 at 07:46 PM

DR

Keep your head up Diamond ! God Bless you

Darlene Rainey - May 06, 2020 at 09:48 PM

DR

Your cousin

Darlene Rainey - May 06, 2020 at 09:49 PM



“ *1 file added to the album James Walker's Slide Show*



Marshall-March Funeral Homes - April 29, 2020 at 06:22 PM

MW

“ *Love you always*

Michael Walker - April 28, 2020 at 03:53 PM

TM

“ *The Family Of Gennie Postell, our condolences to the family. We will continue to keep the family in our prayers.
The years of friendship that was shared will definitely be missed.*

Tracey McAllister - April 27, 2020 at 06:47 PM

YH

“ *To Elder Marty and Family, my prayers and condolences are with you all. Praying God's strength and courage during your bereavement.
From a Yvonne Humes and Family
VCMI-Suitland*

Yvonne Humes - April 27, 2020 at 10:23 AM

CA

“ *Dear Elders Marty & Karen Walker and entire family,

Sending love and hugs your way. Praying comfort, strength, and peace to you. May you always remember the fond memories of your Dad. God blesses those who mourn, for they will be comforted. Matthews 5:4. Grief is for a season. Resurrection follows death—the Spirit gives you life. Much love, Cynthia Anderson 🙏❤️*

Cynthia Anderson - April 26, 2020 at 10:17 PM

TW

“ *Sorry For Your Loss
Jesus Christ Loves Me
We Love You*



Thomas Widgeon - April 24, 2020 at 06:36 AM

EF

“ Our thoughts and prayers are with the family.
May you draw comfort from God as he help you to cope with the heavy weight of your loss. With caring thoughts.

Evans family - April 23, 2020 at 06:48 PM

EL

“ He was a wonderful spiritual being with a big heart, loved his family. I know he is resting in peace, no more pain. I will truly miss him.

Eleanor - April 23, 2020 at 03:22 PM

JM

“ Elder Marty, Elder Karen and Family - Our hearts and prayers are with you and we love you so very much. May you feel the comfort of GOD's HOLY SPIRIT hugging you and holding you in JESUS CHRIST Name we pray, Amen. Blessings and Agape, Jackie Maxfield and Family 🤍🙏

Jackie Maxfield - April 23, 2020 at 02:12 PM

LR

“ Prayers and Love to Marty and Family!! J M will be missed so very much, but I thank GOD for the time He gave him to us. I will remember all the laughs and GOOD Times, tons of fun we shared. So rest peacefully in GOD's ARMS J M. Much Love..... Cousin Lily (Lil) Rainey



Lily Rainey - April 23, 2020 at 10:01 AM

DW

“ I am praying that our Lord who loves you so dearly, will speak comfort and blessings to your heart in the coming days. Receive my sincere condolences.

Dorothy R. Wells - April 23, 2020 at 08:59 AM

TW

“ So what can I say about Uncle Martin Wow! Let me start with when I was a young man and he came home in his RV with his family and allowed me to sleep in the RV with Marty I woke up the next morning and I was like wow I want to be like uncle Martin like when I should see him drive his mark or Lincoln continental's Are used to be like wow I want to be like My uncle Martin but the big thing was his heart is giving and his willingness to help and give it advice to me on how to do business and what to look out for in business see my uncle Martin wasn't just a uncle he was a mentor ,he was like a father to me and he was definitely someone I look up to and I always try to make him proud of me there's another missing part of my life now.I can only hope that I become half of the man that you would like me to be rest in peace uncle Martin till we meet again- love you nephew Tony Walker.

Tony Walker - April 23, 2020 at 08:31 AM

WH

“ I have fond memories of Martin. We were Best friends back in the seventies. We became partners in the Shell franchise and work together for Many years. When Marty was born I was ask to be his God Father. May God comfort the Walker family in the time of your loss. Rest In Peace my Brother.
Willie Haynes
AKA Foot's

Willie Haynes - April 22, 2020 at 10:46 PM

AL

“ *Martin was a very wise and kindhearted man who helped many people along the way. The only thing that was bigger than his voice, was his heart. May God bless his family with comfort, strength, and peace.*

Anthony and Patricia Lowery

Anthony Lowery - April 22, 2020 at 12:38 PM

TW

What can I say about my uncle Martin wow let me start with me being a little boy seeing him come home in his RV with his family and allow me to sleep in the RV with Marty. The next day I was like wow I want to be like my uncle Martin, to watching you drive your mark5 Lincoln Cars I was like wow I want to be like my uncle Martin, uncle Martin I watch you when I was growing up the way you did things have definitely showed me how to be a man as well as a businessman God bless you and thank you for the wonderful memories rest in peace uncle Martin until we meet again Your nephew Tony Walker

Tony Walker - April 22, 2020 at 10:18 PM



“ *We the March Family and Marshall-March Staff wish to extend our deepest and heartfelt sympathy in the passing of your loved one. Our prayers go out to you and your family in your time of loss. We know and understand that you have received many expressions of love and we will continue to lift you up in prayer. May the memories you cherish of brighter and happier days help to ease your sorrow and comfort you always.*

Marshall-March Funeral Homes - April 22, 2020 at 10:23 AM