



## Rev. James Houston Karl Taylor

June 12, 1936 - August 21, 2021

Rev. James Houston Karl Taylor was born June 12, 1936, as the eldest twin of three children to the late Mr. George Taylor and the late Mrs. Mary Viola Taylor. He was also preceded in death by his baby brother, Mr. George Taylor, Jr., and his son, Mr. Kenneth H. Taylor.

Rev. Taylor was warmly known as "Amos" as a young lad. He attended Florida Street Elementary School, where he completed sixth grade. He accepted Jesus Christ at an early age, becoming a member of Mt. Zion Baptist Church. As a young adult, he dedicated his life to ministry, serving as an Elder at St. Joseph Spiritual Temple. While in ministerial training, he foiled an attempted robbery of a city bus in 1959. He convinced the young man to give him the gun and return the cash to the driver, leading the would-be robber to give his life to Christ through his witness of the Gospel. Rev. Taylor most recently was a member of Heaven Gates Ministry, organized by the United Fellowship of Churches.

With an impeccable work ethic, Rev. Taylor worked first as a delivery boy for Hanson Engraving Company and King Furs in the '50s and '60s. He attended trade school to become a welder and successfully landed a job welding metals at the former Major Casket Company on Warford Street in North Memphis. He left the welding profession to become a baker and served as a foreman at Keathley's Bakery on Young Street in the Cooper-Young area of

mid-town Memphis. He later joined Kroger Bakery on Florida Street in his South Memphis childhood community, where he retired. Recognizing that he was good with math and numbers, he started a small home-based tax business in 1968, partnering with Rev. Herbert Eddins. The company evolved into a family-based business where his wife worked alongside him, and in later years, his children and grandchildren joined the practice. Taylor Income Tax Service, which still operates today, grew from a partnership to a Limited Liability Company with five seasonal employees. It will continue its legacy of service to Memphis and the Mid-South.

Rev. Taylor was a faithful neighbor, good friend, and a community leader. With a gift for embracing others, he never met a stranger and quickly made friends. He organized a neighborhood Boy Scouts' of America Troop. As Troop leader, he entered the scouts in the boxcar derby, and that year they won all the top honors for the fastest, most aerodynamic, sleekest race car of all. As a community advocate, he petitioned the local government to fill in a ditch that ran along Marjorie and Norfolk Streets to replace the old wooden bridge with modern streetscapes, curbs, and city lights. In recent years, Rev. Taylor helped re-establish the Hernando Terrace Neighborhood Association that planted flowers, picked up trash, and held neighborhood meetings. He graduated from the citizen police academy and recruited younger residents into the association. Rev. Taylor knew what it meant to be neighborly, for he looked after his elderly neighbors like the Williams and Neloms, making sure that they were eating daily and received dinner plates during the holidays. Each year, he would clean and cook more than 300 lbs. of chitterlings for his family while ensuring every neighbor who wanted a plate got one.

Rev. Taylor was a loyal husband and provider. He married Katie M. Taylor after only one week of dating on May 3, 1956 - a union that lasted more than sixty-five years. He worked diligently to provide a good abode for the family, transforming the modest three-bedroom home in South Memphis to the

“Taylor Compound,” as it is commonly called to host holiday gatherings for family, friends, and neighbors.

Rev. Taylor leaves to cherish his memory his wife, Katie M. Taylor; his brother, Pete Taylor (Judy); an aunt, Lonnell Sargent; six sons, Robert I. Chalmers, Bishop Allen L. Chalmers, Sr. (Sharon), Antonio H. Taylor, Richard S. Taylor, Sr. (Valerie), Apostle David E. Taylor, and Chris "Rico" Taylor; four daughters, Sharon K. Taylor McKinney, Angela J. Taylor, Marilyn M. Robinson (James), and Zondra V. Taylor; twenty-five grandchildren, thirty-seven great-grandchildren, two great-great-grandchildren, and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, extended family, and friends.

# Cemetery Details

## Calvary Cemetery

1663 Elvis Presley Blvd  
Memphis, TN 38106

# Previous Events

## Visitation

SEP 2. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (cst)

Snow Funeral Home  
1650 E Shelby Dr  
Memphis, TN 38116  
(901) 946-9726  
<http://snowfuneral.com>

## Service

SEP 3. 11:00 AM (cst)

Mt. Zion Baptist Church  
60 S. Parkway E.  
Memphis, TN 38106

# Tribute Wall



“ *Strength & Solace Spray was purchased for the family of Rev. James Houston Karl Taylor.*



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August 31, 2021 at 03:04 PM



“ *Kaisha & Ethel Bond purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Rev. James Houston Karl Taylor.*



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**Kaisha & Ethel Bond** - August 30, 2021 at 12:11 PM



“ *Elizabeth Brooks and Dorothy Hampton purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Rev. James Houston Karl Taylor.*



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**Elizabeth Brooks and Dorothy Hampton** - August 28, 2021 at 06:23 PM

EE

“ Elizabeth Brookes and Betty Eddins purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Rev. James Houston Karl Taylor.



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**Elizabeth Brookes and Betty Eddins** - August 28, 2021 at 06:23 PM

WB

“ Moments spent, as a co-worker, friend, during in-home Bible Study or as a Tax Preparer, Mr. Taylor was always a man of great wisdom. May God grant the family with His peace and strength during this time of bereavement. "Always Praying"



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**Wilbert Berry** - August 28, 2021 at 02:37 PM



“ Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Rev. James Houston Karl Taylor.



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August 28, 2021 at 02:13 PM



“ *My deepest sympathy to the family of Rev. James Taylor. James and I were co-workers at Kroger Baking Co. James was a silly little old man to me back in the day, but he was a serious man as well, he talked a lot. He always the had something to say. Most of all he loved his family. These are just a few of the reasons I have so much respect for him. .  
HE WILL TRULY BE MISSED .  
Curley Lee . . .*

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**Curley Lee** - August 27, 2021 at 09:21 PM

TF

“ *Tina & Roland Lavergne Family purchased the Strength & Solace Spray for the family of Rev. James Houston Karl Taylor.*



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**Tina & Roland Lavergne Family** - August 27, 2021 at 06:28 PM

JF

“ *Condolences to the Taylor family, Rev. Taylor will be miss was always a fun guy to be around, many years at Kroger Bakery with him.*



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**Joseph Ford** - August 26, 2021 at 01:48 PM



“ *Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet was purchased for the family of Rev. James Houston Karl Taylor.* ”



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August 25, 2021 at 08:30 PM