



James Herbert McCullers Jr.

October 28, 1949 - March 31, 2021

James Herbert McCullers, Jr. was born on October 28, 1949 in West Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. He was the older of three children born to the late James H. McCullers, Sr. and Willie Catherine Yeargin McCullers. After a short illness, Jim peacefully transitioned into eternal rest on Wednesday, March 31, 2021, at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center Presbyterian Hospital in the presence of his caring wife and soulmate, Randy Sarnier.

Jim, who was also affectionately known as Jimmy or Junior, was raised in the town of Yeadon, Pennsylvania. Jim was educated in Delaware County Public Schools and graduated from Yeadon High School. He was a proud graduate of the illustrious Lincoln University (Pennsylvania), the oldest Historically Black University in the nation.

After completing his undergraduate studies, Jim began a career in management at the Sears, Roebuck and Co. in Corning, New York. Upon relocating to South Carolina, he became employed with the Xerox Company, where he worked as a Senior Support Representative and Trainer for more than fifteen years. Jim then became a self-taught, hardware specialist and software developer with the State of South Carolina. Upon returning to Pennsylvania Jim worked for and with the likes of Eaton, Sarcom, and PNC- as a Data Warehousing Specialist, Software Developer, and Senior Project Manager, before retirement in 2019.

At the age of twelve, Jim was baptized at the Historically Black First Baptist Church (Raleigh, North Carolina), which is a longtime anchor for civil and human rights organizing. Jim also became a lifetime member of Second Nazareth Baptist Church, where he offered his life to Christian service. As a member of Second Nazareth, Jim served as a member of the Men's Ministry, Sunday School Faculty, Church Transportation Committee, Finance Committee, and Trustee Board. After years of membership and dedicated service to Second Nazareth, he was ordained as a Deacon in the Fall of 1994.

During his youthful years, Jim was a competitive cyclist, billiards player, and sailor, in addition to being an outdoorsman. Jim was a lifelong car and music enthusiast, as well as a seasoned photographer. Through these modes of expression, Jim restored classic cars (especially Alfa Romeos and Porsches), established several home-based darkrooms, and played numerous instruments (guitar and harmonica). Jim was also an authorized sound technician and provided performance support for local events, theatrical productions, and touring recording artists.

A true sports fan (Go Gamecocks! Go Steelers!), Jim was especially invigorated by Formula 1 (F1) car racing. To all who would listen, Jim shared his excitement about Lewis Hamilton, the current, F1 world champion, the first African American driver to race in the sport, and as of 2021, the winningest driver in F1 history. Later in life, Jim became a licensed Ham radio operator, a skill he used to help coordinate safety and logistics for the Pittsburgh Vintage Grand Prix.

Jim was lovingly committed to the care of his mother-in-law Audrey Sarner and his brother-in-law, the late Daniel M. Sarner. Nothing provided him greater pleasure than to spend time conversing passionately about music, sports, literature, history, technology, and politics. Earning the Family-nominated

“Most Recognizable Laugh” Award, Jim’s laughter boisterously enlivened family and social gatherings.

Jim embraced an unsurpassable love for children! His greatest joys were becoming a father and earning the title “Pops” from his granddaughters.

Jim was a dedicated lover of Chinese Shar-Peis, particularly the late Sandra Jones and his cherished LeRoi Jones.

Committed to social justice and empowering traditionally marginalized people, Jim’s last act of service, of which he was exceedingly proud, was serving as a 2020 Census Taker during the pandemic. He worked in honor of his mother, who served as a Census Taker in 1940, going so far as to commission commemorative t-shirts to recognize their civic bond.

Jim was also preceded in death by his parents, James and Willie Catherine; paternal grandparents, Jacob H. McCullers and Georgianna K. Cain; and his maternal grandparents, James “J.W.” Yeargin and Leah Lindsay Thorpe Bunn Yeargin. Mother-in-Law, Willie Mae Mickle; father-in-law, Edward D. Sarner; three brothers-in-law, Amaker C. Mickle and Daniel and Matthew Sarner; first wife, Margaret Odell Caution; and one of his dearest friends, Norman Henderson.

Jim leaves a legacy of love and cherished memories to his dedicated, loving and devoted wife and soulmate of 21 wonderful years, Randy Sarner of the home; two loving daughters, Michelle Lanier (Dr. Thomas R. Easley) of Raleigh, NC; Leah Celeste McCullers, her mother Carketa M. Hampton, Hopkins, SC; caring stepchildren Samuel A. (Gretchen) Lutz, Pittsburgh, PA and Jennifer E. Lutz of Barcelona, Spain; two granddaughters, Eden Segbefia, Durham, NC, Royah Kalise McCullers, Hopkins, SC; his loving

mother-in-law, Audrey P. Sarnier, New York; his loving sister, Katherine (Javier) Acosta; Brother Ronald (Alouisa) McCullers, both of Henderson, NV; brother Dewitt (Jo) Hunter of Philadelphia, PA; best friends Travis Broxton and Guy Seeney; a host of loving nieces, nephews, cousins, other relatives, dear friends; and beloved Chinese Shar-Pei, Sofie Sarnier, all of whom will miss his presence, but celebrate his full and extraordinary life!

Previous Events

Visitation

APR 2. 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM (ET)

Griffith Funeral Home, Inc.
5636 Brownsville Road
Pittsburgh, PA 15236
(412) 655-4600
<https://www.griffithfh.com>

Service

APR 2. 2:00 PM (ET)

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Tribute Wall

RS

“ I just recently learned of Jim's passing. I am sorry for your loss. Jim and I were classmates at Lincoln University, PA. I remember him as gently spirited and kind. I imagine life with Jim was a precious gift. Peace.

Robert O. Smith, LU ('71) 7T1

Robert O. Smith - September 04, 2021 at 09:51 AM

ML

Robert, I know this is two years later, but we are so incredibly grateful for your witness of Jim's (Dad's) light. With Love, Michelle

Michelle Lanier - September 23, 2023 at 09:10 AM

VT

“ Jimmy was a good friend from way back. We lived in the same town and graduated from Yeadon High together. We reconnected a couple of years ago and had many interesting conversations, catching up with our lives and reminiscing about the past! Jim was a very compassionate, smart, funny caring friend and I will miss our conversations! Rest in peace sweet Jim!

Vicki Thomas - April 22, 2021 at 01:16 PM

ML

Thank you for holding up Dad's light and memory.

Michelle Lanier - September 23, 2023 at 09:11 AM

 Larry Jackson

“ One always believes that they can always call again tomorrow. That's exactly what was on my mind the last time, a couple months ago, I thought I would do. James and I went to school together, graduated high school together, live on the same block, then went to search the world together. With both of us sharing a love of cars, we always had something in common. I am so sorry as well as surprised by his death. My condolences to Cathy and Ronald (a brother from another mother), as well as Jim's own personal wife and children. Larry A Jackson

Larry Jackson - April 20, 2021 at 09:31 AM

ML

Thank you, Larry for your kind words and beautiful memories. I'm sure Dad's smiling knowing how loved he is. 🙏

Michelle Lanier - September 23, 2023 at 09:12 AM

KA

“ Jim, who I called "Junior" in earlier years was my big brother whom I considered a role model. As I looked to learn from his life experiences, I watched him grow through marriage, having a beautiful family and continually educating himself to provide love and support to all those under his care.

I will miss our conversations as there was so much more to be shared between us.

Jim, I will miss you. Rest in peace.

Your loving sister, Kathy

Katherine Acosta - April 03, 2021 at 09:23 PM

ML

We love you, Aunt Kathy. 💕💕

Michelle Lanier - September 23, 2023 at 09:13 AM

NM

“ *Rest in peace Uncle Jim. I will always keep you in my heart.*

*Love,
Your God child and niece, Natalie*

Natalie McCullers - April 02, 2021 at 10:59 PM

ML

Natalie, Thank you for your beautiful message. Love, Shelly

Michelle Lanier - September 23, 2023 at 09:14 AM

NM

“ *Natalie McCullers lit a candle in memory of
James Herbert McCullers Jr.*



Natalie McCullers - April 02, 2021 at 10:55 PM

RM

“ Jim was my only brother. I enjoyed our long hours of conversations on the phone - the memories when we were young kids; our parents and their siblings; the neighbors we played with in Yeadon, PA.

We were both proud of our, and my sister's, accomplishments in life. The memories we shared will always be remembered. I will miss you so much. You will never be forgotten, my dear brother. Rest in peace.

Love,
Ron

Ronald McCullers - April 02, 2021 at 08:19 PM



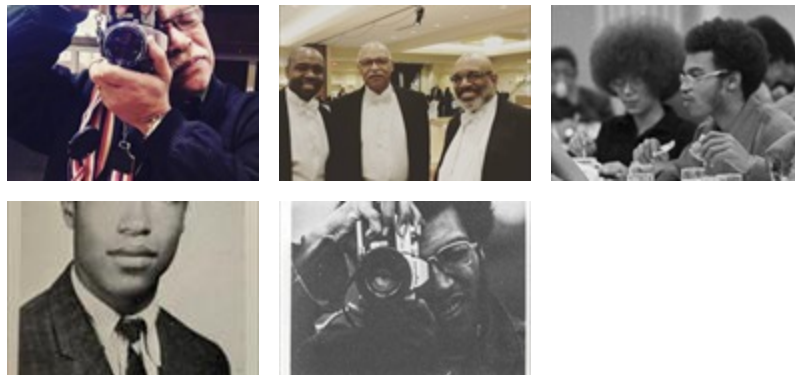
“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of James Herbert McCullers Jr..



April 02, 2021 at 10:51 AM



“ 15 files added to the album Memories Album



Will Griffith - April 02, 2021 at 09:26 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of James Herbert McCullers Jr..*



April 02, 2021 at 08:31 AM



“ *Jimmy was my brother and friend for well over fifty years. His family visits, his wonderful full laugh, the stories, and memories will be so missed. May he rest in peace.*

Cheryl Caution-Parker and Nathaniel Parker

Cheryl Caution - Parker - April 02, 2021 at 08:27 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of James Herbert McCullers Jr..*



April 01, 2021 at 07:50 PM



“ *Deborah Maxwell lit a candle in memory of James Herbert McCullers Jr.*



Deborah Maxwell - April 01, 2021 at 06:11 PM



“ Beautiful Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of James Herbert McCullers Jr..



April 01, 2021 at 04:48 PM



“ Alexa Dilworth purchased the Love's Journey for the family of James Herbert McCullers Jr..



Alexa Dilworth - April 01, 2021 at 04:31 PM



“ Medium Dish Garden was purchased for the family of James Herbert McCullers Jr..



April 01, 2021 at 04:23 PM



“ Guy Seeney lit a candle in memory of James Herbert McCullers Jr.



Guy Seeney - April 01, 2021 at 04:04 PM

CC

“ Cheryl Caution-Parker lit a candle in memory of James Herbert McCullers Jr.



Cheryl Caution-Parker - April 01, 2021 at 03:53 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of James Herbert McCullers Jr..



April 01, 2021 at 03:47 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of James Herbert McCullers Jr..



April 01, 2021 at 03:15 PM

TT

“ The Easley Family: Thomas W, Marion, Takia purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of James Herbert McCullers Jr..



The Easley Family: Thomas W, Marion, Takia - April 01, 2021 at 03:14 PM

JM

“ *Randy and Family*
So sorry to hear about your loss my thoughts and prayers are with you and your family. take care Julia from Head Start .



Julia McNearney - April 01, 2021 at 02:44 PM

GC

“ *Gullah Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of James Herbert McCullers Jr..*



Gullah Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor - April 01, 2021 at 02:08 PM

KF

“ *Kathy & Ron, and families purchased the Sacred Garden Spray for the family of James Herbert McCullers Jr..*



Kathy & Ron, and families - April 01, 2021 at 01:22 PM

GRIFFITH
FUNERAL HOME, INC.

“ *1 file added to the album Memories Album*



Will Griffith - April 01, 2021 at 12:45 PM

GP

“ Grace Pe and family from Philippines purchased the Rainbow Reflections Basket for the family of James Herbert McCullers Jr..



Grace Pe and family from Philippines - April 01, 2021 at 11:54 AM

TB

“ Travis Broxton lit a candle in memory of James Herbert McCullers Jr.



Travis Broxton - April 01, 2021 at 11:14 AM

TB

“ Since meeting at Lincoln University in 1969, no matter how many miles have seperated us over the years, we've been friends ever since. I especially enjoyed our long conversations on all the nerdy stuff we had in common. I am so thankful you asked me to photograph Shelly's wedding, and will always treasure that time spent with you. Rest well my friend!

Travis Broxton - April 01, 2021 at 11:12 AM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of James Herbert McCullers Jr..



March 31, 2021 at 11:34 PM

CF

“ Cherrie & Jason Felisbret sent a virtual gift in memory of James Herbert McCullers Jr.



Cherrie & Jason Felisbret - March 31, 2021 at 09:18 PM

CF

“ Cherrie And Jason Felisbret lit a candle in memory of James Herbert McCullers Jr.



Cherrie and Jason Felisbret - March 31, 2021 at 09:15 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of James Herbert McCullers Jr..



March 31, 2021 at 08:40 PM



“ Strength & Solace Spray was purchased for the family of James Herbert McCullers Jr..



March 31, 2021 at 08:27 PM

GS

“ *Jim was one of my best friends ever. I will miss our long conversations about politics, Formula 1 racing, photography and music as well a ton of other subjects. I miss you my friend and will never forget. R.I.P.*

Guy Seeney

Guy Seeney - March 31, 2021 at 04:05 PM