



James Hezekiah Sledge

November 22, 1942 - June 5, 2022

James H. Sledge passed away peacefully at his home in Haymarket, Virginia on Sunday, June 5, 2022, with his loving wife and family by his side.

Jim was the third child born to Jack and Villa Sledge on November 22, 1942 in Tunica Mississippi. His family moved to Chicago when he was two. During his formative years, Jim attended Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church in Chicago where he expressed his belief in Christ and was baptized. He was educated in the Chicago Public School System; graduating from Dunbar Vocational High School in June, 1961 where he received All City Honors in wrestling and All State Honors in football. In April, 2022, he received a Lifetime Achievement award from Dunbar and his picture was placed on the school's permanent Hall of Fame Wall. This honor recognized his accomplishments as a Dunbar graduate in business administration and touches the future by encouraging other graduates to further their education with a scholarship.

With his outstanding athletic abilities, Jim was recruited by Morgan State College and granted a full football scholarship. Later, he was the first student at Morgan to receive a full wrestling scholarship after winning the CIAA Wrestling Tournament Unlimited. He pledged for Omega Psi Phi Fraternity in 1962 and was very proud of his 60 years of Devotion and Service to the Fraternity. During college, he participated in some of the nation's first student sit-in's and arrests as a civil rights activist. This helped change the trajectory of equal rights and opportunities for minorities living in Baltimore. He was awarded an Honorary Doctor of Laws from Morgan on December 18, 2015 as

one of the school's civil rights pioneers. In 1964, Jim graduated with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Business Administration. He spent most of his career working in the oil industry at Standard Oil of Indiana (AMOCO) and at Mobil Oil Corporation. He was the first minority in the Controllers Division of both companies. He advanced through the corporation and had long term opportunities to work at refineries in California, New York, Texas, Alaska Pipeline, and Zimbabwe Oil in Africa. Jim had a strong passion for family, friends (referred to as an ambassador of friendship), and sports. In later years, became a golf enthusiast.

Jim met Phyllis M. Bell at Morgan, whom he married after graduation. Out of that union were born Carol Anne, James Phillip, and Jeffrey Allen Sledge. Jim was preceded in death by both parents; sisters, Alfreda, Lillian; brother, John; brother's in law, Melvin, Leonard, James and John; nephews, Mark, Michael, Anthony.; niece Latonya. Left to cherish his memory are his loving wife, Phyllis N.; devoted children, Carol Anne, James (Roza), Jeffrey (Grace); their mother, Phyllis M.; grandchildren James Jr., Trinity Mae, Aya, Jeff Jr., Declan, Asher; sister, Frankie; sister's in law, Mary ,Joyce, Priscilla (Larry), Sandy (Ken); brother in law, Charles; nieces Shernita (Brian), Dawn (Sam), Shenitia, Dacia (Joe), Pam (Mike), Kayla (Daniel); Amy (Richard); nephews Melvin Jr., Karl, Brendon, Jeff (Lindsay), Jason, Sean, Marcel, Frank; and a host of great nieces, great nephews, cousins, fraternity brothers, and friends from around the country.

A celebration of Jim's life will take place on Saturday, June 18, at Pierce Funeral Home 9609 Center Street, Manassas, VA 20110. Viewing: 1:30 pm
Service: 2:45 pm

In lieu of flowers, donations in Jim's name may be sent to the Dunbar Alumni Scholarship Foundation, P.O. Box 1934, Calumet City, IL 60409, or via their website: www.DunbarASP.org

Previous Events

Visitation

JUN 18. 1:30 PM - 2:30 PM (ET)

Pierce Funeral Home
9609 Center St.
Manassas, VA 20110
(703) 257-6028
pfh@piercefh.com
<https://www.piercefh.com>

Funeral Service

JUN 18. 2:45 PM (ET)

Pierce Funeral Home
9609 Center St.
Manassas, VA 20110
(703) 257-6028
pfh@piercefh.com
<https://www.piercefh.com>

Tribute Wall



“ *Pierce Funeral Home created a Webcast in memory of James Hezekiah Sledge*



Pierce Funeral Home - June 07, 2022 at 03:41 PM

SH

“ *Wish We Had The Authority To Bring Comfort To Phyllis and Sledge Family In This Time Of Distress And Sorrow At The Loss Of A Legend & Friend Whom We Hope To See Again One Day On The Other Side. We Share In Your Loss. Humphreys*

Stephen Hunphrey - June 18, 2022 at 11:58 AM

CF

“ *CLARKE FAMILY purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of James Hezekiah Sledge.*



CLARKE FAMILY - June 18, 2022 at 11:07 AM

EC

“ Jim was a great friend of Carol and I. We went on three cruises, smoked cigars played golf over the last 20 years. I always considered Jim one of my best friends. Jim will be missed!!! RIP Brother!!!

Ed Cleckner - June 17, 2022 at 11:17 PM



“ Strength & Solace Spray was purchased for the family of James Hezekiah Sledge.



June 16, 2022 at 10:46 PM



“ Large Basket Garden was purchased for the family of James Hezekiah Sledge.



June 15, 2022 at 09:15 PM

RC

“ To Phyllis: We're keeping you and your entire family in our hearts and prayers. May Jim rest in eternal peace. My Bro. Sledge was one of a kind, and he will be truly missed.
With sincere sympathy,
Richard Coward

Richard Coward - June 14, 2022 at 08:03 PM

GN

“ I really enjoyed working with Jim at the golfing Game Improvement Ctr from 2005- 2007. He was a really nice guy.
(Gary L. Norman)

Gary L. Norman - June 13, 2022 at 05:57 PM

OD

“ Oliver and Joanne Dobbins purchased the Basket of Memories for the family of James Hezekiah Sledge.



Oliver and Joanne Dobbins - June 11, 2022 at 04:26 PM



“ Pretty Please was purchased for the family of James Hezekiah Sledge.



June 11, 2022 at 09:49 AM

MR

“ What a Morgan Man! Homecomings will surely miss your presence.
☐💙🐻

Muriel White Roberts - June 09, 2022 at 07:00 AM

DB

Phyllis so sorry for your loss. Hard to believe we lost our husbands 1 day apart. But both are out of their pain and forever with the Lord. Take care, my thoughts & prayers are with you. Love, Debbie

Deborah Bixler - June 11, 2022 at 08:49 AM

OP

“ Dear Phyllis and all of Jim's family, Please know that you are in my thoughts and heart and prayers. I extend my heartfelt sympathy to all of you. I shall miss talking with Jim on the telephone as well as you, Phyllis. Jim, the Omega and I, the Delta had a special bond and I will surely miss our conversations. May God bless and watch over all of you.

Orchid Peal - June 08, 2022 at 07:06 PM



“ Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of James Hezekiah Sledge.



June 08, 2022 at 05:02 PM