



James Adam Lee

August 8, 1936 - October 22, 2025

James “Jim, Jimmy” Adam Lee was born on August 8, 1936, in Searcy, Arkansas to Ethel Miller and Mack Lee. He and his older brother, Wade, moved to Detroit, Michigan area when Jim was about 6.

Jim graduated from Chadsey High School in 1954 and attended Lawrence Technological University. He began his career as a driver for Nabisco. Jim was known for his deliveries of day old baked goods to people who were down on their luck.

After leaving Nabisco, James began making custom automotive seat covers. His expertise got him hired into General Motors as the 2nd Black person in the Buick/Cadillac Design Studio. James retired in 1995, with the distinction of being the 1st Black person to be promoted to a management position in his General Motors Design Studio. He continued his love for cars and went to the Detroit Auto Show every year, where he always made sure to sit in every single vehicle.

James married Eloise Maxine Cochran in 1955. To this 18-year union, 4 sons were born.

James married Faustine Brown. He had 2 bonus children from this marriage which lasted a few years.

In 1999, he met Virginia “Ginger” Berry. They were married less than 12 weeks later. Through this union he gained 3 “bonus” children. Ginger and Jim were married almost 26 years at the time of his death.

Jim loved going to movies. Pre-pandemic he would go at least once a week.

He enjoyed playing cards, golfing and bowling. He was one of the lucky few (or shall we say “skilled enough”) to achieve an elusive “300” point game. Jim began attending Kensington Community Church in Troy, Michigan in 2005. He was delighted when they opened a closer location in Beverly Hills, Michigan. Because of his infectious smile and great handshake, he was asked to be an usher/greeter! A position he accepted and faithfully served in for a long time!

Jim could often be found supporting his home team, the Detroit Lions. He and his son, Tim, were season ticket holders for many years. They enjoyed going to the games together at both the Silverdome and Ford field.

Jim delighted in the lives of all of his children; grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. He loved their visits, phone calls, going to see them in plays, concerts, sporting events, and many other activities!

James Adam Lee departed this life on Wednesday, October 22, 2025, after a long journey with Parkinson’s Disease. He was preceded in death by his parents, Ethel Walls and Mack Lee, brother, Wade Lee, and his son, Kevin Earl Lee. He leaves to cherish his memory his devoted wife, Virginia Berry-Lee, Sons; Wyatt (Loretta) Lee, Alex (Soraida) Lee, Timothy (Regina) Lee, John Berry IV and Lindley (Shantell) Berry, daughter; Pamela (Lyndon) Williams, his grandchildren, Venessa (Larry) Edwards, Alex Lee, Jr., Dejohn (Derasha), John Berry V, Nicholas Lee, Brianna Williams, Kevin Lee, River Williams, Carver Berry, Leo Williams, Ellis Berry, and Mylinn Berry; great-grandchildren: Celena, Mariah, Larell, Jaya, Velencia, Victoria, Deaira, Dejohn, Jr., and Dashawn; and special friends – Curtis and Dianna Bryant, Dexter and Dana Gatson, LeeRoy and Carleen Brookins, Chuck and Dorothy Mitchell, Sym Henderson and a host of other relatives and friends.

Appreciation

The family wishes to thank everyone who responded by prayer, other ways of caring and support at this time of our great loss!

Memorial contributions may be made to: Kirk Gipson Foundation for
Parkinson's
31440 Northwestern Hwy. Ste 185
Farmington Hills, Michigan 48334

Previous Events

Visitation

OCT **28**. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Kemp Funeral Home & Cremation Services
24585 Evergreen Rd
Southfield, MI 48075
(248) 702-5367
info@kempfh.com
<https://www.kempfuneralhome.com>

Family Hour

OCT **29**. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Kensington Church
1825 E Square Lake Campus
Troy, MI 48085

Funeral

OCT **29**. 11:00 AM (ET)

Kensington Church
1825 E Square Lake Campus
Troy, MI 48085

Tribute Wall

JM

“ Jackson Family (Dwayne, Gina and Marley) purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of James Adam Lee.



Jackson Family (Dwayne, Gina and Marley) - October 28, 2025 at 04:00 PM

DJ

“ Dustin, Mariah, Paris, Elliott & Jacob purchased the Florist Choice Bouquet for the family of James Adam Lee.



Dustin, Mariah, Paris, Elliott & Jacob - October 28, 2025 at 11:42 AM

JH

“ Jessica H. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of James Adam Lee.

Jessica H. - October 28, 2025 at 08:51 AM

JH

“ Jessica H. purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of James Adam Lee.



Jessica H. - October 28, 2025 at 08:51 AM



“ *Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of James Adam Lee.*



October 28, 2025 at 08:30 AM



“ *Brian Robinson and Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of James Adam Lee.*

Brian Robinson and Family - October 28, 2025 at 06:38 AM



“ *Joyful Memory was purchased for the family of James Adam Lee.*



October 28, 2025 at 06:38 AM



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of James Adam Lee.*



October 27, 2025 at 05:11 PM

SF

“ *SAY Detroit Family Health Clinic Family purchased the Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet for the family of James Adam Lee.*



SAY Detroit Family Health Clinic Family - October 27, 2025 at 04:55 PM

SM

“ *Shelley M. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of James Adam Lee.*

Shelley M. - October 27, 2025 at 11:11 AM