



# MR. JAMES EDWARD LEE

NOV 10, 1951 - APR 19, 2020



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**CLORA**   
FUNERAL HOME  
*"Where the difference is Major"*

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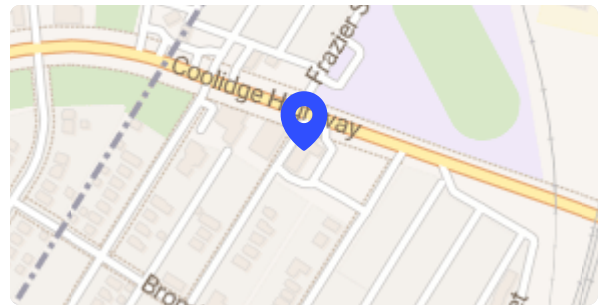


### FAMILY HOUR

 **Saturday**, May 2, 2020


 9:30 AM ET


 **Clora Funeral Home (River Rouge)**  
1789 Coolidge Hwy., River Rouge MI 48218

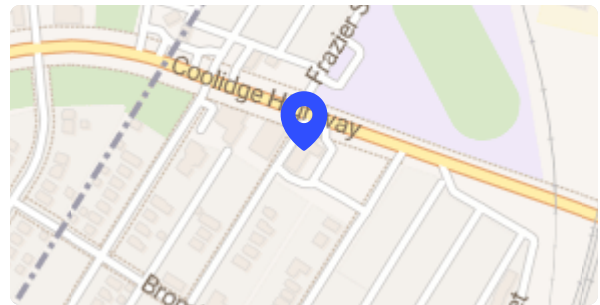


### CELEBRATION OF LIFE SERVICE


 **Saturday**, May 2, 2020

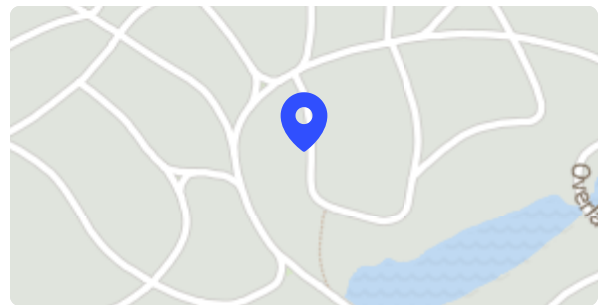
 10:00 AM ET

 **Clora Funeral Home (River Rouge)**  
1789 Coolidge Hwy., River Rouge MI 48218



### Cemetery Details

 **HISTORIC WOODLAWN CEMETERY**  
1502 CENTRAL AVE., TOLEDO OH 43601





## Tribute Wall

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GJ

**Gwendolyn E. March Jones** posted:

May your heart find comfort knowing that your love is at home with the Lord Love Gwendolyn E. March Jones & Family in Toledo, Ohio

May 24 at 4:20 AM

SD

**Stephanie Durussel** posted:

Mr. James E. Lee as he "Paused, Part, Punched" his name to the Winning Futures family will be greatly missed. He always greeted me with a hug and a kiss and always so dapper. His leadership in Winning Futures and in his community is testament to the type of man he was. He was charismatic and exuberant and his loss is a devastating one. I will remember the day when he got his Cadillac! He drove it on the lot of the high school and gave me a tour of his new car. I don't think I have ever been that excited as an adult about anything. I can only hope to continue his legacy of giving back and passion for the little things. I will miss you my friend. To Mr. Lee's son and grandson - he talked about you both all the time. I think some of his most happiest memories was spending time with you these past few years and rekindling your relationship. I am deeply sorry for your loss. ~Stephanie DuRussel, Winning Futures Mentor

May 6 at 9:49 AM

DB

**Davaughnu Banks** posted:

I only met James this year through the Winning Futures program but had the pleasure of sitting at a table with him during a Winning Futures Mentor meeting and meal. He shared his wisdom and experience in the program but also provided sound advice to me as the first-year mentor to stay engaged with them. I could tell after observing his interaction with his students in sessions, that he was fully invested in the program and had intently developed relationships with them. We talked a little basketball as well and had a couple more engagements that always left me with the feeling of a father-figure. Even though it was momentary he was impactful in the little interactions we had and I am thankful for that, there is a respect and admiration that I encountered with him. God bless and prayers to the Lee family and his extended family and close friends. May the peace and comfort be with you during this time. Sincerely Davaughnu Banks

May 6 at 5:58 AM



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CK

**Cindy Kluz** posted:

I was very fortunate to work with James for several years through Winning Futures. James always came in with a smile on his face and positive words to say about everything and everyone. Most days he would come early which gave us all time to talk outside of classroom sessions. I learned a lot about James through this time and it made me realize even more how involved he was with students and the community outside of Winning Futures. He was a wonderful person with a great heart. He will be truly missed.

May 5 at 8:03 AM

DB

**David Blocker** posted:

Mr James Lee was always positive. Always smiling. We worked together for a few years at Infinity Mortgage in Southfield. Mr Lee was always dressed to impress, great role model to all. Mr Lee will be truly missed . Prayers to the family. RIH

May 5 at 12:22 AM

CW

**Carla Wellborn** posted:

James E. Lee was an amazing man. He served as a mentor with Winning Futures for 6 years and impacted the lives of so many young people. He was the kind of volunteer who went above and beyond for his kids and to support our organization. I will miss his presence in our classrooms. He was truly one of a kind and was loved by all of us.

May 4 at 1:09 PM



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JT

**Jereal A. Thomas** posted:

I hated that the pandemic crisis was what parted us from one another. I was angry with God for taking you away from me, but I know you're in a better place now. I remember meeting you for the first time, knowing you as Bro. James Lee, my vacation bible school teacher. Over that short week, we began a bond that I never expected. We had so many things in common and for the first time in a while, I had felt that I met someone who fully understood me. Over 3 short years, you became more than just my vacation bible school teacher. You became a mentor to me, a teacher, a motivator, a friend. You were one of the few men on this Earth that I respected, and for my parents to hold that same respect for you speaks so many volumes. You were one of the few people in this world that I could talk about my mental health with, without being judged or being called weak or soft. All the phone calls, all the times we went out to breakfast, all the times we coached the church basketball team together, it meant so much to me knowing that there was a man in my life whose relationship with me didn't stem from my father. I remember the day I was surprised at church when you were installed as Deacon James Lee. I'll miss you, but I'll never forget how amazing of a person you were. You loved youth and were always looking to help others. You were one of the most optimistic and kind people I've ever met, but you were also real. You had no problem telling others the truth, and it always stood out to me. Whether as a vacation bible school teacher, a deacon, a basketball coach, a counselor in teen ministry, a church greeter, a mentor, or a friend, you were always there for me from the moment we met, and I'll never forget that. Rest in Paradise Deacon James Edward Lee. Gone, but Never Forgotten. ❤️🙏

May 3 at 7:08 AM

AB

**Ann Baxter** posted:

To Mable Gray & Family No words can express the pain that you all are going through with the passing of James. I am sending you my Love and Prayers with the hope that you are able to find peace during this difficult time.

May 2 at 5:54 AM

AT

**Angela Gray Thomas** posted:

Deacon James Lee was a proud deacon, greeter and counselor to our youth. He was so full of joy, optimism, an encouragement. I served as a counselor with him on Macedonia Baptist Church's Teen Council. He poured a lot of himself into our youth, even my own son. Thank you for your patience and the seeds you planted in our youth. Your legacy will live on because those seeds will sprout and grow. Deacon James Lee will be missed.

May 2 at 5:49 AM



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RD

**Rev. & Mrs. Ronald Davis** posted:

Our heart-felt sympathy to the Lee family. We ache with you. We pray for you. ~ Rev. & Mrs. Ronald Davis ~

May 2 at 4:01 AM

OA

**Olaoluwa Atokileso** posted:

It was a rude shock when I read the email announcing Mr Lee's passing to glory. I was privileged to have met him last Fall at the Southfield Winning Futures Mentoring Program. He was as much a mentor to me as he was to his mentees. As a first time mentor, James Lee will check up with me to know how I was doing with my mentees. He will share his notes with me on how he engages his students. He brought so much energy to the program that he became a model for a lot of us. His Legacy will forever be reminded and he will be greatly missed. Laolu Atokileso- Winning Futures Mentor

May 1 at 4:09 PM

GB

**Gerard Baltrusaitis** posted:

Fortunately, I had the privilege of meeting James this past fall at the Southfield A&T Winning Futures Program. Although we were colleagues for a short time, it was truly an honor to have been associated with him. James was an upbeat, enthusiastic individual that mirrored the characteristics that we aspire to – unwavering integrity, fervent optimism and a true heartfelt concern for his mentees. With James passing, a great void is left not only for his mentees, the Winning Futures program, but also in the life of all he touched. God's Blessings, Gerard Baltrusaitis – Winning Futures Mentor

May 1 at 12:22 PM



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KM

**Kristina Marshall** posted:

James was a transformative servant in his community and positively influenced the lives of many young men through serving as a coach, volunteering at his community center, and mentoring through Winning Futures. Since 2014, James has made a life-changing impact on the 19 boys he mentored through Winning Futures and inspired all of us with his positive attitude and enthusiasm. James went above and beyond what was expected of him. In addition to mentoring students, James also coached new mentors as they tried to establish strong relationships with their mentees. He was the first to volunteer to fill in when other mentors had to be absent and help out at events when we needed it. James was a real-life superhero, and we were honored to present James with the 2016 Mentor of the Year Award. His mentees shared: "The reason my mentor should be mentor of the year is because he's earned my trust. James E. Lee is a person who keeps their promise no matter what. He promised me he would come to all the wrestling meets he could make it to, and he kept the promise. James E. Lee is a second grandpa." "Mr. Lee cares about us personally and shows he wants us to be on the right track for a good future." "He understands people and really tries his best to do right for them. He is trying his best to see that I succeed in my dreams and passions." "I wouldn't have even passed my class if it wasn't for him. Mr. Lee is the reason I'm graduating from high school because he never lowered his expectations of me." James genuinely made this world a better place and brought hope to all of us. Kris Marshall, Winning Futures

May 1 at 10:58 AM

AH

**Ashe-Leigh Hardy** posted:

I had the honor of serving as a mentor with James in Winning Futures. He was always a pleasure to be around and was truly invested in the lives and well being of his mentees. Always smiling and always genuinely interested in the lives of others. He always had good news to share, especially about his children and grand children. He was a great man and will be truly missed. His family and friends are in my thoughts and prayers.

May 1 at 10:52 AM



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**Rob Otto** shared a photo to the **Tribute Wall** album.



James was a volunteer mentor with us at Winning Futures, helping a number of young men in the Detroit area learn life skills and put together a plan for their future. It was my pleasure to be his Program Facilitator for a number of years, including when he was selected as our Mentor of the Year in 2016. James was one of the most dedicated volunteers we had in the seven years he worked with us. His desire to see his mentees succeed was second to none, and he always went the extra mile. As he was in every aspect of his life, James was early to every session we ever had, which means I got a lot of extra time to bond and get to know him. I was floored when I heard about his passing. We have lost a truly dedicated man that always worked to make everyone's life better. I will miss him, as will the world. Farewell, friend.~ Rob Otto, Winning Futures

May 1 at 9:07 AM



**Gary Smith** May 1 at 9:56 AM

James and I attended the same elementary school in Toledo. We've known each other for a very long time. I will miss his spontaneous smile and the energy he always brought no matter what. Most of all I will miss his reply whenever I would ask him, "how you doing Bro?" His answer..."I can't call it, I might spoil it." - Rest in peace my friend.



**Anonymous** sent a Beautiful in Blue to the LEE family.



May 1 at 8:04 AM



**Harriett Reid** lit a candle in honor of JAMES.

Harriett Reid and Family.



April 30 at 11:15 PM



**Glendorah Lawrence** lit a candle in honor of JAMES.



April 30 at 12:44 PM



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**Anonymous** sent a Peaceful White Lilies Basket to the LEE family.



April 30 at 10:29 AM



**Rob Otto** shared a photo to the **Tribute Wall** album.

May 1 at 9:07 AM



James with his mentees at Mumford High - March, 2019



## **Memories only last if you share them**

Join us in honoring JAMES by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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