



## James L. Jones

December 9, 1930 - July 2, 2024

James L. “Jimmy “Jones was born on December 9, 1930, in Fernandina Beach, Florida, the youngest child of the late John and Ethel Jones. He graduated from Peck High School in 1948. That fall he enrolled at Bethune Cookman University, Daytona Beach, Florida.

His studies were interrupted at college when in 1950 he enlisted in the United States Army. A veteran of the “Korean Conflict” he served as a cryptographer technician. He was on duty when the decision by President Truman to replace General McArthur with General Ridgeway as allied commander came across the teletype. It was the G.I. Bill that allowed him to continue his studies at Bethune-Cookman University, for which he was eternally grateful. He graduated from Bethune-Cookman University in 1956 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Mathematics, and from that day until he was well into his 80’s has endeavored to fulfill and perpetuate the mandate of his beloved founder, Dr. Mary McLeod Bethune, “Enter to learn; Departed to serve”.

James began his professional career as an educator with Broward County School Board under the leadership of the esteemed Mrs. Blanche Ely. During his time at Blanche Ely, his growth was immense. He chaired the mathematics department, served as student council advisor, faculty chairperson, officer of the assistant administrative council and became Teacher of the Year. He stated that the 12 years at Blanche Ely shaped his education philosophy in

subsequent leadership positions.

While at Blanche Ely he earned a Master of Education degree in Guidance and Counseling from Florida Atlantic University in Boca Raton, Florida. In 1969, he became the Guidance Director at Everglades Middle School, and in the very next year he was appointed as the Dean of Boys at Plantation High School. In 1973, he accepted the position of Assistant Principal at Pompano Beach High School, remaining in that capacity until 1980. In the same year, he was named principal of Ely High School (which was the name given when the school reopened), retiring in 1992. He was the longest tenure principal at Blanche Ely, exceeded only by the school's founder Mrs. Blanche Ely.

In those 12 years, he supervised the infusion of students from Pompano Beach High School, helped develop and implement Ely's magnet program, increased academic and athletic scholarships, and was honored to have the school auditorium named after him. After retiring, he established the James L. Jones Scholarship and awarded over 30 scholarships to deserving students. Recognized in 2009 as Pompano Beach's Citizen of the Year by the City Commission, he served the city in numerous capacities: Pompano Beach Chapter Review Board (13 years), Educational Advisory Committee (8 years), Chairperson Pompano Beach CRA (15 years), Pompano Police and Firefighters Pension Board (6 years), Chairperson Broward County Chapter Review Commission (1995-1996), and Professional Standards Board for the Broward County Sheriff's Department (5 years). When he turned 80, he made up his mind to be supportive, but no longer take leadership roles. He said that "young people need to take over. We've trained many capable men and women who are doing a good job in the church, community, and the city. The changes in this city are phenomenal. We've moved from farming to a metropolitan city. I have stayed in my first neighborhood by choice because I have spent most of my rewarding and fulfilling adult life here and have stayed to give back. The people I have had the opportunity to work with, mainly the

students, have grown and many are now fine contributing neighbors and residents giving their time and talents as we did. I have enjoyed being a role model to these young people and in turn I believe I have impacted their lives in a positive way. I know they have had a positive influence in my life”.

He is a member of Ely High's Hall of Fame and was named a Broward County Pioneer. He was a member of Antioch Baptist Church where he served faithfully, until his health declined, as a Deacon, Trustee Board Member and Financial Director. He is also a founding member of the Pompano Beach Kiwanis Club, and the Tiger Roar Club. He is the last of four founding members of Eta Nu Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., Pompano Beach of which he was a member for over 70 years.

His favorite sayings were “Can a mule sing opera” and “Never let what you can't do stop you from doing what you can”.

He is loved very much by his surviving wife of 66 years, Thelma, and their daughter Angella (Alfred Vann) of West Palm Beach, Florida. He is also survived by one granddaughter, I'kita Vann and one great grandson, Aden Hinsey and great granddaughter, Zorah Whitfield all from West Palm Beach, Florida. A host of sorrowful nephews, nieces, and cousins. Special friends/sons Larry Levette, Albert Hill and Woodrow Poitier. He was preceded in death by his mother and father as well as two brothers and two sisters.

# Cemetery Details

## Forest Lawn North Cemetery

200 W Copans Rd  
Pompano Beach, FL 33064

# Previous Events

## Visitation

JUL 12. 5:00 PM - 8:30 PM (ET)

Blanche Ely James L. Jones Auditorium  
1201 NW 6th Ave.  
Pompano Beach, FL 33060

## Service

JUL 13. 9:00 AM (ET)

Blanche Ely James L. Jones Auditorium  
1201 NW 6th Ave.  
Pompano Beach, FL 33060

# Tribute Wall

RK

“ *The ever so present to all the black students and residents of Pompano is Mr. James Jones legacy. He has made a memorable and appreciative contribution to everyone who knew him and to welfare of the community.*

Reginald Knight - July 07, 2025 at 10:19 PM

DF

“ *No words can express how much I loved what Mr. Jones has contributed to the young people he has influenced. We have lost a great leader, one who recognized, our youth must begin to lead, and take their place in the community and the world. You will be greatly missed. My deepest condolences to the Jones Family.*



Donald and Lillian Fields - July 13, 2024 at 12:01 PM

AN

“ *1 file added to the tribute wall*



Anonymous - July 12, 2024 at 07:22 PM



“ 42 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



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**L.C. Poitier Funeral Home** - July 12, 2024 at 01:39 PM

JD

“ *James And Barbara Daniels lit a candle in memory of James L. Jones*



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**James and Barbara Daniels** - July 11, 2024 at 08:17 PM

CM

“ *Cathryn Martin lit a candle in memory of James L. Jones*



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**Cathryn Martin** - July 11, 2024 at 08:16 PM

RM

“ Rosa Morrison-McFarlin lit a candle in memory of James L. Jones



Rosa Morrison-McFarlin - July 11, 2024 at 04:58 PM

EL

“ Eta Nu, the 2021 line purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of James L. Jones.



Eta Nu, the 2021 line - July 11, 2024 at 03:19 PM

EL

“ Eta Nu, the 2021 line planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of James L. Jones.

Eta Nu, the 2021 line - July 11, 2024 at 03:19 PM



“ Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of James L. Jones.



July 11, 2024 at 02:00 PM

FF

“ From your Work Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of James L. Jones.

From your Work Family - July 11, 2024 at 02:00 PM



“ 43 files added to the album Memories Album



L.C. Poitier Funeral Home - July 10, 2024 at 11:00 AM



“ Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of James L. Jones.



July 10, 2024 at 10:21 AM

YC

“ Your Friend, Cynthia lit a candle in memory of James L. Jones



Your friend, Cynthia - July 09, 2024 at 03:30 PM

R1

“ Rodney L. Wright Class Of 1983 lit a candle  
in memory of James L. Jones



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Rodney L. Wright Class of 1983 - July 07, 2024 at 10:45 PM

R1

“ Mr. James L. Jones has been a constant in  
my family for nearly 70 years. Mr. Jones was  
my mother's (Melba Blue) 7th-grade math  
teacher, his wife was my 3rd-grade teacher at  
Cresthaven Elementary and he was my high  
school principal where I served in the Marching Tiger Band with his  
daughter Angella, he was my deacon at The Greater Antioch  
Missionary Baptist Church for many years. No one had more of an  
impact on this community than Mr. Jones. At our high school  
graduation in 1983, he reminded us that there were three types of  
people in this world. Some people make things happen, some watch  
things happen, and others wonder what happened! Those words  
never left me. I will never forget the impact he had on my life. Sir,  
your race here on Earth is complete and your rest is well-earned, I  
hope to see you on the other side!



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Rodney L. Wright Class of 1983 - July 07, 2024 at 10:44 PM

TM

“ Our condolences to the family. "Jimmy" Jones, cousin to the late Cherian Mitchell Cooper, our mother. Jimmy would stop by and check on us during our mother's illness and after her passing. He planted seeds of kindness and commitment to family, his fraternity and community. The memory of his time on this earth will linger for many years. Rest in peace cousin Jimmy.



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**Trivel C McKire** - July 07, 2024 at 12:15 AM

KI

“ My deepest condolences to the family.

*Kimberly (Wilson) Anderson Ely c/o 1990*



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**Kimberly** - July 06, 2024 at 07:17 PM

DM

“ Daniel & Karen Miller lit a candle in honor of Mr. James L. Jones our former Principal and educator. Mr. Jones's footprint will forever be a reminder that change is possible to those who believe it. To his loving wife and daughter (Angella) may the peace of God be with you during this time of bereavement.

*EHS c/o 82*



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**Daniel Miller** - July 05, 2024 at 07:56 AM

TF

“ *The Russell Family lit a candle in memory of James L. Jones*



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**The Russell Family** - July 05, 2024 at 03:02 AM

CJ

“ *Carlton & Kathy Jackson lit a candle in memory of James L. Jones*



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**Carlton & Kathy Jackson** - July 04, 2024 at 01:23 PM

DM

“ *Dr. Tony Johnson and Ms. Kim Mitchell purchased the Lavender Reflections Spray for the family of James L. Jones.*



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**Dr. Tony Johnson and Ms. Kim Mitchell** - July 03, 2024 at 11:16 PM

DM

“ *Dr. Tony Johnson and Ms. Kim Mitchell planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of James L. Jones.*

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**Dr. Tony Johnson and Ms. Kim Mitchell** - July 03, 2024 at 11:16 PM

OH

“ *My heartfelt condolences and sympathies to the family! Sleep well Mr. Jones! BEHS Alumna, c/o 1985*



**OLA HANDY** - July 03, 2024 at 09:44 PM

ZF

“ *Zack & Henri Crockett Family purchased the Lavender Reflections Spray for the family of James L. Jones.*



**Zack & Henri Crockett Family** - July 03, 2024 at 02:39 PM

ZF

“ *Zack & Henri Crockett Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of James L. Jones.*

**Zack & Henri Crockett Family** - July 03, 2024 at 02:39 PM



“ *My condolences to the family, and may the Lord bless, comfort, and strengthen you all during this time.*



**Barbara Jackson-Davis** - July 03, 2024 at 01:19 PM

KH

“ Rest easy, Mr. Jones.  
Kerensa (Hardy) Houston, Class of 1992

Kerensa Houston - July 03, 2024 at 10:09 AM

EL

“ Eddie J Lamar lit a candle in memory of  
James L. Jones



Eddie j Lamar - July 03, 2024 at 08:16 AM

EL

I've been knowing Mr James L. Jones for many years, he taught me in high school he's my fraternity brother and he's a dedicated Christian and educator. Rest in peace my brother!

Eddie j Lamar - July 03, 2024 at 08:20 AM

JN

“ Mr. Jones was present, active and involved in our overall academic and social development. May his memory be eternal.

Janet Norwood - July 03, 2024 at 12:33 AM

SN

“ He was an excellent principal. He loved the students and respected the teachers. He was always walking around watching over us.  
Stephanie Nagel

Stephanie Nagel - July 02, 2024 at 11:25 PM

DF

“ Condolences to the Jones family. May God continue to embrace your love ones in his arms.

Darick Fortune - July 02, 2024 at 11:19 PM

ST

“ Celebration of having lived a full life. See you in the whirlwind.

Stan - July 02, 2024 at 10:45 PM

BS

“ To the Family and Friends of Mr. James Jones,  
I would like to extend my condolences to the family of Mr. Jones. He and his wife were both educators who touched the lives of so many students including me.

As well as being a tireless advocate for students, Mr. Jones was a longtime member of the Greater Antioch Missionary Baptist Church. His support and dedication to Antioch was strong and sincere. Thank you Mr. Jones. You have left hundreds of former students and faculty members to continue your legacy of only doing a job if you are going to do it well. The example of service you gave to Antioch will be a goal current and future Trustees can follow.  
Servant of God, WELL DONE.



Brenda K. Scott - July 02, 2024 at 10:38 PM

WJ

“ Prayers and condolences are with the Jones Family. Rest in Heaven Mr Jones. #72



Wilbert Jones - July 02, 2024 at 01:49 PM

CG

“ *Sincere Condolences to the Legendary James L. Jones family (principle)*

*Carese Griffin-Gates C/O 1989*

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**Carese Griffin-Gates** - July 02, 2024 at 01:37 PM

PO

“ *1 file added to the tribute wall*



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**Poitier** - July 02, 2024 at 12:32 PM

EL

*With deepest sympathy hoping that you find peace from the Lamar family!*

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**Eddie j Lamar** - July 02, 2024 at 06:29 PM

KW

“ *As an officer of the Final Class Mr James L Jones graduated before he retired in 1992, we send the family our prayers and our heartfelt condolences. He inspired generations of Tigers. He was my fathers math teacher and my principal. Rest Easy now,.. Kimberley (Lawson) Washington, '92*

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**Kimberley Washington** - July 02, 2024 at 10:51 AM

MB

“ *The GREATEST principal Ely High School ever had other than Mrs. Ely herself!  
A educator from the community that never left the community!  
Michael Brooks, class of 1988*

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**Michael Brooks** - July 02, 2024 at 10:35 AM

ML

“ *Thank you for being a very connected and caring Principal. The great Kings like you are a memory if the past. Sail on in peace. You will be missed. Michael Littlejohn. Ely C/O 1995.*

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**Michael Littlejohn** - July 02, 2024 at 07:46 AM

PO

“ *1 file added to the tribute wall*



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**Poitier** - July 02, 2024 at 04:41 AM