



# The Order of Service

PRELUDE

PROCESSIONAL..... Clergy and Family

PRAYER OF COMFORT.....Dr. Anthony W. Hurst, Sr.

MUSICAL SELECTION.....Pastor James Scott

SCRIPTURE READING:

Old Testament - Psalm 23 .....LaTrice Elliott and Millicent Pogue

New Testament - John 14:1-6..... Debbie Elliott Anderson

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF CONDOLENCES

AND RESOLUTIONS..... Phyllis A. Madison

OBITUARY ..... Edith A. Roscoe

REFLECTIONS (two minutes, please)..... Family and Friends

EULOGY.....Dr. Anthony W. Hurst, Sr.

BENEDICTION.....Dr. Anthony W. Hurst, Sr.

RECESSIONAL..... Clergy and Family



Interment

MOUNT LAWN CEMETERY

84th Street & Hook Road | Sharon Hill, Pennsylvania 19079

## WHEN TOMORROW Starts Without Me

When tomorrow starts without me,  
and I'm not there to see;  
if the sun should rise and find your eyes  
all filled with tears for me.  
I wish so much you wouldn't cry,  
the way you did today,  
while thinking of the many things  
we didn't get to say.  
I know how much you love me,  
as much as I love you,  
and each time that you think of me,  
I know you'll miss me too.  
But when tomorrow starts without me,  
please try to understand,  
that an Angel came and called my name,  
and took me by the hand,  
And said my place was ready,  
in Heaven far above,  
and that I'd have to leave behind,  
all those I dearly love.  
If I could relive yesterday,  
just even for awhile,  
I'd say good-bye and kiss you  
and maybe see you smile.  
So when tomorrow starts without me,  
don't think we're far apart,  
for every time you think of me,  
I'm right there, in your heart.

### Pallbearers

Family Members and Friends

### Acknowledgement

We would like to thank everyone for the cards, flowers and kind expressions of sympathy shown for our loved one. Your support at this difficult time is very much appreciated and you will always be remembered.

REPAST: Due to our concerns for COVID 19 and the safety of our guests,  
the family will not be having a public repast following today's service.

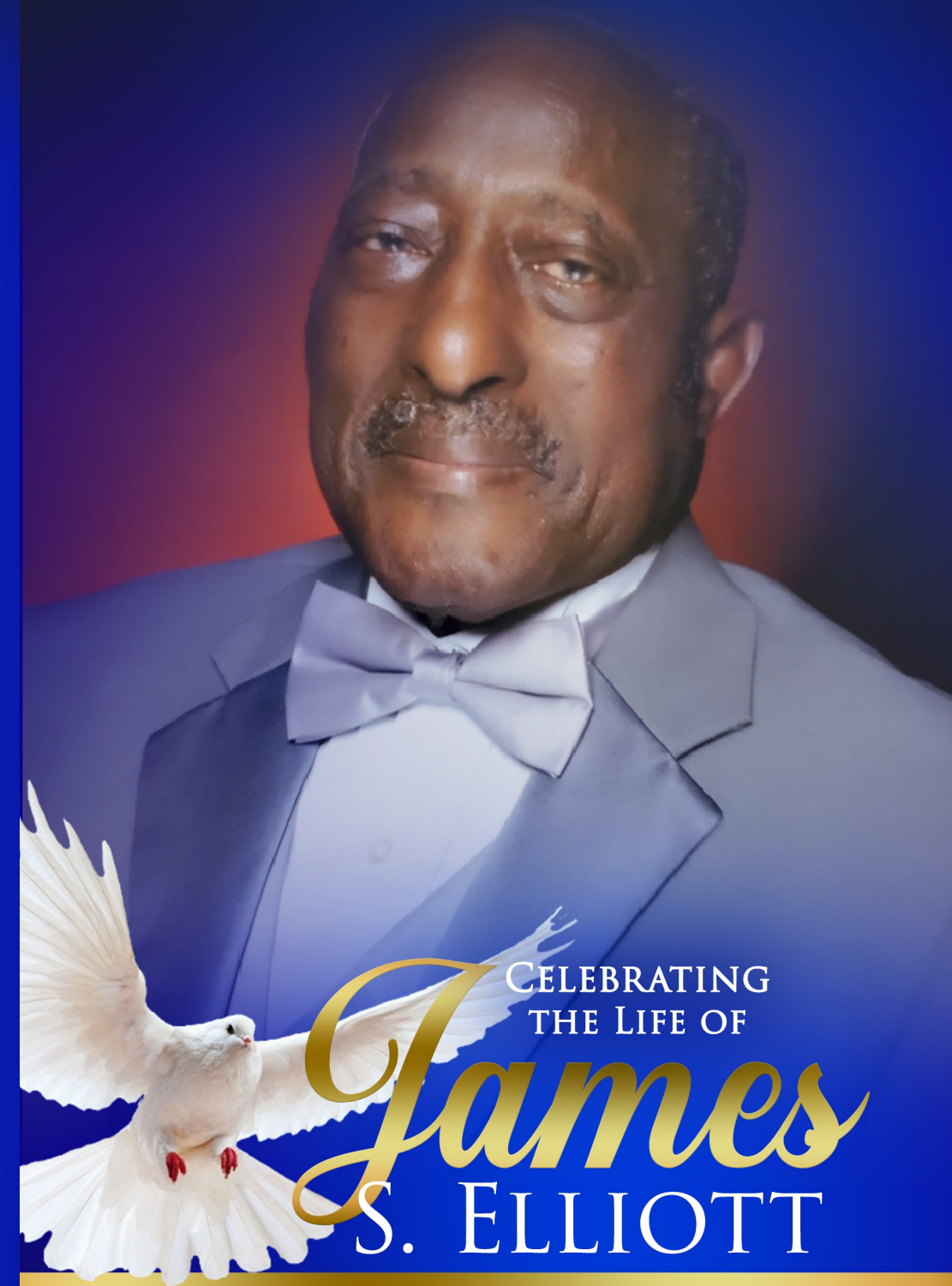
Service of Comfort Provided by:

WHITING FUNERAL HOME

Kevin D. Whiting, Funeral Director

1132 Cottman Avenue | Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19111

Tel. 215-298-9070 Fax. 267-275-8136



CELEBRATING  
THE LIFE OF

# James S. ELLIOTT

Sunrise: September 4, 1938 — Sunset: December 26, 2020

FUNERAL SERVICE

Saturday, January 9, 2021

Viewing: 8:00 a.m. — Services: 10:00 a.m.

THE MEETING PLACE

4960 West Master Street ♦ Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19131

Dr. Anthony W. Hurst, Sr., Officiating

# The Obituary

JAMES SYRUS ELLIOTT, the gentle giant, peacefully departed this world to be with his heavenly father on Saturday, December 26, 2020, with his wife and family members by his side.

James was born on September 4, 1938 to the late Robert Matthew and Catherine Susan Elliott, in Fayetteville, North Carolina. He was the oldest living son of seventeen children. Having been raised in a God-fearing home, he understood the importance of obeying God's word and keeping his commandments. If he wasn't in school, working in the fields, or playing, he and his siblings were in church.

He, along with his family, attended the Bethlehem Freewill Baptist Church in Wade, North Carolina, as a child under the leadership of the late Reverend Connie Smith. Prayer was an integral part of their lives. It was how they started their day. James would often reminisce about his childhood, and how his parents instilled in him the importance of morning prayer. It was how he was taught to start his day. It was as essential as having a good breakfast. "If you meet God in the morning, He'll be with you throughout the day," James would say.

As a young man, James was educated in the Cumberland County school system. Upon graduation from high school, and after a few years of working in North Carolina, James relocated to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania to seek better employment opportunities. He secured a position at Korvette's Department Store as a custodian. James was a faithful employee of Korvette's until the company's closing. Within a week of the stores closing, James had obtained new employment with Cedarbrook Hill Apartments/Joint Ventures, as their custodian, until he retired in April of 1987. But, James having been a dedicated and industrious worker was not ready to fully retire. Therefore, James signed on as the part-time custodian/caretaker at the Gospel Spreading Church in Philadelphia. He loved what he did. His work and service to others gave him joy and a sense of purpose. Nothing slowed him down. He would have a cane in one hand and a vacuum in the other, but he was going to make sure the sanctuary was ready for the saints of God for all events, to include Sunday services, funerals, New Year's Day Services, and Special Programs. He served in the position of custodian/caretaker, and as Deacon at the Gospel Spreading Church in Philadelphia, his home church, as well as sang in the Senior Choir, The Philadelphia Choral Ensemble, and the Happy Am I Cross Choir, until his death.

James met the love of his life, Esther, in the early seventies. They were truly inseparable. On August 14, 1977 James and Esther married, blending their families together, raising their children, and enjoying the laughter and love of their grandchildren. James loved Esther with all his heart. His love for her, his children, and his family is a wonderful tapestry of color that overflows the heart with gratitude for having known such a humble, kind, and generous man. Their forty-three years of marriage and his ability to put his family first is a testament to the mighty warrior and gentle giant, James Elliott was. They were a team. You never saw one without the other. The love and dedication between them was always inspiring.

He was all about family. He enjoyed and was excited about family gatherings, vacations with his wife, and family reunions. His annual family reunion in Wade, North Carolina was a yearly highlight on his calendar. He would be dressed and ready to leave; waiting at the door for his son, John, to drive him to see all his family members. James wasn't a man of many words, but his facial expressions spoke volumes. When he was overjoyed about something, like traveling to a new place, or taking a cruise, his face lit up with a smile from ear to ear, but if he didn't like something, it would be written all over his face with a frown. He was a quiet man, never raising his voice or yelling, but his frown, as his children would say, told the story if you were in trouble or not. James was a no-nonsense man. He was a hard worker, who strived to be the best, to encourage others to reach their goals, and he always worked tirelessly to provide for his family. He has finished the race. His work down here is done. It is now time for him to enjoy the much needed rest in his Savior's arms. Well done, thy good and faithful servant, well done.

James Syrus Elliott was preceded in death by: his sons, James Syrus Elliott, Jr. and Stephan N. Madison; his parents, Robert and Catherine Elliott; his brothers, Felton, Theodis, John Robert, and Floyd; his sisters, Argie Sue, Martha Jane, and Pearl Lee.

He leaves to cherish his memory: his wife, Esther Elliott; one daughter, LaVena Elliott; one son, John Madison (Phyllis Madison); five sisters, Ernestine Elliott, Gwendolyn Bledsoe, Vera Bryant, Eliza Turner and Dorothy Tatum; four brothers, Joe Doris Elliott, Danford Elliott, Gentry Elliott and Eugene Elliott; two granddaughters, LaTrice Elliott and Millicent Pogue; one grandson, John Madison Jr. and one great-granddaughter, Zhion LaVena Elliott; one uncle, Bishop Dr. David W. Elliott; and a host of nieces, nephews, relatives, and friends.

*The Family*

