



## James Lawrence Ballentine

January 19, 1970 - May 3, 2022

### Obituary

**James Lawrence Ballentine** born January 19, 1970 and departed to his eternal rest on May 3, 2022. Affectionately known as “Jimmy”, James grew up from humble beginnings in Newark, NJ where his boisterous personality and vivid imagination endowed him with the ability to tell the best stories with a straight face.

Jimmy's love for politics and debate developed as a high school student. He was a member of the Debate Team and the Newark YMWCA Model Nations & Youth in Government Teams. After high school, he attended Rutgers University where he graduated with his bachelor's degree in Political Science in 1993. After college, he returned to help coach and mentor many new students to engage in the political process.

Jimmy's vast knowledge on the state of New Jersey and politics in general, provided many opportunities during his professional career where he held various National, State and Local political and government positions. Notably, he was a Manager with the New Jersey State Department of Education; Base Vote Coordinator, Governor Jon Corzine; Political Director; Lautenberg for Senate Campaign; Program Director; New Jersey Department of State Transition Team for Governor-elect James E. McGreevey; Legislative Aid and Chief of Staff for Assemblyman Craig Stanley; Deputy Southern Political Director & Director of Campaign Human Resources for the DNC; and Special Assistant to Congressman Donald Payne. At the time of his passing, James was employed by the Township of Hillside, NJ, Department of Public Works.

Jimmy knew Christ at an earlier age. Along with his parents, he was a member of the St. James A.M.E church of Newark. On April 14, 2013, he became a member of Calvary Baptist Church of Morristown. He was selected to be an Armor Bearer to Senior Pastor Dr. Jerry M. Carter Jr. He was loyal to his assignment which he took very seriously & with great pride. James' favorite scripture is Romans 8: 38-39. “For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, 39 nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

Jimmy appreciated the finer things in life – food, electronic gadgets, and cigars for which he was a true aficionado. He was a lover of all genres of music; from old school gospel, reggae, 60's thru 80's music and jazz. He loved being out on the ocean sailing on his friend's boat. His favorite football team was the Pittsburgh Steelers and the Yankees, his favorite baseball team. An avid TV watcher, he enjoyed watching CNN, every episode of Law and Order, In the Heat of the Night, Big Bang Theory, Young Sheldon, and Bob Hearts' Abishola -- to name a few. He loved talking with everyone he met and had a very special bond with Senior Citizens.

Predeceased by his parents Herbert & Sylvia L. Ballentine, James leaves to cherish his memory his loving daughter, Taylor Allen, special friend and caregiver, Dawn Walker, cousins Marilyn Minto of Canada and Lynda Leader of Bermuda, former wife Paula Burroughs and stepson Jon Norwood, close and dear friends from the "Science High Gang" Pamela Dungee, Jonathan Alston, Tonya Jones, Danielle Buchanan, and Nicole Wigfall, and lifelong friends Martin Odom, Craig A. Stanley, Eric Fuller, Christopher James, Reverend Dr. Regena Thomas and the DNC crew, and a host of loved ones in Christ.

James was a wonderful son, father, friend, cousin, and co-worker. We were all so Blessed to be a part of his life. He will truly be missed by all that knew and loved him.