



## James Whitehead

April 20, 1944 - January 20, 2021

James Edward Whitehead, affectionately called Red, was a loving husband and father, a trailblazing tradesman and a man of faith. James was born to Mary Alice and James Dickens on April 20, 1943 in Nash County, North Carolina. He attended Rocky Mount City Schools and graduated from Booker T. Washington High School in Rocky Mount, North Carolina in 1961 where he excelled in football and basketball. After graduation he attended St Paul's College in Lawrenceville, Virginia and Norfolk State University.

Baptized at an early age, James was active in multiple churches over the years. In the 1960's and 70's he was a member of St. Paul's Catholic Church, where he was a Scripture reader and a member of the Knights of Columbus. Most recently he and his wife, Doris were members of New Galilee Missionary Baptist Church, where he was a deacon and president of the men's chorus.

James completed an apprenticeship and became an expert brick mason - working for many years as a foreman at Sprinkle Masonry in Chesapeake, Virginia, and Snow Jr. & King in Norfolk, before starting his own construction company. James helped to integrate the Masonry Trade Union in Tidewater and served as a mentor to other minority tradesmen. There are hundreds of buildings in the Tidewater area that he helped to construct, and they provide a tangible reminder of his impact.

James was always on the go. He, along with his wife, and sister and brother-in-law loved to travel, and were often off on excursions, cruises, and tropical vacations. If there was a family affair to attend, James was the first to plan to drive across town, or across the country to attend. He was known for his fish fries at all events. James was a true family man, always there when a relative was in need. From flat tires to broken fences, he was the “go to man” who could help get the job done. His children have numerous stories of his willingness to drive many miles to help out with car-related emergencies.

James loved working with his hands and had a passion for restoring vintage Lincoln cars. He was the vice president of the Booker T. Washington Alumni Association, an organization in which he loved and worked tirelessly. James also had a passion for sports and loved watching old westerns.

James was preceded in death by his mother, Mary Alice, his father, James Dickens, four siblings, Shirley Ann Merritt, Linda Marie McKinnon , Norman Whitaker and Walter Dickens, and a brother-in-law Ralph Burks. In addition to his loving and devoted wife, Doris Whitehead, he leaves to cherish his memory, an uncle, Dorsey Whitehead of Chapel Hill, twelve siblings, Jesse Whitaker, Katie Ruth Farmer, Brenda Faye Atkins, James Arrington and Mary Alice Foxx, all of North Carolina, Terrie Dickens, Carolyn Hanna, Gwendolyn Jackson, Janett Mason, Levern Dickens, Byron Dickens and Linwood Dickens, all of Virginia, and a sister-in-law Eleanora Burks, also of Virginia. He is also survived by his children James Whitehead, Gregory Whitehead, Martin Whitehead, Jaymes Whitehead-Urquhart and Marian Walker, grandchildren Christina Whitehurst, Charelle Whitehead, James Whitehead, Lauren Walker, Courtney Urquhart, Clark Walker, Cornell Urquhart Jr., Zoe Walker, Kyla Whitehead, Cooper Whitehead, Riley Whitehead, Jessie Whitehead and Dallas Whitehead, a special niece, Christana Jenkins, and a host of great-grandchildren, and other nieces and nephews.



# Previous Events

## Visitation

JAN **30**. 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM (ET)

J.T. Fisher Funeral Services  
1248 N. George Washington Hwy.  
Chesapeake, VA 23323  
(757) 487-3700  
info@jtfisherfuneralservices.com  
<https://www.jtfisherfuneralservices.com>

# Tribute Wall



“ J.T. Fisher Funeral Services created a Tribute Video in memory of James Whitehead



---

**J. T. Fisher Funeral Services** - January 30, 2021 at 09:29 AM

LC

*Excellent presentation! The pictures brought back so many great memories of the many visits to Covington and to Chesapeake. It is still so hard to believe but the memories will always be etched in my heart. One thing I can say Doris, you chose one of the best and without a shadow of doubt, James got one of the best. I am so thankful you all shared such a wonderful life. God has you wrapped in his loving arms and He will take care of you. With all my LOVE, Coochie*

---

**Linda W. Cook** - January 30, 2021 at 10:33 AM

RL

*Our hearts are heavy with the loss of this wonderful man and our dear neighbor. So thankful for the time shared. Our heartfelt sympathy to Mrs. Whitehead.*

*Robert &. Bessie Lawrence*

---

**Robert Lawrence** - February 03, 2021 at 10:59 AM

DH

“ *As some people journey through life they leave footprints of kindness and love, courage and compassion, joy and faith. Even when they are gone the trail they've left behind continue to inspire us. To Doris and family may God strengthen and keep you. He will be missed.*



*Ronald and Deloris Harrell*

---

**Deloris and Ronald Harrell** - February 02, 2021 at 01:34 PM

JG

“ *To the James Whitehead family:*

*My most sincere sympathy and condolences. I will miss the conversations and fellowship with James we had over the past years. It was truly a joy to get together and have a good time.*

*Sincerely,*

*Julius (Sonny), Bea, and Junior*

---

**Julius Garrett** - January 30, 2021 at 07:05 PM

LC

“ *Linda W. Cook lit a candle in memory of James Whitehead*



---

**Linda W. Cook** - January 30, 2021 at 10:32 AM

CA

“ We will miss u brother. we will miss u from coming down like u did the last 2 years to support my family and friends day at church.we had a great fellowship last year. left

church and came to our home and we had a great fellowship and food. Rest in the arms of Jesus my Brother. We miss you.



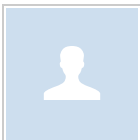
Catherine Arrington - January 29, 2021 at 06:33 PM



“ 31 files added to the album Life Tributes



J. T. Fisher Funeral Services - January 29, 2021 at 05:39 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of James Whitehead.



January 29, 2021 at 03:09 PM

BH

“ *Barbara Nixon Halsey and family*



---

**Barbara Halsey** - January 29, 2021 at 02:04 PM

GL

“ *My sincere condolences are for the the family of James "Red" Whitehead. May God comfort you and give you peace during your bereavement*

*Genevieve Pender Lancaster  
Past President of The BTW Alumni Association*

---

**Genevieve P Lancaster** - January 29, 2021 at 02:01 PM

DR

*Sis. Whitehead you and family have our prayers and thoughts. May God keep you doing this time of sorrow*

---

**Deacon Arthur&Brenda Riddick** - January 29, 2021 at 04:56 PM

DR

*Sis. Whitehead and family, We will keep you in our payers*

---

**Deaconess Brenda Riddick** - January 29, 2021 at 05:01 PM

JA

*Brother, this is your other Brother James. i am really going to miss you. we didnt see each other often, but when we did, we enjoyed each other. U look so peaceful. smile on your face. RIP.  
U will always be in my heart.*

---

**James Arrington** - January 30, 2021 at 02:40 PM

CB

“ Sending my Condolences and deepest Sympathy to Mrs Whitehead and family.

Carolyn Brooks - January 29, 2021 at 10:11 AM

DP

“ Our thoughts and prayer are with Sis. Doris and the family. We the members of New Galilee will truly miss Deacon Whitehead who was full of wisdom and knowledge and didn't mind sharing. God Bless you all. Dea. David and Deaconess Frances Parson-NGMBC

Dea. David & Frances Parson - January 29, 2021 at 09:52 AM

KS

“ Kenneth Sawyer lit a candle in memory of James Whitehead



Kenneth Sawyer - January 29, 2021 at 05:53 AM

LH

“ My deepest condolences to the James “Red” Whitehead family. You have gained your wings. Rest In Peace.



Laura Hamilton - January 29, 2021 at 02:41 AM

GW

“ *The Members of the Booker T. Washington High School National Alumni Association, Rocky Mount, NC, send our sincere condolences to the family of "Red" Whitehead. He has been an asset to our organization. We will never forget the delicious taste of the fish he helped to cook at our Annual Fish Fry each July 4th. He wouldn't share his "secret batter" ingredients. He has transitioned, but he will not be forgotten for his contributions. . His passions were the upkeep of the our Resource Center and Scholarship.*



*Family, you're in our prayers.  
Gwendolyn Cotton Wigen, President*

---

**Gwendolyn C. Wigen** - January 28, 2021 at 08:18 PM

JJ

“ *My condolences to the family of "Red". He was a class act and dedicated member of the BTW Alumni Association. I always looked forward to seeing him at the July 4th fish fry where he would be cooking and serving up the delicious fish with some good conversation. May he Rest In Heavenly Peace,*



---

**John Joyner** - January 28, 2021 at 04:53 PM

DK

“ *"With deepest sympathy as you remember 'Red'. The Knight Family of Battleboro, NC*

---

**DeLoris Knight** - January 28, 2021 at 02:59 PM

MH

“ *The Wrightsville Baptist Church extends to you our sincere sympathy at the homegoing of Bro. James Whitehead. It's hard to understand why people are taken away from us. Only God knows the sorrow in your hearts. Only he can heal the heartache. Earth has no sorrow that Heaven heal.*

*Job the great patriarch asked the question, " If a man die, will he live again:" Jesus says, "I am the living bread which can down from heaven; if any man eat of this bread he shall live forever." Rest assured that God always keeps his promise. Though Death is inevitable God promises are true. Trust Him.*

*Rev. Jerome Basham, Pastor*

---

**MACELIA HUNTER** - January 28, 2021 at 01:54 PM

VH

“ *The Harrison Family sends our deepest condolences to the Whitehead family. May God continue to give you strength and comfort during this time.*



---

**Vida Harrison** - January 28, 2021 at 11:38 AM

RB

“ *Renita Bland lit a candle in memory of James Whitehead*



---

**Renita Bland** - January 28, 2021 at 08:28 AM

DK

“ To the family of James Whitehead, my deepest condolences. "Red" you will be missed. Rest in paradise.



Deloris Kelly - January 28, 2021 at 07:55 AM

NW

“ Nekia Whitehead lit a candle in memory of James Whitehead



Nekia Whitehead - January 27, 2021 at 02:50 PM

NL

“ Nekia Whitehead Lyons lit a candle in memory of James Whitehead



Nekia Whitehead Lyons - January 27, 2021 at 02:50 PM

CL

“ Cousin Nekia Whitehead Lyons lit a candle in memory of James Whitehead



Cousin Nekia Whitehead Lyons - January 27, 2021 at 02:49 PM



Yeoman  
McGuire

“ *My sincere condolences to my cousin and family. Red as he was affectionately called will be missed.* ”

---

**Yeoman McGuire** - January 27, 2021 at 07:25 AM

TF

“ *The Cozart Family lit a candle in memory of James Whitehead* ”



---

**The Cozart Family** - January 26, 2021 at 07:58 PM