

James Lee 'Jim' Marsalis

James Lee "Jim" Marsalis, 68, of McComb, died April 16, 2007, at Southwest Mississippi Regional Medical Center.

Visitation is from today from noon to 8 p.m. at Cook's Enterprise.



1939-2007

Funeral Home in McComb. Family hours are 6 to 8 p.m. All remarks and tributes will be welcomed from 6 to 8 p.m. Visitation continues 11 a.m. Friday at Pleasant Grove East Mc-

Comb Baptist Church until services there at noon, with the Rev. Hilton Harrell, pastor, and the Rev. Robert Vick officiating. Burial will be in Greenlawn Cemetery in Summit.

Mr. Marsalis was born Jan. 19, 1939, in Pike County to Ira Marsalis Sr. and Eva Blakely Marsalis.

He attended Sand Hill Elementary School in Summit and graduated from Pike County Agricultural High School in Magnolia. He was trained as a mechanical engineer at Southwest Mississippi Junior College in Summit and embarked on his lifelong work as a mechanic.

He was born into a religious family and was encouraged to seek the Lord in all of his life's work. As a child, he attended Pine Grove Baptist Church and later joined Summit Missionary Baptist Church. He devoted much of his time to his church work, serving as a deacon, senior deacon, trustee, chairman of the budget committee and a member of the male choir. He remained actively involved in church missions until his death.

Mr. Marsalis was preceded in death by his parents: two brothers, Walter N. Marsalis and Ira Marsalis Jr.; and a sister, Adrian M. Crouch.

Survivors include his wife, best friend and confidant, Eddie Jean Stewart Marsalis of McComb; four daughters and three sons-in-law, Juanita and Fred Reese of McComb, Lelia "Ann" Diana and Melvin Benford of Chicago, Sonia Renee Marsalis of Lansing, Mich., and Adrian Evette and Darryl Solomon of Birmingham, Ala.; a brother and sister-in-law, Willie Fred and Dorothy Marsalis of Vidalia, La.; two sisters and a brother-in-law, Imogene and Theophilous Worrell of Macon, Ga., and Georgia M. Stepney; three grandchildren, Latoya Reese, Matthew Marsalis Benford and Melanie Marsalis Benford; one aunt, Bernice Greer of Detroit; three uncles, Willie and Wilbert Blakely, both of Chicago, and J.C. Marsalis of Detroit; and a host of nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends.