



## Judge James Donald Smith

June 21, 1961 - April 29, 2025

James Donald Smith, a devoted son, brother, nephew, cousin, godfather, friend, and mentor, passed away on April 29, 2025, leaving behind a legacy of excellence, humility, and service.

Born in Toronto, Ontario, Canada, James was raised in a family that emphasized the importance of education, helping others, having a keen sense of purpose, and most importantly, serving God.

James earned degrees in electrical engineering and law from the University of Maryland College Park and the Duke University School of Law respectively.

His remarkable career spanned roles in public service, academia, and private practice. Notably, he served as the former Chief Administrative Patent Judge at the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office and was responsible for establishing the Patent Trial and Appeal Board. He served as an Intellectual Property Law Professor at the University of Minnesota and the University of South Dakota and was the Assistant Dean and Dean of Students at the Emory University School of Law. During his outstanding career, James also led intellectual property efforts at national and multinational corporations such as Baxter International, Nokia, Lexmark, and most recently, Ecolab, where he served as Deputy General Counsel for Intellectual Property and Litigation.

Respected across the legal profession for his generosity, intellect, and leadership, James was also deeply committed to mentoring junior colleagues and to advancing diversity within the field of intellectual property. He is remembered as a quiet force — brilliant, grounded, compassionate, and

deeply loyal to his loved ones and to God.

James had a deep appreciation for the arts, especially music. He was a board member of the National Music Museum of the University of South Dakota, the Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra and Spektral -- a grammy-nominated string quartet founded by his musical friend and colleague, Russell Rolan. James was a talented violist who found peace and joy in playing classical music. He often shared this gift with family and friends, filling gatherings with beautiful melodies that brought joy to everyone present. The consummate host and planner, James facilitated many recitals at his places of residence over the years, bringing together family, friends and colleagues for rich, curated musical experiences. This brought him abundant joy and satisfaction.

James's strong faith and principled character guided him in all aspects of life. He treated everyone with kindness and respect. He was excellent and purposeful about bringing family and friends together. James was a trusted source of wisdom and support for family, friends and colleagues alike. He treasured every moment with his family and never took their love for granted. James is preceded in death by his parents, Dr. Neville Benjamin and Dr. Sheila Sylvia (Ferdinand) Smith. He is survived by his siblings, Dr. Keith Ulric Smith (Amithy) and Nevilla Kathleen Smith, as well as by a host of cousins, aunts, uncles, extended family, cherished friends and colleagues.

His life was a testament to an unwavering faith in God, purpose, and principle. He will be dearly missed and affectionately remembered.

# Cemetery Details

## Palm Royal Cemetery

6780 Vanderbilt Beach Road  
Naples, FL 34419

# Previous Events

## Visitation

MAY 17. 4:00 PM - 5:00 PM (CT)

Minnetonka Seventh-Day Adventist Church  
3510 Williston Road  
Minnetonka, MN 55345

## Funeral Service

MAY 17. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Minnetonka Seventh-Day Adventist Church  
3510 Williston Road  
Minnetonka, MN 55345

## Memorial Service

MAY 27. 10:00 AM (ET)

Golden Gate All Nations SDA Church  
2320 Rivers Road  
Naples, FL 34120



# Tribute Wall

BS

“ Bonnie Shepperd lit a candle in memory of Judge James Donald Smith



Bonnie Shepperd - May 09 at 11:25 PM

BS

*I knew The Honorable James when he was Attorney James in Austin TX. We met at the Alpha SDA Church and he & I taught the same Bible study class. Highly intelligent, kind and gentle man. I was shocked to learn of his death. Will see you in that great getting up morning kind sir!*

Bonnie Shepperd - May 09 at 11:33 PM

CH

“ I got to know James initially as a law school classmate and basketball teammate. James was a wonderful person. He always left you with a smile and a laugh when you saw him. He will be missed by all of us who were lucky enough to have known him. RIP my friend! Chris Hagan

Chris Hagan - June 13, 2025 at 06:17 PM

PA

“ Always kind and well dressed. Love and miss you <3

Paulina - June 04, 2025 at 11:36 AM

KS

“ Kathleen S. planted a grove of 3 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Judge James Donald Smith.

Kathleen S. - May 30, 2025 at 10:01 PM

BA

“ Bryan & Amanda purchased the Ocean Breeze S pray for the family of Judge James Donald Smith.



Bryan & Amanda - May 23, 2025 at 11:57 AM

BA

“ Bryan & Amanda planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Judge James Donald Smith.

Bryan & Amanda - May 23, 2025 at 11:57 AM

FP

“ Farney PC purchased the Sentiments of Serenity Spray for the family of Judge James Donald Smith.



Farney PC - May 23, 2025 at 09:06 AM

FP

“ Farney PC planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Judge James Donald Smith.

Farney PC - May 23, 2025 at 09:06 AM



“ Lavender Reflections Spray was purchased for the family of Judge James Donald Smith.



May 20, 2025 at 10:47 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Judge James Donald Smith.

May 20, 2025 at 10:47 AM

JL

“ Jan Hendrickson, Stinson LLP purchased the Dreams From the Heart Bouquet for the family of Judge James Donald Smith.



Jan Hendrickson, Stinson LLP - May 19, 2025 at 12:51 PM

JL

“ Jan Hendrickson, Stinson LLP planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Judge James Donald Smith.

Jan Hendrickson, Stinson LLP - May 19, 2025 at 12:51 PM

SL

“ Sarah & Sam Lockner purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Judge James Donald Smith.



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**Sarah & Sam Lockner** - May 17, 2025 at 09:55 AM

SL

“ Sarah & Sam Lockner planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Judge James Donald Smith.

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**Sarah & Sam Lockner** - May 17, 2025 at 09:55 AM

KL

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



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**Kirby Lee** - May 16, 2025 at 02:06 PM

SM

*This is how I will always think of this kind, intelligent, loving person - holding a viola and smiling. Thank you Kirby for sharing the photo.*  
Suzanne Michel

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**Suzanne Teresa Michel** - May 20, 2025 at 11:22 AM

KE

“ Kirby Lee & Lindsay Eastman purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Judge James Donald Smith.



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**Kirby Lee & Lindsay Eastman** - May 16, 2025 at 02:05 PM

KE

“ Kirby Lee & Lindsay Eastman planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Judge James Donald Smith.

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**Kirby Lee & Lindsay Eastman** - May 16, 2025 at 02:05 PM

EK

“ Our Cousin James is missed and will be missed until we meet again when Jesus comes. Words cannot express the impact James made in our lives. We cherish every moment that we spent with him. We will always remember his hospitality, generosity, love for reading and expounding the Word of God and his numerous violin performances. We are so happy for the opportunity to work along with James on his house fixing project in Cairo. Words cannot describe the loss but we hold on more dearly to the Blessed Hope that we would one day see James again at the Second Coming of Jesus.

*Missing our Simple Country Lawyer Cousin.*

*Liz & Kevin Romney*

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**Elizabeth Mc Knight-Romney** - May 16, 2025 at 01:36 PM



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Judge James Donald Smith.



May 15, 2025 at 03:22 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Judge James Donald Smith.

May 15, 2025 at 03:22 PM



“ Lavender Reflections Spray was purchased for the family of Judge James Donald Smith.



May 15, 2025 at 02:51 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Judge James Donald Smith.

May 15, 2025 at 02:51 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Judge James Donald Smith.



May 15, 2025 at 02:42 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Judge James Donald Smith.

May 15, 2025 at 02:42 PM



“ My cousin James led the way for many, including his younger relatives. He and his siblings, Keith and Kathy, demonstrated pathways of achievement, beyond ceilings, with integrity, spirituality and dignity. He had so much on his plate, but he would always give his family, friends and colleagues a meaningful piece of himself whenever opportunities arose. I cannot calculate the significance and value of our pop-up lunches or dinners when he was nearby in the course of his business travels or the modelling he provided when I was a child. Obviously, he was brilliant and impressive, but he was also wonderfully nuanced and creative. He materially influenced some of my best educational and professional choices. He always helped build me up with reasoned guidance and kind words and gestures. For me, as for others, he is gone too soon and the loss is so great.

*To Kathy, Keith and Amithy, the Smiths, the Ferdinands, James' friends, colleagues, loved ones and social circle, please accept my most sincere condolences. I wish us all the strength, clarity and perspective that we need.*

*Kurt Wildman*



**Kurt Wildman** - May 15, 2025 at 10:18 AM

SF

“ Susanne Haas and Ross Formell planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Judge James Donald Smith.

Susanne Haas and Ross Formell - May 14, 2025 at 04:32 PM

SF

“ Susanne Haas and Ross Formell purchased the Serenity Wreath for the family of Judge James Donald Smith.



Susanne Haas and Ross Formell - May 14, 2025 at 04:32 PM

SH

“ I first met James in 1984 when he gave my group of international students a tour of Duke campus. We were on the Duke Law Board of Visitors together and we saw each other at the last Board meeting a week before Palm Sunday. He told me he wanted to come to my church to hear my choir sing, but was only able to watch the service online because of his health. He messaged me several times afterwards to tell me how much he enjoyed the music and how he was looking forward to coming to our Easter service, but to my disappointment, he could not make it. I will miss him very much and I know he had an enormous impact on so many people that he will live on in their memories. I pray for James and for comfort, peace and healing for his family.

Susanne Haas - May 14, 2025 at 04:27 PM

TG

“ James was a beautiful soul with so many profound words of high impact. He will be sorely missed by all who were blessed to know him. Sending prayers of condolence and comfort to his family. May he rest in peace.

Tina Grant - May 14, 2025 at 01:30 PM

KM

“ Karl and Pamela Miller purchased the Fairest of All for the family of Judge James Donald Smith.



Karl and Pamela Miller - May 14, 2025 at 07:28 AM

MH

“ Mike Honigschmidt purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Judge James Donald Smith.



Mike Honigschmidt - May 13, 2025 at 10:16 PM

BT

“ Barnes & Thornburg purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Judge James Donald Smith.



Barnes & Thornburg - May 13, 2025 at 03:17 PM

BT

“ *Barnes & Thornburg planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Judge James Donald Smith.*

**Barnes & Thornburg** - May 13, 2025 at 03:17 PM

FP

“ *Farney PC planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Judge James Donald Smith.*

**Farney PC** - May 13, 2025 at 02:21 PM

FP

“ *Farney PC purchased the Serenity Wreath for the family of Judge James Donald Smith.*



**Farney PC** - May 13, 2025 at 02:21 PM

BA

“ *Bryan & Amanda purchased the Divine Light for the family of Judge James Donald Smith.*



**Bryan & Amanda** - May 13, 2025 at 02:03 PM

BA

“ Bryan & Amanda planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Judge James Donald Smith.

Bryan & Amanda - May 13, 2025 at 02:03 PM



“ Days of Sunshine Bouquet was purchased for the family of Judge James Donald Smith.



May 12, 2025 at 10:28 PM

DM

“ Danielle M. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Judge James Donald Smith.

Danielle M. - May 11, 2025 at 07:44 PM

DO

“ Dick and Norma Osborn purchased the Strength & Solace Spray for the family of Judge James Donald Smith.



Dick and Norma Osborn - May 11, 2025 at 10:37 AM

SC

“ 2 files added to the tribute wall



Steve Christenson - May 10, 2025 at 10:49 AM



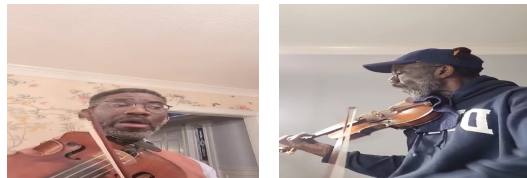
“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Judge James Donald Smith.



May 10, 2025 at 07:07 AM



“ 2 files added to the album ecolab



Dan Darrikhuma - May 08, 2025 at 09:42 PM

PA

“ James was a beloved member of our Sabbath class-more than a friend, he was family. He loved the Lord deeply and that love overflowed into every part of his life, especially in the way he cherished his parents, siblings, and extended family. We were honored to be part of that extended family, and James made each of us feel included and valued.

He brought warmth, wisdom, and thoughtful insight into every conversation. Whether through a deep theological reflection or a lighthearted exchange, James had a way of stimulating our minds and drawing us closer as a community. His love for Jesus was evident not just in words, but in the life he lived. He also shared with us another gift-the beautiful sound of his viola, which he played with both skill and spirit.

James didn't keep his world to himself-he shared it with us. His stories, his laughter, his music, and even his family became part of our own journeys. Despite the difference in height and accent, I always considered him my brother. His absence leaves a space no one else can fill, but we carry his legacy with us: a legacy of faith, kindness, music, and love.

Until resurrection morning, rest in peace dear James. We thank God for the time we had with you

Posa Aswani

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Posa Aswani - May 08, 2025 at 08:54 PM

TG

“ We were shocked and saddened to hear that James passed away. We would like to express our heartfelt sympathy to his family and friends during this difficult time.

We worked together with James in his function as Chief Patent Counsel of Ecolab as European Patent Attorneys for Ecolab patents. When James took over as Ecolab Chief Patent Counsel we had several phone conferences with him in which we discussed cases we were working on. James was always very interested in the procedure and the discussions with him were very helpful and inspiring.

During the Ecolab Attorney Summit several years ago we met him the first time in person and we were impressed by his personality, especially his kindness and his sharp mind.. Over the years we had contact from time to time by email and also just recently . We also saw via videoconference James on the Mini Attorney Summit last year.

In our communication with James, he always showed appreciation for people and their work - usually accompanied by a dose of subtle humor - which might be reasons for his outstanding carrier and his success as a leader.

James, rest in peace, we will miss you.

Thomas Godemeyer

Erwin Blum

Norman Lenze

from werkpatent

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Thomas Godemeyer - May 08, 2025 at 08:44 AM

AR

“ *Arti R. planted a grove of 3 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Judge James Donald Smith.*

Arti R. - May 07, 2025 at 08:13 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Judge James Donald Smith.*



May 07, 2025 at 02:07 PM



“ *A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Judge James Donald Smith.*

May 07, 2025 at 02:07 PM



“ *Blue Caribbean Bouquet was purchased for the family of Judge James Donald Smith.*



May 07, 2025 at 12:41 PM



“ *A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Judge James Donald Smith.*

May 07, 2025 at 12:41 PM

DQ

“ Daisy and Evan Qualheim purchased the Enchanted Cottage for the family of Judge James Donald Smith.



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**Daisy and Evan Qualheim** - May 07, 2025 at 12:19 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Judge James Donald Smith.

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May 07, 2025 at 11:43 AM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Judge James Donald Smith.



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May 07, 2025 at 11:43 AM

MR

“ Michelle R. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Judge James Donald Smith.

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**Michelle R.** - May 06, 2025 at 11:28 PM

YF

“ *Your Reyna Inn of Court family purchased the Lavender Reflections Spray for the family of Judge James Donald Smith.*



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**Your Reyna Inn of Court family** - May 06, 2025 at 12:09 PM

CA

“ *2 files added to the tribute wall*



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**Corey Anthony** - May 06, 2025 at 11:30 AM

LR

“ *I've had the honor and privilege of working with James during my time at Duke Law. He was an extraordinary man filled with such wisdom, talent, and compassion for others. His words were so eloquent and his words of advice were offered with such great care and thought for the school he loved so deeply. James, thank you for your impact on my life and so many countless others.*



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**Lauren Rice** - May 06, 2025 at 10:47 AM

KB

“ James was one of my dearest friends through our law school years. We were blessed to be in the same "small section" our first year and navigated the next three years as good friends. We found some success with Moot Court as first year students and worked together for the next two in supporting the Moot Court competitions. James and I were often study buddies as well, and in seeking places away from the law school to hunker down and study, we sometimes even went to study at UNC where we would have no distraction and a bit of adventure. Our friendship continued after law school when we were both in DC as young associates. I went to visit in Atlanta when he was at Emory, and he persuaded me to attend our 20-year reunion at Duke. I last saw him in person in Chicago a few years back. Over the years we would talk or text about faith, about God's presence in our lives, about meaning, and about our professional lives and our relationships. I treasure the CD he sent me of his quartet playing beautiful music. It has been a while since James and I talked in real time, and I feel sad for that lost opportunity. And I feel blessing and gratitude that James Smith was a part of my life, of my journey, and was always my friend. -Kathy Byrnes (Duke Law, '86)

Kathy Byrnes - May 06, 2025 at 08:29 AM

DM

“ Dr. Stefan Michalski purchased the Magnificent Life Spray for the family of Judge James Donald Smith.



Dr. Stefan Michalski - May 06, 2025 at 04:46 AM

DM

“ Dr. Stefan Michalski planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Judge James Donald Smith.

Dr. Stefan Michalski - May 06, 2025 at 04:46 AM

AT

“ and the Spruson & Ferguson Team planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Judge James Donald Smith.

and the Spruson & Ferguson Team - May 06, 2025 at 03:03 AM

AT

“ and the Spruson & Ferguson Team purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Judge James Donald Smith.



and the Spruson & Ferguson Team - May 06, 2025 at 03:03 AM

Dan Pabón

“ It's so hard for me to say or write anything about Judge James without shedding tears. As his former Pastor, "The Judge" was not only a church member, he was a close friend and confidant. When then US President Obama appointed him to be the Senior Judge at the US Patent office in DC, I was honored to be perhaps the second person he called (after his mom) down in Florida. At that time, we prayed together, and I told him that the US Patent office will be better place now that he was heading there. He laughed at my statement, but accepted the compliment graciously. He decided to keep his residence in Illinois (near our church) and my wife and I were "assigned" to care for his house and forward his mail to DC on a weekly basis. He knew that he wasn't going to be in DC for too long. During his tenure at the Patent office, he performed his duties splendidly. From DC he went on to the Ecolab Company in Minnesota until the time of his passing a week or so ago. I'll miss Judge Smith. His friendship meant the world to me. I'll see him again soon upon Jesus's return to planet earth. See you soon James. I love you man.  
--Pastor Dan and Milca Pabon, Chaplain, Montgomery County Police, MD

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Dan Pabón - May 05, 2025 at 01:06 PM

TF

“ The Ecolab Family purchased the Ocean Breeze Spray for the family of Judge James Donald Smith.



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The Ecolab Family - May 05, 2025 at 12:26 PM

TF

“ *The Ecolab Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Judge James Donald Smith.*

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**The Ecolab Family** - May 05, 2025 at 12:26 PM

EF

“ *Elacqua family purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Judge James Donald Smith.*



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**Elacqua family** - May 05, 2025 at 11:28 AM

ER

“ *A fond memory of playing music with James at a ceremony celebrating the appointment of new judges during his tenure as Chief Administrative Patent Judge at the USPTO*



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**Elizabeth Roesel** - May 04, 2025 at 12:32 PM

MR

“ James was my co clerk for chief judge Paul Michel. I offered James a choice between reading a bible or Khalil Gibran piece or an Emily Dickinson poem at my wedding. James selected the Emily Dickinson poem. chief judge Michel (then judge Michel) officiated. James was a beautiful person inside and out. I am holding him and those who loved him close in my heart. May he rest in eternal peace.



Margaret Rice - May 04, 2025 at 12:24 PM

HI

“ James lived a life of love, friendship, and service. As he uniquely said at our wedding, James is the reason that we met and he made sure the audience was aware of his good works. 😊 He is a blessing to our family and will always be remembered with smiles, laughter, and love. ❤️🙏 Howard & Bonita Bell



Howard Bell, III - May 04, 2025 at 10:38 AM

DI

“ James will missed. He was a great lawyer, but even more an outstanding individual. And I loved his showing me videos of his music. Rest in peace my friend. David W. Ichel

David W Ichel - May 03, 2025 at 07:31 PM

BC

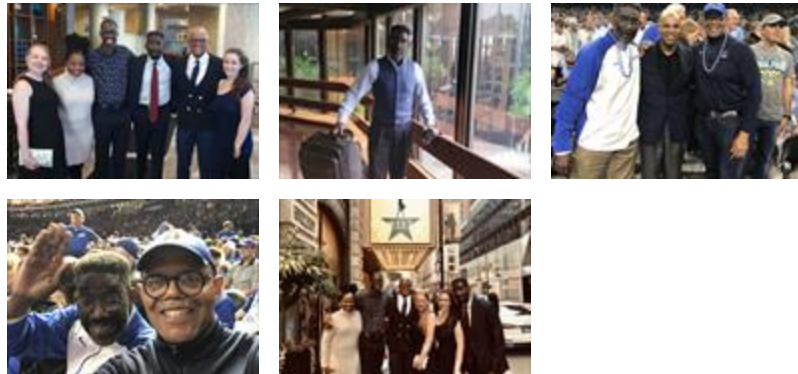
“ 3 files added to the tribute wall



Brent Clinkscale - May 03, 2025 at 10:43 AM

BC

“ 13 files added to the tribute wall



Brent Clinkscale - May 03, 2025 at 10:18 AM

SC

“ Here is a fun video that James & his violin teacher Emily Judge-Becker made.



Steve Christenson - May 03, 2025 at 09:48 AM



Dan Pabón

*That was on the occasion of my birthday three years ago, I still have that video on my files of course.*

**Dan Pabón** - May 05, 2025 at 05:12 PM

SC

“ *My favorite memories of James involve him playing stringed instruments. Here is a photo of his 5th anniversary recognition event at Ecolab.*



**Steve Christenson** - May 03, 2025 at 09:42 AM

CS

“ *3 files added to the tribute wall*



**Cleve Ainsworth Sandy** - May 02, 2025 at 07:08 PM

MS

*Cousin James, you flew in and out of our lives here in Toronto, Canada. We always relished your presence in any family gathering, you will be missed. Thank you for being part of our lives. Rest in peace cousin James. We love you, The Ferdinand - Sandy family - Cleve, Maridette, Cayla and Eileen.*

**Maridette Sandy** - May 06, 2025 at 02:53 PM

JM

“ 2 files added to the album ecolab



joanne Mullen - May 02, 2025 at 04:57 PM

BS

*Brilliant, kind and funny. A wonderful colleague who will be remembered so fondly by all who had the privilege of partnering with him. Rest in peace.*

**Beth Simermeyer** - May 02, 2025 at 05:11 PM

LT

*My condolences.*

**Lisa D Taylor** - May 03, 2025 at 09:23 AM

JJ

*I am sorry to learn about Jame's passing. He was a great classmate and friend while we were at Duke. We were in the same small group section, so I got to know him fairly well. He was a dedicated student and a very nice person. I especially enjoyed playing basketball with him and was happy to be on a team with such a good player (James definitely was a better player than I was). Our team won the university-wide intramural championship our first year of law school! I am sure James' family, friends, and colleagues will miss him dearly.*  
*Joe Irvine*

**Joe Irvine** - May 03, 2025 at 09:51 AM

KP

*I am so saddened to hear of James' passing. I had the great privilege to serve on the Duke Law School Board of Visitors with James. He was kind, eloquent, brilliant and always added a unique and valuable perspective to any issue we were evaluating. His speech at the Duke Law Scholarship brunch in 2023 highlighted his generosity and graciousness. He was grateful for his own scholarship gift and then gave back continuously to those coming after him to continue the legacy. His speech was profound and beautiful. I just had the great pleasure to see him and talk with him at our recent Board meeting on April 4. He was an extraordinary person and I am so glad that I got the chance to know him. Sending condolences to all James' family and friends. May his memory always be a blessing.*

**Kathy Payne** - May 03, 2025 at 12:54 PM

RI

*An artist of the law, music, friendship and life - a person like James comes along rarely in one's time. The few times shared with him are truly immemorial. May we meet again one day, Sir.*

**Ravi Isaac** - May 04, 2025 at 09:55 PM



*James and I went to high school together. He was one year older than me. He was one of the nicest people I've ever known!! People say this all the time when someone passed, but for James it's the absolute truth. We kept in touch for a while after high school and I even remember visiting him at the Duke University Law school 2 or 3 times. We lost touch though the years but ran into each other at an airport about 20 years ago. I am saddened to hear of his passing. He was a good friend and a wonderful person!!!*

**David Wright** - May 05, 2025 at 07:17 PM

JA

*I had the opportunity to connect with James through a Leadership Mentoring program. During the seven months under his guidance, I gained valuable insights that will benefit both my career and personal life. I am fortunate to have met James. My heartfelt condolences go out to his family and friends and may the memories they shared provide them comfort during this time of sorrow.*

**Joseph Adegun** - May 05, 2025 at 07:48 PM