



OBITUARY

James ("Jimmy") Edward Brooks, son of the late Edward Irving and Marion Gordon Brooks was born in Washington, DC on October 9, 1922. At 95 years of age, James entered into eternal rest on Tuesday, January 16, 2018 at George Washington Hospital in Washington, DC. He was preceded in death by three siblings, brothers, Ulysses and Herbert Brooks, and sister, Bernice Kelley and is survived by one sister, Jeanette Harrison

James lived and was educated in the District of Columbia. He graduated from Armstrong Vocational High School with concentrations in carpentry and typing. After graduation, James was employed as an Optic Assembler with the Federal Government (at the Navy Yard) and mounted lenses to telescopes. He held this position until he joined the Marines in 1942.

James was one of the first 20,000 African-American Marine recruits and served between (1942-1946). He trained at the segregated training base known as Montford Point Camp in Jacksonville, North Carolina and served honorably in the Saipan, Guam, Tinian, Peleliu, Iwo Jima, and Okinawa campaigns during World War II and beyond. These Marines (now known as "Montford Point Marines") endured less than humane treatment and camp conditions while serving this country. In 2011, President Barack Obama signed an Executive Order to present the Montford Point Marines with the Congressional Medal of Honor. James received this medal in 2012 and shared the historical moment with his grandson who accompanied him to the Congressional ceremonies.

In his essence, James was passionate, strong and convicted. He was a great motivator and encouraged many young men. His life mission was to educate on healthy eating, exercise and survival. James was a vegetarian and vegan for over 50 years and shared his health and fitness philosophy with so many. He enjoyed playing tennis and jogging during his eighties. James was a talented artist and writer and developed impressive collections of both throughout his life. He listened to all genres of music and enjoyed dancing. He was always ready to have a good time.

He was a strong force in our family, full of wisdom and always willing to share his knowledge. His pastimes included conversing at Whole Foods and drawing napkin portraits of people at neighborhood coffee shops.

James leaves to cherish his legacy and memory to his loving daughter, Camille Denese Brooks, grandson, Jordon Edward Payne and sister, Jeannette Harrison, and a host of cousins, nieces, nephews, relatives and friends.