



## Mr. James Samuel Gettys Jr.

June 12, 1951 - April 27, 2020

Mr. James Samuel Gettys, Jr. was born in Aberdeen, MS on June 12, 1951 to the late James Samuel Gettys, Sr. and the late Ellen Walton Gettys.

He joined church at his father's church, First Baptist of Aberdeen, at an early age and was a devoted Christian. He later joined as watch member of M.U. Baptist Church in Columbus, MS.

James graduated from Aberdeen High School and earned a degree in Music Education (concentration in Organ) from Mississippi Valley State where he pledged the Beta Theta Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. . He later received a Master's Degree in Music from Mississippi State University where he also earned an Educational Leadership Certification. He attended UCLA one Summer in music writing. He was educator of the year, NE Division, in 1986. James was also a former member of the Board of Directors, for MAE (Mississippi Association of Educators).

On August 6

th 1977, he married his life partner, Marcia Hollingsworth

Gettys. They enjoyed 42 1/2 years of marriage where the Lord blessed them with 2 sons and 1 grandchild.

His music career started at 18. He was a master in several instruments including: piano, saxophone, and organ. He went on to play all over the Southeast area especially at weddings, restaurants, social

events, and as a organist and pianist in several churches. He wrote and produced a play entitled “Johnny and the Times Table’s” used for middle school students to learn their times tables. Schools in Alabama also requested the right to his play in their classrooms. Some other major accolades include playing on Broadway in New York City. He wrote and produced “I Find No Fault” inspired by his time with his father which won him 1st place in the gospel category of the Canadian Songwriting Contest in 1984.

James taught music everywhere from Flint Michigan to Amory and Aberdeen, Mississippi. He later went on to service in the school administration for West Point (Vice Principal), West Clay (Principal), Oktibbeha County (Vice principal), Columbus High School (Assistant Vice Principal), and ended his 35+ career at Hunt Intermediate School as the Assistant Vice Principal in 2007.

Besides his devoted wife, he leaves behind his sons: James Samuel Gettys III (Trey), of Birmingham, AL. and William O. (Alicia) Gettys, and his only granddaughter Kayla Riggs, and a host of other family & friends He is preceded in death by his half brother, Durley Gettys.

James was a devoted husband, father, musician, and educator. James was also a former member Board of Directors, for MAE (Mississippi Association of Educators).

# Previous Events

## Service

**MAY 2 (CT)**

Hairston & Hairston Funeral Homes - Columbus  
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