



James Morris Gardner

May 17, 2023

James Morris Gardner, 87, passed away on Wednesday, May 17, 2023, while surrounded by his family. A lifelong Portsmouth resident and son of the late Reba and Jack Gardner, Morris was a graduate of Wilson High School and Norfolk Naval Shipyard Apprentice School. His career transitioned to Newport News Shipbuilding where he retired from SUPSHIP in 1992.

Morris was a gifted singer who used his voice to bless others and sing praises to Jesus. He was a member of New Creation United Methodist Church in Western Branch where he served as Director of Music for over fifty years. He was also a member of Portsmouth 100 Masonic Lodge and Fellowship Chapter #140 Order of the Eastern Star.

Left to cherish his memory are his wife of 66 years, Nancy Gardner; children Debbie Sawyer and husband Keith, Jimmy Gardner and wife Diana, Chris Gardner and wife Laurie; grandchildren Brandon and Timothy Sawyer, Jason Gardner, Ally Nelson, Chase, Tommy and Emily Gardner; great-grandchildren Kayleigh and Savannah Chapman, and Thomas Sawyer; sister Roselyn Harrell; nephew Marvin Harrell and niece Rebecca Blackwell.

The family will have a Celebration of Life service at New Creation United Methodist Church on Tuesday, May 30, 2023, at 5:00pm. Burial is private.

Memorial gifts may be made to the New Creation United Methodist Church
Caring Fund in memory of Morris. New Creation United Methodist Church
4320 Bruce Road, Chesapeake, VA 23321
<https://www.newcreationumc.org>.

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

MAY 30. 5:00 PM (ET)

New Creation United Methodist Church
4320 Bruce Road
Chesapeake, VA 23321

Tribute Wall



“ No one knows the sadness and grief you feel, however he's in a better place now. Just remember he will always be with you so continue to cherish the memories. Mr. Gardner's friend from the bank on the corner. My Deepest Sympathy Calandra Smith



Calandra Smith - May 30, 2023 at 01:49 PM



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of James Morris Gardner.



May 26, 2023 at 04:13 PM



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

May 26, 2023 at 09:20 AM



“ Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of James Morris Gardner.



May 26, 2023 at 09:20 AM

JK

“ *Joan McCaskill Kemper lit a candle in memory of James Morris Gardner*



Joan McCaskill Kemper - May 24, 2023 at 01:18 PM

JK

*For Morris, Nancy and Family
MORRIS IS ABSOLUTELY THE BEST CHIOR DIRECTOR EVER, and
DEAREST SWEET NANCY IS THE BEST MUSICAL INSTRUMENT,
ORGANIST, PIANO Performer and Much More
GOD'S BLESSINGS TO ALL OF YOU 🙏❤️ My Heart Reaches Out to
You, Wishing I Could Be With You ❤️🙏*

Joan McCaskill Kemper - May 24, 2023 at 01:30 PM



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of James Morris Gardner.*



May 22, 2023 at 08:59 PM