



Mr. Jesse James "Bubby" Ford

September 17, 1950 - November 28, 2025

UTICA – Mr. Jesse James “Bubby” Ford, age 75, was called home by the Lord on Saturday, November 28, 2025, after a lengthy illness.

Born in Detroit, MI, on September 17, 1950, Jesse was the son of the late Jesse and Alberta (King) Ford. He spent his childhood and teenage years in Detroit, graduating from high school and working in several security positions there. He later moved to the Utica area with his mother and other family members, and had since called it home.

A man whose world revolved around his kin, Jesse was the quintessential “family man”—he cherished his loved ones deeply and was happiest when spending time with them. He had a warm and supportive heart, and everyone loved being around him. Jesse had a bubbly personality and a terrific sense of humor, and he never failed to make people laugh. He loved telling good jokes, and, as a result, people came to know him as “quite a character.” His famous line, “Hey, baby!” could brighten anyone’s day.

In his spare time, Jesse loved listening to music—especially gospel and R&B—and often sang along. He was a dancing machine who earned a reputation on many a dance floor, with his signature move, “The Freeze.” He knew how to put on a show and always engaged and entertained the people around him. He could even entertain a crowd by playing the spoons. Jesse also loved

watching football. He took pride in his appearance, always dressing stylishly and to a T.

A member of Friendship Missionary Baptist Church, Jesse served faithfully as a deacon and was devoted to his loving God. He held deep spiritual beliefs and found solace in prayer. He also served in the choruses, choirs, and on the usher board. In every way he could, he loved to serve his Lord.

Jesse is survived by his sister and her love, Connie Ford and Roger Blair; and sister-in-law, Darlene Branch. He fondly remembered his brother and sisters who preceded him, Tommy Branch, Kassandra Jean Holmes, Genetta Ford, and Suzanne Ford. He is additionally survived by his nieces and nephews, Chandra Ford, Tajuana Ford; LaShawn Ford; Mark Ford, Brian Branch, and Antoine Ford; a host of great-nieces, great-nephews, cousins; and his dear friends, Rev. George Clarke and David Thomas. He was additionally predeceased by his nephews, Abel Ford and Anthony T. Ford.

The Ford family wishes to express their sincere gratitude to the staff of the St. Johnsville Nursing and Rehabilitation Center for their exceptional care and compassion, as well as to the personnel of Bassett Hospital's Fourth Floor Surgical Unit for their dedicated service.

Visitation will be held on Saturday, December 20, 2025 from 11:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m. at Friendship Missionary and Baptist Church, 1004 Albany St. Jesse's Home Going Service and Celebration of Life will commence at 12:00 p.m. at the church. Those unable to attend may be present virtually at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84366961325>. Interment will take place in Forest Hill Cemetery at the convenience of the family.

Cemetery Details

Forest Hill Cemetery

2201 Oneida Street
Utica, NY 13501
(315) 735-2701

Previous Events

Visitation

DEC **20**. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

Friendship Baptist Church
1004 Albany St.
Utica, NY 13501

Home Going Service

DEC **20**. 12:00 PM (ET)

Friendship Baptist Church
1004 Albany St.
Utica, NY 13501

Tribute Wall

EM

“ *Eld Mary Mosley_Forbes lit a candle in memory of Mr. Jesse James "Bubby" Ford*



Eld Mary Mosley_Forbes - December 17, 2025 at 10:40 PM

EH

“ *Earlene House lit a candle in memory of Mr. Jesse James "Bubby" Ford*



Earlene House - December 04, 2025 at 02:44 PM

EH

My condolences to his family God bless him with all 🕊️🕊️💔😞😞 you will truly be missed my friend forever

Earlene House - December 04, 2025 at 02:46 PM

SL

My condolences to the family ,yes he was a funny guy ,and a very sharp dresser,and he could cut a rug with his smooth dancing ,and I loved to hear hiim Sing,he somg, from his heart and he loved the lord ,RIP brother ,JJesse Ford.

Sandra Linen - December 05, 2025 at 06:55 PM

SR

“ *Salimah Rahman lit a candle in memory of Mr. Jesse James "Bubby" Ford*



Salimah Rahman - December 04, 2025 at 10:43 AM

DB

“ *Darlene Branch lit a candle in memory of Mr. Jesse James "Bubby" Ford*



Darlene Branch - December 04, 2025 at 10:41 AM