



Mr. Jlander Stevens, Jr.

May 30, 1962 - June 5, 2025

A Legacy Rooted in Faith and Family

Jlander Stevens Jr. was the fourth of five children born to the late Beverly N. Stevens-Stallings and the late Jlander Stevens Sr. He was honored to represent the fourth generation of his family born into the Church of God and Saints of Christ. In 1962, he was among the last male children to be blessed by the late Chief Evangelist J.W. Grant—an honor he carried with deep reverence. He was baptized by the late Evangelist James Rueben Grant Sr. and Deacon James Robert Murdock Sr., marking the beginning of a lifelong commitment to faith. As a young man, he joined the Cleveland Tabernacle Local Choir, where his love for music blossomed. He graduated from East Technical High School in Cleveland, Ohio in 1980, stepping into adulthood with conviction and character.

Jlander answered the call to serve by enlisting in the United States Army, where he served with distinction for 28 years, retiring as a Staff Sergeant. During his active-duty years, his spiritual journey deepened under the Watch Care Ministry of Greater Victory Temple Church of God in Christ in Seaside, California, under the leadership of the late Bishop W.W. Hamilton. It was there he found spiritual family in the Nash and Williams households. A man full of praise, Jlander's love for music followed him throughout his military tenure. He sang in the 7th Army Soldiers' Chorus, participated in the Walter Hawkins

Music & Arts Seminar Workshop Choirs of Monterey and Oakland, and recorded with Greater Victory Temple's Sanctuary Choir. His ministry grew deeper as he served in the Deaf Ministry at Center of Hope Community Church in Oakland, CA, under Bishop E.C. Reems, where he became a bridge of communication and compassion for the hearing-impaired.

Upon being stationed in Hopewell, Virginia, Jlander returned to the Church of God and Saints of Christ under the leadership of the late Rabbi Levi Solomon Plummer. Immersing himself in the ministry, he served faithfully in the music department and was appointed Chorister (Cantor) in 2002 by Elder Harold Barnes. As Choir Superintendent and Tabernacle Treasurer for 5th Tabernacle, Elizabeth City, NC, he exemplified faithfulness and leadership. One of his greatest joys was hosting South African delegates during the Annual Passovers. It was during this time that his dear friend, Evangelist (now Rabbi) Howard Z. Dimpho Masenya, bestowed upon him the Zulu name "Msizi," meaning "The Helper"—a name that echoed the very essence of his life. An academic achiever, he earned two MBA degrees (Summa Cum Laude) in Human Resource Management and Conflict & Negotiation Management from Touro International University. Whether playing strategy games or advocating for senior citizens, Jlander lived to serve. He was also a proud and distinguished member of the Prince Hall Free & Accepted Masons and associated Masonic bodies, holding multiple esteemed titles and lifelong memberships.

On April 16, 2023, with a renewed heart, Jlander Stevens Jr. reaffirmed his commitment to the Church of God and Saints of Christ, standing proudly with the Joshua Generation under the pastoral leadership of Bishop C. L. Hendricks. On April 20, 2024, it was laid on Bishop C. L. Hendricks heart to appoint Bro. Jlander to another ministry of the Home and of Foreign Mission. He made a great impact in such a brief period of time. On June 5, 2025, he exchanged time for eternity and entered into his eternal rest, preceded in glory

by his parents—Jlander Stevens Sr. and Beverly N. Stallings (Evangelist Enoch Stallings Jr.)

Jlander leaves behind a host of loved ones to celebrate his life: his Godmother, Aunt Ruth Vernon; his best friend, Nicolas R. Graham; his brother, Bishop Lenton L. Stevens (Miriam); his sisters, Elder Juanita A. Hayes, Estelle Davis, and Rachon E. Moncrief. He is remembered with affection by his cousins Esther Nadine Edgerson and Evangelist J. Charles "Bubi" Williams; nephews Bishop C. L. Hendricks (Cheri), Joshua Stevens, and Tommie Davis Jr.; nieces Cheniqua Stevens, Jessica Hill, Terika Rodriguez (Enrique), and Deanna Stevens; along with 14 grand-nieces and nephews and 11 godchildren. His beloved Aunt Rachel Walker and countless cousins from every branch of the family cherish his memory. He also leaves behind his adopted family in California: The Nash Family (Deacon John L. Nash Sr. and LeNell, John Jr., Cecil, Karla, and Monique Hall), Elder William and Clara B. Williams (TX), and the Webb Family (Jeanette and Eugene Webb, MD). His extended circle of dear friends includes Rabbi Howard Z. Dimphe Masenya and Darryl W. Goodwin (Mxolisi).

Previous Events

Jlander Stevens Jr. Memorial Service

JUN 27. 3:00 PM - 4:30 PM (ET)

M.E. Fisher Funeral Home
2117 Madison Avenue
Newport News, VA 23607

Tribute Wall



“ *Heartfelt Sympathies Blue & White Funeral Standing Basket was purchased for the family of Mr. Jlander Stevens, Jr..*



June 25, 2025 at 02:41 PM



“ *My heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family of Jlander Stevens, Jr. Jlander was thoughtful and very helpful in the Human Resources Office at Fort Eustis, VA. He can put a smile on your face with his wit and humor. Jlander, rest in Heavenly Peace.*

Beverly Johnson and Family

Beverly Johnson - June 12, 2025 at 05:42 PM



“ *I'm so sorry to find out the passing of my brother from another mother and father Jlander! He was a wonderful person with lots of personality. He always had me laugh with his teasing remarks. Jay was always eager to give wherever needed. During my mom's 87th Bday in March as he was leaving he said, "you need anything sis." My entire family mourns with the Stevens family today. He will be missed dearly.*



JANNETTE PERSON - June 12, 2025 at 01:50 PM

LJ

“ Condolences to the family. Rest in peace my brother. Will miss you at Starbucks in the mornings.

Lem Jordan - June 12, 2025 at 11:20 AM

AB

“ To the Family of Bro. Jlander Stevens, Jr. I was saddened to hear of the demise of this kind individual. I enjoyed conversations and having laughs with him on various occasions. He will not be forgotten, and he is dwelling in another level of existence in joy, love, and tranquility where sorrows and sighing is non-existent. Although Bro. Jlander has exited these mundane shores, he can rest well where peace surpasses all understanding. When grief presses on your weary souls, kneel at the mercy seat and tell of your anguish. Earth has no sorrows that GOD cannot heal. Humbly, Ms. Anita E. Brabson, Suffolk, VA.

Anita E. Brabson - June 11, 2025 at 04:44 PM

CC

Condolences and prayers to the family of Mr. Jlander Steven's Jr. He was such a lovely person ,always so friendly and willing to help out It was a pleasure working with him in the Heroines of Jericho PHA. He will surely be missed
RIP!

Clarice Chapman - June 27, 2025 at 09:08 AM