



Harold Julius Hamler

December 1, 1941 - December 3, 2025

With full hearts and deep gratitude for a life well-lived, we honor the legacy of Harold Julius Hamler — devoted husband, loving father, proud veteran, faithful servant of God, and cherished family patriarch — who transitioned from this life on December 3, 2025, at the age of 84.

Born on December 1, 1941, in Cairo, Illinois, to the late Magnolia Trotter and Jack Hamler, Harold affectionately known as “Hambone” spent his early years in the tight-knit community that shaped his foundation. He later journeyed to Chicago, where he attended Corpus Christi High School, before returning home to Cairo to complete his education at Cairo High School. In time, love led him back to Chicago — and on November 12, 1965, he married the love of his life, Jessie Mae. Together, they built a home grounded in faith, family, and enduring devotion.

Harold accepted Christ at a young age and remained rooted in his faith throughout his earthly walk. He was a charter member of New Nazareth Missionary Baptist Church, serving under the founding pastor, Rev. Dr. John E. Hopkins. His dedication to ministry shined through his work as the no nonsense, zero tolerance given, Sergeant-at-Arms of the Broadcast Choir, a committed leader in the Men’s Ministry (Men of Valor) — where he was

honored as Man of the Year — a church bus driver for countless events and outings, and the beloved grill master of church picnics. Harold continued to serve joyfully under current pastor Rev. Dr. Jarvis J. Hanson, demonstrating faithfulness until the very end.

A proud patriot, Harold served honorably in the United States Army. He later devoted more than 30 years of distinguished service to the Chicago Transit Authority as a bus operator — greeting riders daily with professionalism, kindness, and a warm smile.

He was also a member of the Masonic Order – Corner Stone Lodge #91, Prince Hall Affiliation, where he embodied unity, brotherhood, and community support.

To his family, Harold was the truest example of a provider, protector, and pillar of strength. He enjoyed dressing sharply for every occasion, gracing the dance floor with the polished elegance of a true Chicago stepper, playing cards and slamming down a winning domino, barbecuing in the summertime, and bringing laughter and encouragement to those around him. His presence could light up a room, and his heart was always open.

Harold leaves a legacy of love in the hearts of his daughters: Gwendolyn, Kimberly, Stephanie, Natalie (Edward), and Brenda (Taurean); grandchildren: Jeremy, Donald, Eugene, Toshiba, Taffeney, Porsha, Madisin, Averie, Olivia, and Arya; 26 great-grandchildren and 11 great-great-grandchildren; siblings: James (Melissa), Carl, Jeanette (Eli), Deneen, Deborah, and Rena; his beloved godchildren Tyonne and Jauan; siblings-in-love: Arthur Lee and

Brenda; and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, church family, and friends — all of whom will continue to carry his spirit forward.

He is reunited in eternal glory with his parents; his devoted wife, Jessie Mae; his grandson, Edward “Tre”; his great-granddaughters, Eyvonne and J’dah; his siblings, Milton and Annie; and many precious loved ones who welcomed him home.

Although we feel the sting of his absence, we rejoice in knowing that Harold has received his heavenly reward — no longer bound by life’s burdens, but resting in perfect peace.

“Well done, good and faithful servant... enter into the joy of your Lord.” —
Matthew 25:23

Forever loved. Forever missed. Forever in our hearts.

Cemetery Details

Mt. Glenwood Memory Gardens South

18301 Glenwood-Thornton Road
Glenwood, IL 60425

Previous Events

Public Viewing

DEC **19**. 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM (CT)

Calahan Funeral Home Landmark Chapel
7030 S. Halsted
Chicago, IL 60621

Visitation

DEC **20**. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

New Nazareth Baptist Church
7933 S. Yates Blvd
Chicago, IL 60617

Funeral Service

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

New Nazareth Baptist Church
7933 S. Yates Blvd
Chicago, IL 60617

Tribute Wall



“ Family, friends, and lineage of uncle Harold Jr.; I send my sincerest condolences to each of you and your individual journey of mourning. My grandmother Ruby was his sister in law. I was only around he & your beautiful mother Jesse a few times growing up but it always felt like forever in their presence.

The loss of a father is one of deepest and longest sorrows to recover as child but more as daughter. The 1st leading man we know. I know so well how dear that relationship can be. Even his relationship to his sisters as guardrails encouragement and protection, knowing they could call on & count on him. I will surely keep each of you and our family/extended in my prayers for strength to mourn, time to heal, comfort of coming relief and peace with loving the memories you once shared.

Love,
Josephine Logan 💕🥹

Josephine - jo- Jojo - December 20, 2025 at 11:21 AM



“ Lavender Reflections Spray was purchased for the family of Harold Julius Hamler.



December 19, 2025 at 01:02 AM

AD

“ Amelia D. purchased the Ocean Breeze Spray for the family of Harold Julius Hamler.



Amelia D. - December 18, 2025 at 11:21 AM

KW

“ Kristi W. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Harold Julius Hamler.

Kristi W. - December 16, 2025 at 09:30 AM

BR

“ Bro. James and Sis. Melissa Ramsey purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Harold Julius Hamler.



Bro. James and Sis. Melissa Ramsey - December 15, 2025 at 01:23 PM

BR

“ Bro. James and Sis. Melissa Ramsey planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Harold Julius Hamler.

Bro. James and Sis. Melissa Ramsey - December 15, 2025 at 01:23 PM

AF

“ AMP Family purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Harold Julius Hamler.



AMP Family - December 13, 2025 at 12:28 PM

GT

“ GM'S ME BODY TEAM purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Harold Julius Hamler.



GM'S ME BODY TEAM - December 05, 2025 at 03:37 PM

GT

“ GM'S ME BODY TEAM planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Harold Julius Hamler.

GM'S ME BODY TEAM - December 05, 2025 at 03:37 PM

AJ

“ Artie Richard and Julian purchased the Serene Retreat for the family of Harold Julius Hamler.



Artie Richard and Julian - December 05, 2025 at 02:50 PM