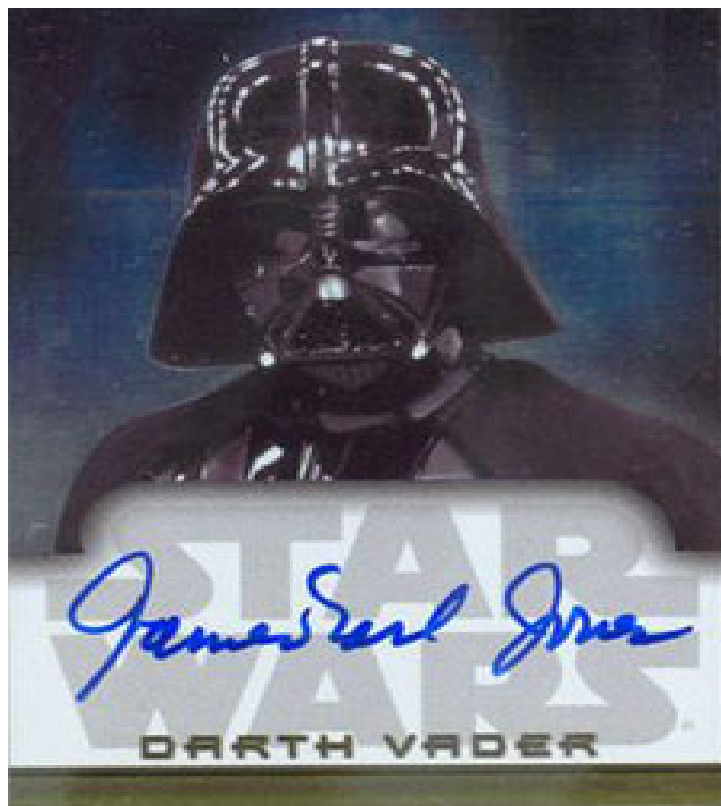




James Earl Jones

“One of the hardest things in life is having words in your heart that you can't utter.”





James life growing up

- From age 6 until age 14, he was virtually mute.
- He believes that his stuttering was a result of emotional overload or trauma.
- His family often accused him of lying about his inability to speak.

However....

- During his years of muteness, he did talk...to some of his family, to animals, and even to himself.
- But...never to a visitor or to other people in his daily life.
- To James, speech was a wall that “I could not surmount!”

Someone made a difference...

- A high school English teacher recognized James' talent and intellect. As a result, he challenged James to read a creative poem in front of class to avoid an accusation of plagiarism.

James stood up....

- Shaking...cursing himself...straining to get the words out....pushing from the bottom of his soul.
- When he opened his mouth, the words flowed out smoothly, without stuttering.

He had discovered that.....

- The written word was safe for him.
- The script was a sanctuary.
- And slowly, his powers of speech were resurrected.

- The rest is history.....

His stuttering remains.....

- "You get so nervous during certain passages of script that you can't get through them. You can't make them work."
- "I am still not good with speeches. The stage is what I do best. I have a problem with anything that is not well scripted."

And more.....

- "There is nothing more moving or powerful than the power of the Word when beautiful language is married to deep passion. The voice is the instrument for the expression of that power."

But in the end.....

- "In my silence, I was robbing myself of any presence. I am who I am. I was denying myself thator something that had been set loose in me denied it."
- "When I learned to talk, I reclaimed my voice from that long silence. I rediscovered the joy of communication."

To all, lift your voice out of the silences
and say.....

- " This is who I am. For what it's worth, this is how I feel...and this is who I am."

