

VETERAN WILLIS JEROME HOLLIS was born on August 2, 1947, in Sumter County, Georgia to the parentage Mr. Robert Hollis and Mrs. Frankie Ball Hollis, who both precede him in death. He is also preceded in death by his grandparents: Ms. Ethel Seay Ball, Mr. Frank Ball, Ms. Bobbie Hollis, and Mr. Cleve Hollis.

Willis became a member of the Friendship Missionary Baptist Church as a child, where he remained a member until his health failed. Willis attended Sumter County Schools and was a graduate of the Sumter County High School class of 1966. He later attended Fort Valley State University until he was drafted into the United States Army and served in the Vietnam War with the 139th MP CO, Fort Jackson, SC, receiving the National Defense Medal, Vietnam Service Medal, and Vietnam Campaign Medal. Willis was trained as a sharpshooter expert and later, a central office switchboard operator. That training led to his prided career as a Booking and Central Officer with the Sumter County Sheriff's Department until he retired. Prior to retiring, Willis had a career as the store manager at local pharmacies, being blessed to transition once companies expanded and rebranded as other pharmacies, such as Super X, Rite Aid, and lastly, retiring from CVS.

In addition to his parents and grandparents, he is preceded in death by two siblings, Robert (Carrie) Brown and Montena (Harold) Fish; his aunts, Eula Mann and Mattie Mahome; his uncle, Clifford Hollis; his nephew, Marcus I. Wilkerson, Sr.; his nieces, Willie Jean Ball, Alta Ball and Barbara Seay.

Willis married the love of his life, Ethel Patricia Allen Hollis on June 6, 1975, whom he leaves to cherish his memories along with his sisters, Ms. Sherra Faye Kendrick of Mount Clemens MI and stepsister, Ms. Dorothy Crenshaw Jackson Americus, GA; aunt, Ms. Wahid Hollis, Americus, GA; nephews: Gregory C. Cleveland II (Valeri) of Madison Heights, MI; Alvin (Sharon) Jackson, Jr. of Powder Springs, GA and Derrick (Kimberly) Brown of Lilburn, GA; nieces: devoted niece, Crystal A. Cleveland and fiancé, George McKenzie and Wylinda Wilkerson, both of Americus, GA; devoted caretaker and niece, Wendy Jackson Adams of Plains, GA; step nieces, Tammy Cleveland and Tyeisha (Mike) Harris, both of Sumter County, GA; great nieces and nephews: Marcus I Wilkerson, Jr, Matteo Cleveland, Jozef Cleveland, Franako Smith, Thaddeus Hall, Dion Brown, Jared Brown, Taylor James, Radesha Lewis, Isabella Cleveland, Zoya Cleveland, Brittany Jackson, A'Johna Adams, Brianna Hall, Jillian Brown, Karissa Toombs, and Tyanna James; cousins: John (Sonia) Seay, Jr., Ebony Seay, Marianne(Lee) Pitts, Lechel, Yohannes Hollis, Geraldine Cherry, Yvonne Lowe, Cheryl Berryhill, Jehova Kears, Sandra Greene, Lawrence Kears, Almeta Keys, Mattie Smith, L.C. Ball, Gwendolyn Cross, Lucious Jr., Lorenzo, Willie Ball Johnny Ball, Evelyn Foster, Fletcher (Sarah) Ball, Felicia Lyons, Glenda Ball, Marcellous (Sandra) Ball, Trevor, Tamara, Tory, Gregory, Mattie Ruth Carter, Yolanda, Jerome, Charles Ball, Johnny Frank Ball, Johnny

Frank, Martha Glass, Edith Ann Daniels, Patricia Allen, Ivy Nunn, David Daniels, Rodney Daniels, Miller (Emma) Rush, Toby Rush, Rev. Travis Rush, Otis Seay, Otisa Seay, Jermaine Seay, Jarrell Seay, Adrian Seay, Zandra (Louis) Stewart, Brian (Rebecca) Terry, Travis (LaToya) Luvin, Marilyn Manuel and Eddie, Gwendolyn Terry, Tomeika Terry, Michael Terry, Crystal Terry, Deborah (Raymond) Bridges, Lashondia Bridges, Antwan Bridges, LaToya Bridges, Leslie Rowell, Lavarus Rowell, LaShaun Seay; extended family: David Shephard, Larry Sheppard, Steve Brown, Barbara Harris and George (Irene) Allen also survive.