



Pallbearers

The United States Military Personnel

Honorary Pallbearers

Anthony Day

Stacy Day

Harold Holden

Tony Little

Johnathan Lockett

Chief Randy Pate

Floral Attendants

Family & Friends

Acknowledgements

The family wishes to express heartfelt appreciation for your prayers, support and acts of kindness shown during our time of bereavement. We thank each of you for coming to help bear our grief. May God bless you and Heaven smile upon you.

The Family

Professional Services Entrusted to



"Committed to Excellence"

1011 Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive

Fort Valley, GA 31030

478-825-8700

HONORING OUR HERO



WILLIE FRANK HARRIS

JULY 9, 1945 - AUGUST 5, 2023

EDWARDS SMALL MORTUARY CHAPEL

1011 MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DRIVE

FORT VALLEY, GEORGIA 31030

SATURDAY, AUGUST 12, 2023

12:00 NOON

REV. CALVIN MINTER, EULOGIST

+++++

Willie Frank Harris, affectionately known as (Rabbit) was born on July 9, 1945 in Crawford County, Georgia to the late Willie J. and Smithy Hill Harris. He was the first born and only boy of three siblings, two (Cinderella Danielly and Deloris Carson) of which preceded him in death. He joined the Ross Chapel AME Church at an early age, where his granddaddy, William Harris served as a deacon. Later following in his grandfather's footsteps, he became a deacon and eventually became Chairman of the Deacon Board.

He attended Crawford County Training School, where he graduated in 1962. After completion of high school, he joined the United States Army, serving five years of active duty. Following his completion of active duty, he joined the Army National Guard and later gained employment at Robins Airforce Base (RAFB) as a janitor. While working at RAFB, he decided to take some college courses and obtained certification in Electrical and Wood-work.

He was determined to continue to move up the ladder. So moving through the ranks became his mission and journey, which led to him becoming the first African American to obtain the position of Chief of Fuel Distribution POL at RAFB (which still remains) today. After retiring with a total of 50 plus years serving his country that included the United States Army, Robins Air Force Base and the Army National Guard with the rank of Sergeant First Class. Meanwhile, he began to serve in his community by becoming a member of the Crawford County Volunteer Fire Department. As one of the original members of the Crawford County Volunteer Fire Department (Station #7). While serving as a volunteer for the Crawford County Fire Department he received his Fireman's Certification and was later promoted to Battalion Chief on April 12, 2012. He was devoted to risking his life in order to serve his community for more than 40+ years. He also served in the Elections Department for 21 plus years and during that time, he served 18 of those years as a Poll Supervisor for Crawford County, Georgia. Additionally, he served on the Clean and Beautiful Committee for 17 years. There are many more accomplishments and achievements that were not mentioned because he was never one who liked to talk, boast or brag about his accomplishments and did not like for someone else to do it. Humbleness was his way and he would say, "May the work I've done speak for me; God, made the way".

On July 20, 1967 he was joined in holy Matrimony to his marble playing friend, Barbara J. Daniels (Bob) and they shared 56 years together. To this union two daughters blossomed, Casandra and Tawanna Harris

Willie was also preceded in death by six brothers-in-law.

He leaves to cherish loving memories, his wife, Barbara J. Daniels Harris (Bob); two daughters: Casandra D. Harris of Roberta, GA; and Dr. Tawanna Harris-Woodson (Julian) of McDonough, GA; five grandchildren: Algernon J. Harris (Ashley) Fayetteville, NC, Quatavin Y. Harris of Roberta, GA, both of these two grands were raised as his sons; Brian Ross, Jr. of Augusta, GA and Shaquetta and Sha-Kell Beard of Augusta, GA; six great-grands: Autasia Harris, Naajiyah Calloway, Ava Harris, Harleigh and Ameila Beard and A 'Zora Harris; two aunts: Phedifa Boyer of Ft. Valley, GA and Earlene Hollis (Frank) of Roberta, GA; one uncle; George Harris (Kitty) of Ft. Valley, GA; seven sisters-in-law: Vera Bryant of Conyers, GA; Cleonia Corbin of Roberta, GA; Florazella Talton, Nettie Daniels, Hommia Walker (Homer), Linda Gibson (Clarence) and Audrey Daniels, all of Ft. Valley, GA; three brothers-in-law: Sylvester Daniels, Chattanooga, TN; Donnie Daniels, Ft. Valley, GA; and Walter Danielly, Macon, GA; his group of "Hey Fella" includes: Bobby Day, as his "ride or die"; long time camping and fishing buddy (that he cherished as a best bud), Lonnie Anderson, whom he treated like a son; Garrett Milton, his telling it like it is friend; Leon Schofield, his fishing cousin; Calvin Weaver, whom he considered as a father-figure in his life; Horace Soloman, his church protégé'; SGT Melvin Griffin, monthly gossip buddy; Eric and Cynthia Simpson, (special occasion friends) along with a host of dedicated nieces, nephews, cousins, and so many more affectionate friends that we can't name them all but who will always remember his loving spirit.

Inside Story

His daddy (Willie J. Harris) always said that he was a man of few words, **BUT** when E. F. Hutton spoke, "You just shut up and listen"

Alma Hill Marshall and John Dallas Hill (Chop) he said, "To Keep The Torch Burning!"

Willie & Da Boyz

"He didn't go fishing to escape his life, he went fishing to live his life"



"Teach a man to fish and you feed him for a lifetime"



Tribute to our Daddy

Dear Daddy,

We thank you and mom for being and giving us the very best. Thank you for the laughter you ,mom, and I had the night before you left us. I need to know where the quarter you used when you made me keep making up the bed up until the quarter bounced off it. I know you still have that quarter. Tea still thinks that's funny.

We thank God for blessing us with the true definition of a man and the best daddy. Thank you for all the fishing trips and all our outdoor skills. Most of all, the love, time and life skills you taught us. You prepared us since we were very young for all battles. Win, lose or draw, you taught us that it is just a battle, "Get up, get that dirt off you, fix your hair and let's win this war!" You left us with our checklists and instructions. However, we can't find the one that tells us how to heal our broken hearts, souls and minds when you left your boat to go fishing with God.

P. S. Sorry for fighting my kindergarten teacher the first day of school. I was bored daddy because mom had already taught me my ABC's. I wanted to stay home with Tee. Yes sir, I knew better.

We will love ,honor and cherish you forever!

Love always,

Your First Captains Casandra Harris

& Dr. Tawanna Harris-Woodson



GONE FISHING...



Hooked up with my eternal fishing buddies...

God and Jesus!

Order of Celebration

Officiant, Pastor Calvin Minter

Processional & Last Glance

Congregational Hymn...“What A Friend We Have In Jesus”.....Rev. Dr. Willie Wright
Pastor, Harris Chapel CME Church

Words of Comfort..... Alma Hill Marshall & John Dallas Hill

Solo.....Geraldon Amica

Prayer.....Willie B. Little

Scriptures

Old & Testament.....Pastor Justin Johnson
*Springhill Missionary Baptist Church
Thomasville, GA*

Solo.....Pastor David Towns
Welcome Home Baptist Church, Butler, Georgia

Reflections

(Five minutes or less please)

As a Church Member/Deacon.....Horace Soloman
As SFC Army National Guardsman.....SGT Melvin Griffin
As a Volunteer Fireman (Crawford Co. Station#7.....Harvey Riley
As Chief of Fuels Distribution POL-Warner Robins Air Force Base.....Tim Craft
As Granddad/Daddy.....SGT Algernon J. Harris & Quatavin Y. Harris

Eulogy.....Pastor Calvin Minter
*Ross Chapel Community Church
Fort Valley, GA (Crawford County)*

Acknowledgements.....Edwards Small Mortuary Staff

Recessional

Interment

Gordon Chapel AME Church
497 Gordon Chapel Church Road
Fort Valley, GA 31030

Repast

Camp John Hope FFA-CCLA Center
281 Hope Entrance Road
Fort Valley, GA 31030

A Message from a Special Husband

A Fallen Limb

A limb had fallen from the family tree.
I keep hearing a voice that says, "Grieve
not for me."
Remember the best times, the laughter,
the song
The good life I lived while I was strong.
Continue my heritage, I'm counting on
you.

Keep smiling and surely the sun will shine
through.

My mind is at ease, my soul is at rest.
Remembering all, how I truly was blessed.
Continue traditions, no matter how small.
Go on with your life, don't worry about
falls

I miss you all dearly, so keep up your chin
Until the day comes we're together again.

I'll Always Love You Bob!


together
&
forever

