

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The family of Horace Jerry Rawlings would like to thank everyone for the acts of love and kindness shown during our time of bereavement. May God bless each of you.

Memorial Service

Saturday, December 7, 2024

3:00 pm

St. Stephen Church of Christ

308 W 1st St, Princeton, NC 27569

Professional Services Entrusted to:



Sanders Funeral Home

806 E Market St • Smithfield, NC 27577

Phone: (919) 934-8416

HONORING THE LIFE OF



HORACE JERRY RAWLINGS

SEPTEMBER 6, 1949 — DECEMBER 2, 2024

OBITUARY

Mr. Horace Jerry Rawlings was born on September 6, 1949, in Princeton, North Carolina, to the late Walter Rawlings and the late Gertrude Whitley Rawlings. He departed this life on Monday, December 2, 2024, at Lawrence Memorial Hospital in New London, Connecticut.

Affectionately known as "Jerald," he graduated from Richard B. Harrison High School in 1969. Afterward, he attended Wayne Community College before choosing to enlist in the United States Army. During his time in the Army, Jerald trained as a field medic and often reflected on the harrowing experiences he witnessed, saying his eyes saw what no man should see.

Jerald accepted Christ at a young age while attending St. Stephens Church of Christ in Princeton, North Carolina, and later became a member of Miracle Faith Outreach in Bridgeport, Connecticut. While hospitalized, he recommitted his life to Christ, surrounded by his siblings who bore witness to his faith.

Jerald was known for his quiet demeanor and his ability to befriend everyone he met. Growing up, he had a passion for drawing, particularly cars, and also enjoyed cutting hair for neighborhood kids and playing the guitar while others played sports. After being medically retired from the military, Jerald settled in Bridgeport, Connecticut, where he resided until his passing.

Jerald was preceded in death by his brother Theo Whitley and his sisters Bernice Whitley Strong and Martha Faye Rawlings.

He leaves to cherish his memory six children: his daughters, Tasha Braswell Dudley of Goldsboro, North Carolina, and Demisha Braswell Gaines and her husband Allen of Goldsboro, North Carolina; his twin children, Aueron Smith of Goldsboro, North Carolina, and Devon Smith of Arizona; his son, Horace Rawlings of Connecticut; and his youngest son, Lakai Rawlings of Atlanta, Georgia.

Jerald is also survived by his brothers Mack A. Rawlings and his wife Shirley of Goldsboro, North Carolina, Bobby Lee Rawlings of Goldsboro, North Carolina, and Ronald K. Rawlings and his wife Jill of Goldsboro, North Carolina, as well as his sister Afreda Rawlings Vick of Goldsboro, North Carolina. He leaves behind five grandchildren: Tiyez Dudley, Jazzlynn Dudley, Marquita Kornegay, Dequan Braswell, and Jyliah Gaines, along with a host of nieces, nephews, relatives, and friends.

We will deeply miss Jerald during this difficult time, but we take comfort in knowing he is now resting in the arms of his Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

ORDER OF SERVICE

Musical Prelude.....Community Choir

Processional.....Clergy and Family

Hymn of ComfortCommunity Choir

The Reading of the Holy Scriptures:

Old Testament.....Sister Shirley Atkinson

New TestamentMother Margie Sykes

Prayer of ComfortPastor Larry Witherspoon
of St. Stephens Church of Christ, Princeton, NC

SoloBrother Sam Blake Jr.

Remarks..... Two Minutes
Family.....Ronald Rawlings (brother)

Acknowledgements & Obituary Reading.....Lady Linda Warren

Inspirational SelectionCommunity Choir

Eulogy.....Pastor Dr. Jimmy A. Atkins of
True Worship, Cary, NC

Funeral Director's Brief.....Sanders Funeral Home

