

VETERAN *James Merritt* was born in Webster County, Georgia on May 1, 1931, to the parentage of the late Mr. Frank Williams and the late Mrs. Mary Merritt.

He received his education in the public schools of Webster County.

In 1952, he enlisted in the United States Army during the Korean War and was Honorably discharged in 1954. While serving his country, he received several medals of honor including a Purple Heart.

At an early age, he joined the Mt. Zion Baptist Church, in Webster County, under the leadership of the late Rev. G. W. Nealy. He served on the Board of Deacons. Later, he moved his membership to the St. Mark A. M. E. Church to be with his wife, Mrs. Mae Frances Wilson Merritt and served on the Steward and Trustee Board until his health declined.

He was employed for many years with Davidson Rubber Company in the Paint Department. He was also employed with the Montezuma Medical Center, Sumter Regional Hospital and Redman Mobile Home as a Security Guard for many years.

Some of his favorite hobbies were being a great gardener and selling vegetables and watermelons all over the county. He loved spending time with his family. He was also a member of the Masonic Temple.

He is preceded in death by a daughter, Frances Tyner; a son, James Merritt, Jr.; a brother, Husher Merritt; six sisters: Osceola Wright, Ruby Jackson, Hazel Wright, Johnnie Freeman, Mary Jordan Colwell and Pearl Shelton; a stepdaughter, Ida Bell Sampson and two granddaughters, Angela Tyner and Ebonasha S. Harris.

In addition to his wife of 35 years, Mrs. Mae Frances Merritt, Plains, GA, left to cherish his memories are three daughters: Mrs. Janaha Kay (Lee) Kleckley, Americus, GA; Mrs. Annette (David) Starr, Columbus, GA and Mrs. Julie (Yancey) Roberts, Baconton, GA; 13 grandchildren: Tesa Tyner, Kelly Tyner, Sharon "Lisa" (Alvin) Jackson, Natalie Tyner, Shanea (Daniel) Walton, Marquila Harris, Valencia Williams, Anthony (Tina) Wilson, Corralus (Angela) Wilson, Jamel Wilson, Jamie (Cheryl) Lampkin, Jeffery Lampkin and Courtney Leverette; six brothers-in-law: Mr. Gene Wilson, Perry, GA; Mr. Wade Wilson, Mr. Henry (Juanita) Wilson, Mr. Marvin (Annie B.) Wilson, and Deacon Ezell Shelton, all of Americus, GA; five sisters-in-law: Mrs. Leana (Raymond) Laney, Colorado Springs, CO; Ms. Virginia Wilson, Americus, GA; Ms. Ann Wilson, New York City, NY; Ms. Laura Gaines and Ms. Ola Mae Wilson, both of Plains, GA; god children: Ms. Beatrice Laster,

Mark Tullis and the Gardner families; a god granddaughter, Breonna Tyson; his devoted neighbors, Jeremiah and Josephine Thomas, Ronnie and Elizabeth “Jean” Marshall and Henry Polk; nine great grandchildren, six great-great grandchildren and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, other relatives and friends also survive.