

Celebration of Life
JOHN HENRY WILSON, SR.
Order of Service

Processional.....led by Dr. DeRienzia Johnson
and Pulpit Guests

Last Glance and Final Sealing

Selection.....“You Are My Everything”
Minister Keisha Mercer

Prayer.....Deacon Dwight Harris

Scripture
Old Testament.....Reverend Shirley Strawter
St. Mark A. M. E. Church

New Testament.....Reverend Dr. Thaddaus Laidler
Bethesda Missionary Baptist Church

Selection.....“Trust Me”
Minister Keisha Mercer

Final Reflections on John Henry Wilson, Sr.
limit 2 minutes

My Dad.....Mr. John H. Wilson, Jr.
My Brother.....Mr. Wade Wilson
My Friend.....Mr. Walter Charles Walker

Selection.....“It Is Well”
Minister Keisha Mercer

Eulogy.....Dr. DeRienzia Johnson
Greater New Hope Baptist Church | St. Louis, Illinois

Acknowledgements and
Presentation of the
Family Bible.....Barnum Staff

Grace and Benediction.....Rev. Dr. Thaddaus Laidler

Recessional

*Please turn all cell phones and electronic devices off
or to silent mode during the services. Thank you.*

REPAST | Life Center of Bethesda Missionary Baptist Church

ACTIVE PALLBEARERS
Mr. Ollie Brown Mr. Darryl Rashad Dowdell
Mr. Stacey Rucker Mr. Terence Clemons
Mr. Tommy Pless Mr. Michael Williams

HONORARY PALLBEARERS
Deacons of Bethesda Missionary Baptist Church

FLOWER ATTENDANTS
Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated

A Better Place

There's a better place we've never seen
beyond this world we know.
A place only heard of
but somebody hopes to go.
It's not on any map.
There are no roads to take us there.
But it's a place of perfect peace
where hearts are free from care.
And though we understand
some may be saddened
when we leave one day,
we all will meet again....
that's what we believe.

FUNERAL ARRANGEMENTS ENTRUSTED TO:
Barnum Funeral Home, Inc.
217 Ashby Street, Americus, Georgia 31709
Telephone: (229) 924-2958 | Fax: (229) 924-2957
Information Line: (229) 928-2955
www.barnumfuneralhome.com
Email: barnumfuneralhome@gmail.com

ESCORT COURTESY:
Americus Police Department | Sumter County Sheriff's Office

CELEBRATION *of Life* HONORING
**JOHN HENRY
WILSON, SR.**

Sunrise: July 22, 1946

Sunset: June 28, 2026

A Legacy Remembered
Servant ~ Family Man ~ Veteran



Homegoing Service

Monday, July 6, 2026 | 11:00 a.m.
Bethesda Missionary Baptist Church
225 Forrest Street, Americus, Georgia 31709
Rev. Dr. Thaddaus Laidler, Pastor

OFFICIANT
Dr. DeRienzia Johnson
Greater New Hope Baptist Church | St. Louis, Illinois

JOHN HENRY WILSON, SR.

Obituary

Mr. John Henry Wilson, Sr. was born on July 22, 1946, in Sumter County, Georgia, to the parents of the late Mr. Lawrence Wilson and Mrs. Ola B. Kitchens Wilson.

John received his education in the Webster County School System and graduated from high school in 1965. Shortly thereafter, he was drafted into the United States Army, where he faithfully served his country during the Vietnam War and was awarded the Bronze Star for his honorable service.

Following his military service, John worked briefly for Redman Industries before beginning a distinguished 36-year career as a machine operator with CSX Railroad, where he retired after years of dedicated service.

John was a faithful member of Bethesda Missionary Baptist Church, where he served on the Usher's Board. He was also the secretary of the Brotherhood of Maintenance of Way, a life member of the C. B. Dowdell American Legion Post #558, and an active member of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

He was preceded in death by his son, Otis Jerome Wilson; his brother, Nathaniel Wilson; his sister, Virginia Wilson; and his god-grandson, Joshua Johnson.

Left to cherish him with love and affection is his devoted wife of 49½ years, Mrs. Juanita Freeman Wilson of Fayetteville, Georgia. He also leaves three beloved children: Mr. John (Valerie) Wilson, Jr. of Atlanta, Georgia; Mr. Calvin (Manila) Mansfield of Bethlehem, Georgia; and Mrs. La'Juan Bradley of Stockbridge, Georgia.

His grandchildren, who were very special to him, include Trevion Wilson, Johnathan Wilson, Laila Wilson, Bruce Bradley, Lauren Mansfield, Calvin Mansfield III, Kyla Baker, Ferard (Kim) Taylor, and Alexia Thomas. He was also blessed with three great-grandchildren: Johnathan Jace Wilson, Sage Wilson, and Jonah Wilson.

He is also survived by five sisters: Ms. Mae Frances Merritt, Ms. Laura Wilson, and Ms. Ola Wilson, all of Plains, Georgia; Mrs. Lena C. (Raymond) Laney of Colorado Springs, Colorado; and Ms. Ann Wilson of Florida; three brothers include, Mr. Gene Wilson of Perry, Georgia and Mr. Wade Wilson and Mr. Marvin (Annie B.) Wilson, both of Americus, Georgia.

Additional survivors include two sisters-in-law, Mrs. Ollie Dowdy of Warner Robins, Georgia and Mrs. Robertiena Fletcher of Perry, Georgia; one brother-in-law, Mr. Robert L. Freeman, Jr. of Atlanta, Georgia; and a godson, Dr. DeRienzia (Vernie) Johnson of St. Louis, Illinois and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, his beloved church family, and many cherished friends.

John will be remembered as a devoted husband, loving father and grandfather, decorated veteran, faithful servant of the church, and a man whose quiet strength, unwavering dedication, and steadfast faith left a lasting impact on everyone blessed to know him.



**The Angels gathered near your bed so very close to you.
For they knew the pain and suffering
that you were going through.
I thought about so many things
as I held tightly to your hand.
Oh, how I wished that you were strong
and happy once again.
But your eyes were looking homeward
to that place beyond the sky.
Where Jesus held His outstretched arms,
it was time to say goodbye.
I struggled with my selfish thoughts,
for I wanted you to stay.
So, we could walk and talk again,
like we did-just yesterday.
But Jesus knew the answer,
and I knew He loved you so.
So, I gave you life's greatest gift, the gift of letting go.
Now my heart will carry memories
of the love you gave to me.
Until we meet again in Heaven, where the best is yet to be.**

I Love You!
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Acknowledgements

The family of the late John Henry Wilson Sr.
would like to thank everyone for all acts of kindness.
We are extremely grateful for your prayers, cards, flowers,
food, money, visits and calls.

A Special Thank You

to The Bethesda Missionary Baptist Church
and all program participants.
May God continue to bless each and every one of you.

Held in His Time

*To everything there is a season,
and a time to every purpose under the heaven:
A time to be born, and a time to die;
A time to plant, and a time to pluck up
that which is planted;
A time to kill, and a time to heal;
A time to break down, and a time to build up;
A time to weep, and a time to laugh;
A time to mourn, and a time to dance;
A time to cast away stones,
and a time to gather stones together;
A time to embrace,
and a time to refrain from embracing;
A time to get, and a time to lose;
a time to keep, and a time to cast away;
A time to rend, and a time to sew;
A time to keep silence, and a time to speak;
A time to love,
and a time to hate;
A time of war,
and a time of peace.*

Ecclesiastes 3: 1-8

