# Celebration of Life

## DEACON JOEL DOUGLAS HILL, JR.

Order of Service

*Musical Prelude*

Processional.....led by Reverend Willie C. Kleckley
and Pulpit Guests

*Last Glance and Final Sealing*

Hymn.....Deacon Charles Seay

Prayer.....Reverend Larry B. Sims, Sr.
*Union Tabernacle Baptist Church*

Scripture.....Old Testament and New Testament
Reverend Blake Hollis, Sr.
*Locust Hill Missionary Baptist Church | Midland, GA*

Musical Selection.....Sister Alice Faye Bridges

*Reading of the Obituary ~ Silently*

Final Reflections on Deacon Joel Douglas Hill, Jr.
*limit 2 minutes*

As a Family Member.....Mr. Larry Ware
As a Family Member.....Deacon Milton Terry
As a Classmate.....Mr. Jimmy Josey

Musical Selection.....Sister Alice Faye Bridges

Eulogy.....Reverend Willie C. Kleckley
*Ebenezer Baptist Church | Andersonville, GA*

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

*Recessional*

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

**Interment and Committal Service**
Eastview Cemetery | 802 Ashby Street, Americus, GA 31709

**The Committal Prayer and The Benediction**
Reverend Willie C. Kleckley

**The Honorary Pallbearers**
Deacons of Ebenezer Baptist Church

**The Active Pallbearers**
Sterling Hill  Brian Patrick  Milton Terry
Bradley Terry  George McKenzie  Lynwood Volley
Jimmy Josey  Frank Sims

**The Flower Attendants**
Friends of the Family and Ushers

### The Acknowledgements

Jesus promised us they who mourned would be comforted. During our hours of bereavement, this promise has been fulfilled by you, our kind and loving friends and neighbors. THANK YOU each for coming to help us bear our grief. Your calls, visits, prayers, and kindness in acts and deeds during the passing of our loved one shall never be forgotten.
**~ THE HILL FAMILY ~**

### Absent from the Body, Present with the Lord

For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead comes also through a man. For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive. My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever. So, we are always confident because we know that while we are living in the body, we are away from our home with the Lord. We live by faith and not by sight. We are confident, and we would prefer to leave the body and to be at home with the Lord.

**2 Corinthians 5:6-8**

FUNERAL ARRANGEMENTS ENTRUSTED TO:
*Barnum Funeral Home, Inc.*
217 Ashby Street, Americus, Georgia 31709
www.barnumfuneralhome.com | (229) 924-2958

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

# Honoring
THE LIFE OF



# Deacon Joel DOUGLAS HILL, JR.

ALPHA
May 16, 1952

OMEGA
October 16, 2026

SERVICES
Thursday, October 22, 2026 | 11:00 a.m.
Union Tabernacle Baptist Church
900 Adderton Street, Americus, Georgia 31709
Reverend Larry B. Sims, Sr., Pastor

EULOGIST
Reverend Willie C. Kleckley
Pastor, Ebenezer Baptist Church | Andersonville, GA

# DEACON JOEL DOUGLAS HILL, JR.

*Obituary*

Deacon Joel Douglas Hill, Jr. was born on May 16, 1952, to the late Joel Douglas Hill, Sr. and the late Neasie Jackson Hill. He was raised in Sumter County, Georgia, where he developed an appreciation for family, hard work, and service to others. On Friday, October 16, 2026, Deacon Hill departed this earthly life.

Joel received his early education in Sumter County and was a proud 1971 graduate of Americus High School. Growing up, he enjoyed working in the Hill family laundry business, where he learned the value of dedication and responsibility. He also developed a passion for automobiles and found great enjoyment in working on and repairing cars. This interest led him to pursue further education at Atlanta Area Technical College, where he graduated in 1974 with a degree in automotive technology.

Following his education, Joel established a career with the Atlanta Housing Authority, where he faithfully worked for 30 years before retiring. His years of employment reflected his strong work ethic, commitment, and dedication to providing quality service.

At an early age, Joel joined Ebenezer Baptist Church of Andersonville, Georgia, where he was currently still an active and devoted member and a deacon for more than 40 years. His faith and commitment to the church led him to serve as a deacon, a responsibility he embraced with dedication and a willingness to serve.

On November 22, 2015, Joel was united in holy matrimony to Betty Ware. Their marriage was a cherished chapter in his life, built upon love, companionship, and shared experiences.

In addition to his professional accomplishments and church service, Joel continued to enjoy his lifelong interest in automobiles. Whether working on a vehicle or making repairs, he found satisfaction in putting his knowledge and skills to use.

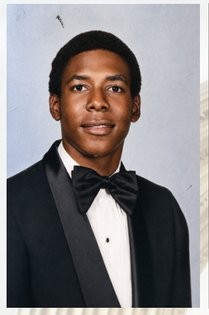
Deacon Hill was preceded in death by two sisters, Gwendolyn Patrick and Virginia Hill Mathis.

He leaves to cherish his memory his loving wife, Mrs. Betty Ware Hill; his siblings: Kent A. Hill (Camilla) of Fayetteville, Georgia; John Davis of Royal Palm Beach, Florida; Martha Kate Bruce, Sonya McKenzie, and Willie Smith, all of Americus, Georgia; and his stepson, Michael Ross of Americus, Georgia.

He also leaves cherished memories with his brothers-in-law: Larry Ware (Belinda) of Rex, Georgia, Ronnie Ware (Robin) of Kathleen, Georgia, and Donald Ware of Americus, Georgia; his sisters-in-law: Leisha Ware Fennoy (Williams) of Hephzibah, Georgia, Michelle Gaines of Kathleen, Georgia, and Shirlene Ware of Ellenwood, Georgia; along with a devoted nephew, Sterling Hill and several nieces, nephews, other relatives, and friends.

Deacon Joel Douglas Hill, Jr. will be remembered for his dedication to his family, his years of faithful service to his church, his strong work ethic, and the many lives he touched throughout his journey. His memory will remain in the hearts of those who knew and loved him.




















# A Fallen Limb

A limb has 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.”

*Deacon* 1952-2026

JOEL DOUGLAS HILL, JR.