

Mr. John Henry Wilson, Sr. was born on July 22, 1946, in Sumter County, Georgia, to the late Mr. Lawrence Wilson and Mrs. Ola B. Kitchen 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 Board. He was also the secretary of the Brotherhood of Maintenance of Way, a life member of the American Legion, 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 grandson, Joshua Johnson; his brother, Nathaniel Wilson; and his sister, Virginia Wilson.

Left to cherish his memory is his devoted wife of 49½ years, Mrs. Juanita Freeman Wilson. He also leaves four beloved children: Mr. John (Valerie) Wilson, Jr. of South Fulton, Georgia; Mr. Calvin (Manila) Mansfield of Bethlehem, Georgia; Mrs. La'Juan Bradley of Stockbridge, Georgia; and Dr. DeRienzia (Vernie) Johnson of St. Louis, Missouri.

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

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

Additional survivors include his sisters-in-law, Mrs. Ollie Dowdy of Warner Robins, Georgia, and Mrs. Robertiena Fletcher of Perry, Georgia; his brother-in-law, Mr. Robert L. Freeman, Jr. of Atlanta, Georgia; 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.