

DEACON JOEL DOUGLAS HILL, JR.

May 16, 1952 – October 16, 2026

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 a host of 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.