

*Honoring Veteran*  
**WILLIS JEROME HOLLIS**

*Funeral Service:* Tuesday, December 20, 2022 | 8:00 a.m.  
Friendship Missionary Baptist Church  
411 Cotton Avenue, Americus, Georgia 31709  
**Officiant | Bishop Melvin McCluster**

ORDER OF SERVICE

Processional led by Bishop McCluster  
*Last Glance | Final Sealing*  
Selection Bro. Lynn Tyson  
and FMBC Choir  
Prayer Deacon Bobby Fuse  
Scripture  
Old Testament Sis. Edith Daniels  
New Testament Bro. George McKenzie  
Reflections Open to Friends  
*limit 2 minutes*  
Selection Sis. Rebecca Terry  
Eulogy Bishop Melvin McCluster  
Pastor | Friendship Missionary Baptist Church  
Acknowledgements and  
Presentation of the  
Heirloom Family Bible Barnum Staff

RECESSIONAL

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

UNTIL WE MEET AGAIN

*forever in our hearts*

*Veteran Willis Jerome Hollis* | 1947-2022

EARTHLY PLACE OF REST  
Andersonville National Cemetery  
496 Cemetery Road, Andersonville, Georgia 31711

MILITARY HONORS

Taps and Flag Presentation

*Honorary Pallbearers*

Yohannes Hollis | Brian Terry  
Gregory Cleveland II | Marcus Wilkerson, Jr.  
George McKenzie | Craig Flint  
Mike Holley | Kelsey Adams

*Flower Attendants*

Sumter County High School Class of 1966  
Ushers and Friends of the Family

*Acknowledgements*

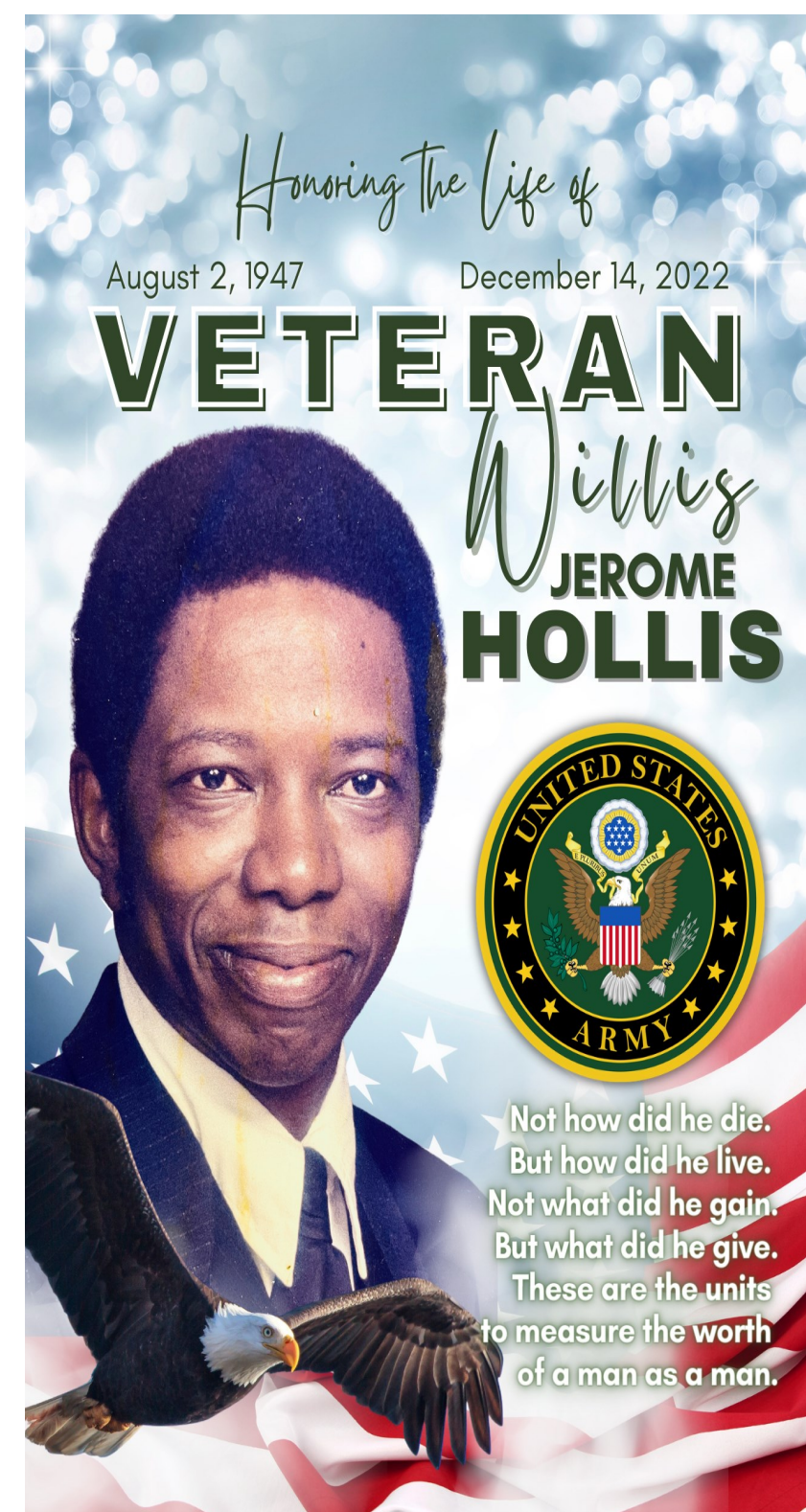
Jesus promised us they who mourned would be comforted. During our hours of bereavement, this promise has been fulfilled by you, our kind and loving “friends and neighbors”. Thank you each for coming to help us bear our grief. Your calls, visits, prayers and kindness in acts and deeds during the passing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

~THE FAMILY



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



# Remembering Veteran WILLIS JEROME HOLLIS

## Obituary

VETERAN WILLIS JEROME HOLLIS was born on August 2, 1947, in Sumter County, Georgia to the parentage Mr. Robert Hollis and Mrs. Frankie Ball Hollis, who both precede him in death. He is also preceded in death by his grandparents: Ms. Ethel Seay Ball, Mr. Frank Ball, Ms. Bobbie Hollis, and Mr. Cleve Hollis.

Willis became a member of the Friendship Missionary Baptist Church as a child, where he remained a member until his health failed. Willis attended Sumter County Schools and was a graduate of the Sumter County High School class of 1966. He later attended Fort Valley State University until he was drafted into the United States Army and served in the Vietnam War with the 139<sup>th</sup> MP CO, Fort Jackson, SC, receiving the National Defense Medal, Vietnam Service Medal, and Vietnam Campaign Medal. Willis was trained as a sharpshooter expert and later, a central office switchboard operator. That training led to his prided career as a Booking and Central Officer with the Sumter County Sheriff's Office until he retired. Prior to retiring, Willis had a career as the store manager at local pharmacies, being blessed to transition once companies expanded and rebranded as other pharmacies, such as Super X, Rite Aid, and lastly, retiring from CVS.

In addition to his parents and grandparents, he is preceded in death by two siblings, Robert (Carrie) Brown and Montena (Harold) Fish; his aunts, Eula Mann and Mattie Mahome; his uncle, Clifford Hollis; his nephew, Marcus I. Wilkerson, Sr.; his nieces, Willie Jean Ball, Alta Ball and Barbara Seay.

Willis married the love of his life, Ethel Patricia Allen Hollis on June 6, 1975, whom he leaves to cherish his memories along with his sisters, Ms. Sherra Faye Kendrick of Mount Clemens MI and stepsister, Ms. Dorothy Crenshaw Jackson Americus, GA; aunt, Ms. Wahid Hollis, Americus, GA.



Miss me  
BUT LET ME GO

When I come to the end of the road  
and the sun has set for me,  
I want no rites in a gloom filled room.  
Why cry for a soul set free?

Miss me a little, but not too long  
and not with your head bowed low.  
Remember the love that we once shared.

*Miss me*, BUT LET ME GO.

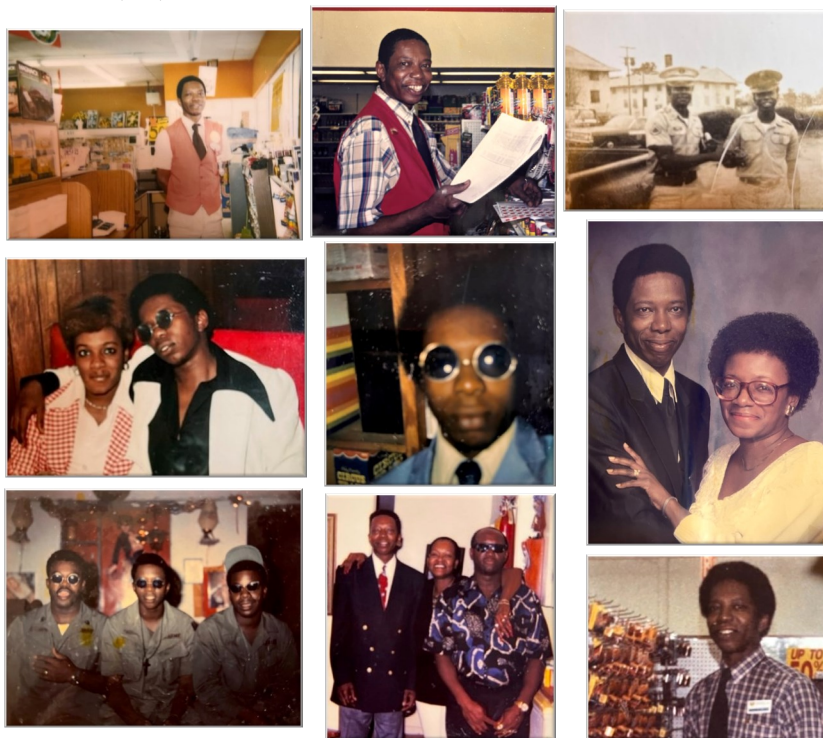
For this is a journey that we must all take  
and each must go alone.

It's all a part of the Master's plan.

A step on the road to home.

When you are lonely and sick of heart,  
go to the friends we know,  
and bury your sorrows in doing good deeds.

*Miss me*, BUT LET ME GO.



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Also, left to cherish Willis's memories are his nephews: Gregory C. Cleveland II (Valeri) of Madison Heights, MI; Alvin (Sharon) Jackson, Jr. of Powder Springs, GA and Derrick (Kimberly) Brown of Lilburn, GA; nieces: devoted niece, Crystal A. Cleveland and fiancé, George McKenzie and Wylinda Wilkerson, all of Americus, GA; devoted caretaker and niece, Wendy Jackson Adams of Plains, GA; step nieces, Tammy Cleveland and Tyeisha (Mike) Harris, all of Sumter County, GA; great nieces and nephews: Marcus I. Wilkerson, Jr., Matteo Cleveland, Jozef Cleveland, Franako Smith, Thaddeus Hall, Dion Brown, Jared Brown, Taylor James, Radesha Lewis, Isabella Cleveland, Zoya Cleveland, Brittany Jackson, A'Johna Adams, Brianna Hall, Jillian Brown, Karissa Toombs, and Tyanna James; cousins: John (Sonia) Seay, Jr., Ebony Seay, Marianne (Lee) Pitts, Lechel, Yohannes Hollis, Geraldine Cherry, Yvonne Lowe, Cheryl Berryhill, Jehova Kears, Sandra Greene, Lawrence Kears, Almeta Keys, Mattie Smith, L.C. Ball, Gwendolyn Cross, Lucious Jr., Lorenzo, Willie Ball Johnny Ball, Evelyn Foster, Fletcher (Sarah) Ball, Felicia Lyons, Glenda Ball, Marcellous (Sandra) Ball, Trevor, Tamara, Tory, Gregory, Mattie Ruth Carter, Yolanda, Jerome, Charles Ball, Johnny Frank Ball, Johnny Frank, Martha Glass, Edith Ann Daniels, Patricia Allen, Ivy Nunn, David Daniels, Rodney Daniels, Miller (Emma) Rush, Toby Rush, Rev. Travis Rush, Otis Seay, Otisa Seay, Jermaine Seay, Jarrell Seay, Adrian Seay, Zandra (Louis) Stewart, Brian (Rebecca) Terry, Travis (LaToya) Luvin, Marilyn Manuel and Eddie, Gwendolyn Terry, Tomeika Terry, Michael Terry, Crystal Terry, Deborah (Raymond) Bridges, Lashondia Bridges, Antwan Bridges, LaToya Bridges, Leslie Rowell, Lavarus Rowell, LaShaun Seay; extended family: David Shephard, Larry Sheppard, Steve Brown, Barbara Harris and George (Irene) Allen also survive.