

**DERRICK RENARD WATERS** was born on Monday, August 9, 1976, at Sumter Regional Hospital in Americus, Georgia. He is the son of his loving mother, Lorene Floyd and his loving dad, Otha Lee Floyd, Sr. of Americus, Georgia. Derrick was educated in the public schools of Sumter County and graduated from Americus High School in 1994. He attended Georgia Southwestern State University, pursuing a degree in mathematics. At the age of 18, he enlisted in the Army National Guard and the Reserve Armed Forces of the United States. Derrick served twelve years and achieved the rank of Specialist. During his enlistment, he received many awards and accommodations, including the Army Achievement Medal, served as a member of the 48<sup>th</sup> Infantry Brigade and Task Force Lightning, and was deployed to Bosnia-Herzegovina as a member of Operation Joint Force. He also received the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) Medal for Service with NATO on Operations in Relation to the former Yugoslavia. Derrick was employed as a correctional officer for the State of Georgia for over 20 years; he worked at Macon State Prison and most recently, as a Corporal at the Sumter County Correctional Institute.

As a young adult, Derrick and his family joined New Shady Grove Missionary Baptist Church under the leadership of Rev. Tommy Jordan. He was always interested in biblical studies and was told by many that he was going to be a preacher. Derrick could often review and explain a sermon with simple accuracy, and he always had challenging questions and exceptional answers for any topic during the family's home Bible Study sessions. Derrick was a support system for his family, his friends and his co-workers. He was a serious-minded person, but he could be humorous at times. Derrick was a quiet person who was seldom angered. He was easy to talk to because he was always willing to listen. He had a charismatic character and was always willing to help anyone in need. Derrick is sincerely loved, and he will be deeply missed by all whose lives he touched.

On October 14, 2020, at Phoebe North in Albany, Georgia, Derrick Renard Waters, Sr. moved Upstairs to his Heavenly Father's Kingdom.

Derrick is preceded in death by a sister, Debbie Cherelle Waters and a brother, Victor Prevatt Boyton.

In addition to his parents, he leaves behind to cherish his memories: a loving wife, Tracy Ann Waters; one son, Derrick Renard Waters, Jr.; two daughters, Tykeiah Nicole Waters and D'India Angel Waters, all of Americus, GA; his father, Bobby (Marilyn) Waters, Americus, GA; three brothers: Clayborn Boyton III, Clayton Henry (Aletha) Burns and Otis Lee (Ashley) Floyd, Sr., all of Americus, GA; four sisters: Christina Celeste (James) Garry, Americus, GA; Ardath Ann Milledge, Warner Robins, GA; LaKeisha Waters of Florida and Thedus Edmonds of Hawaii; three uncles: Thomas E.D. Burns, Los Angeles, CA; Donnie Waters, Jacksonville, FL and Eddie Waters of New Jersey; seven aunts: Georgia Mae Willis, Haines City, FL; Alice (James) Boykin, Springfield, IL; Dianne Matthews, Americus, GA; Delores (Dennis) Pace, Panama City, FL; Beatrice Walker, Teresa (Richard) Edwards and Frances Clark, all of Americus, GA; a host of nephews, including cherished nephews: Caleb Lance Milledge, Cornelius Lewis and Broderick Waters; a host of nieces, including cherished nieces: Sgt. Latoya Pope, Madeline Burns and Olivia Floyd; a devoted friend from his Army National Guard Unit Echol 1<sup>st</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> Infantry 4<sup>th</sup> Platoon, Richard Moses; a devoted friend from Macon State Prison, Marion Jackson; and all of his co-workers at Sumter County Correctional Institute.