

Charles L. Hopkins, IV began his earthly journey on June 27, 1940, in Sumter County, Georgia. He passed on October 26, 2025, at HCA Memorial Hospital, Jacksonville, Florida. He was the eldest of four children gifted by God to Charles Morris Hopkins, III and Jessie Lee Coleman Hopkins, proprietors of Hopkins Grocery located on 122 W. Lester Street who precede him in death.

In 1959, he married Gladys Green, and three children were born to this union. Charles is lovingly remembered by his children: Stephanie Hopkins (Roderick) Holliday of St. Marys, Georgia; Leticelia Hopkins (Gene) Godfrey of Jonesboro, Georgia; and Charles Morris (Ann Marie) Hopkins, V, also of Jonesboro. They will forever hold his wisdom and guidance close to their hearts.

His grandchildren—Victoria D. Robinson of East Point, Georgia; Courtland C. Hopkins, Lorenzo D. Barnes, and Destiny D. Hopkins, all of Jonesboro—brought him immense joy and pride and will carry his spirit forward in their lives.

He is also survived by his siblings: Anna Hopkins Davis of Tucker, Georgia; William A. (Emmalyn) Hopkins of Atlanta, Georgia; and Emma Hopkins Peasant of Irmo, South Carolina as well his aunt, Cornelia A. Sellars of Macon, Georgia, and his uncle, William F. Smith of Ellaville, Georgia, who mourn his passing.

In addition to his family, Charles leaves behind a special friend, Eddie Lusane and a special cousin, Louise Edwards, both of Americus, Georgia, who enriched his life with laughter, support, and companionship. He also leaves to cherish his memory his neighbors of more than 50 years: Edith A. Green, Virginia Banks, Ernestine Jenkins, Shirley G. Reese, Jimmy Green, and Gregory Green.

He also leaves behind cousins, friends, and golfing buddies and will be remembered for the way he touched the hearts of everyone fortunate enough to know him.

Charles received his early education in the Americus and Sumter County School Systems, attending both primary and secondary schools before graduating from Sumter County High School in 1958. He continued his education at South Georgia Technical College (formerly South Georgia Trade and Vocational School), affectionately known as “the Trade School,” where he studied automotive mechanics. A lifelong learner, Charles returned to SGTC in his late seventies to study computers and various software applications, demonstrating his enduring curiosity and commitment to learning.

While studying at SGTC, Charles began his career as a mechanic at James Chevrolet in Americus. He also worked alongside his parents at Hopkins Grocery, supporting their family business during his spare time. After holding several other positions, he was hired around 1972 as a civil servant at Warner Robins Air Force Base in Warner Robins, Georgia, where he served as an airplane parts technician and airplane mechanic. Dedicated to excellence in his craft, Charles continued taking courses to strengthen his skills and remained employed at the base for more than 30 years, retiring on January 3, 2004.

Following his retirement, Charles worked at the Boys and Girls Club of Americus as a Youth Coordinator alongside his neighbor and friend, Coach Jimmy Green. He mentored countless young people, a legacy reflected in the scrapbook he lovingly kept—filled with letters and notes from children expressing their

gratitude, love, and appreciation for the impact he made in their lives. Strict yet inspiring, his leadership style reflected his “no-nonsense” approach to life.

Charles valued family and friends deeply, always placing his loved ones first. He found joy in many hobbies and interests. An avid left-handed golfer, he played on courses across the country. After retiring, he returned to Americus, where he taught the game of golf to many young people, just as he had taught his son, Charles V.

He also had a passion for CB and amateur radios and enjoyed talking with operators around the world. His love for nature, birds, crossword puzzles, maps, and globes filled his days with curiosity and exploration. Charles was known for his ability to “fix” things—from lawn mowers to classic cars—and he possessed exceptional welding and soldering skills. He created miniature windmills, furniture, Ferris wheels, swings, cars, and various other items, which were his vision and equipped with small motors that brought them to life. His craftsmanship earned him several awards at county fairs, where his creativity and talent were celebrated.

Within his family, Charles was the “designated driver,” often transporting relatives to various places and events. As a loving uncle and brother, he and his sister, Emma once took their nieces and nephews on a memorable trip along the East Coast to visit the Original 13 Colonies—one of many adventures they shared.

Charles accepted Christ at the age of 12, alongside his cousin, Eva Jewel Asberry Mitchell, who was 10 at the time. Under the leadership of Pastor L. J. Jones at Allen Chapel African Methodist Episcopal Church, both were baptized in 1952 by Pastor Jones and his father, Charles III, who served as Steward Pro Tem. From that moment, Charles began a lifelong Christian journey, participating actively in the Young People’s Department (YPD).

As an adult, he was a devoted and faithful member of Allen Chapel A. M. E. Church. He served under pastors, Rev. J. R. Campbell and Rev. Elijah Smith, in numerous leadership roles, including Sunday School Superintendent and Sunday School Teacher. He was later appointed to the Steward Board, Trustee Board, and became a Class Leader. However, the ministry he most acclaimed to was his Outreach Ministry. Charles faithfully drove the Allen Chapel bus each Sunday, transporting students from SGTC and Georgia Southwestern University, as well as community members each Sunday. He also worked with the YPD, driving youth to special events and programs throughout the Conference.

Charles dedicated countless hours to Allen Chapel until relocating to Warner Robins. Even then, he continued commuting to Americus for services for as long as he could. Upon returning to Americus later in life, he remained committed to his church, even as his health began to decline.

In addition to his service to his church and community, Charles took part in the Civil Rights Movement, by performing clandestine trips, assisting with the transportation of Civil Rights leaders and students affiliated with the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC), helping move them from Americus to Albany and surrounding areas during pivotal moments in history.

Charles L. Hopkins, IV will be deeply missed but never forgotten.