Don’t spend too much time in mourning, Tears are for the sad.
I left to be with Jesus and This should make you glad.
Don’t waste your hours in grieving; No need to feel distress.
I’m tired of life’s frustrations And had to get some rest.
Don’t vex yourself with questions Or try to reason why?
Life here for me has ended; It came my time to die.
Don’t lose the love I gave you; Feed it with your care.
Grow it with devotion and Spread it everywhere.
Don’t fret because my leaving Came in such a way.
We’ll have another meeting In God’s eternal day.
Obituary

(Ret.) SFC Pearlie Ann Hayden was born April 24, 1948, in Lancaster, South Carolina to Bleaker Hayden. She was the seventh of eight children. She transitioned from labor to reward on Thursday, June 22, 2017, at the Palmetto Health Richland Memorial Hospital, Columbia, South Carolina.

Pearlie Ann Hayden grew up and was educated in the public school system of Lancaster, South Carolina. After graduating from Barr Street High School, Pearlie continued with higher education. Shortly thereafter, she enlisted into the Women’s Army Auxiliary Corps (WAAC), in June of 1967. During her service in WAAC, Pearlie was a member of the Drill Team which traveled extensively around the United States. Prior to the WAAC disbanding, Pearlie was honorably discharged and she enlisted in the Army National Guard. Subsequently, Pearlie reenlisted in the United States Army, in June of 1974.

During Pearlie’s esteemed military career, she traveled throughout the United States and to various countries to include, England and Germany. During her military service, she volunteered her time at various children’s homes, as well as homeless shelters. While serving her country she was decorated with the: Meritorious Service Medal, Army Commendation Medal 3rd OLC, Army Achievement Medal, Good Conduct Medal 7th AWD, National Defense Service Medal with Bronze Star, NCO Professional Development Ribbon with Number 3, Army Service Ribbon, Overseas Service Ribbon with Number 3, and the Marksmanship Badge. Pearlie proudly served her country for twenty-three years. She retired with an honorable discharge from the United States Army, in June of 1992, with the rank of Sergeant First Class. After her illustrious military career ended, Pearlie held various positions on Fort Jackson Army Base, as a civilian. In October of 1995, Pearlie began her employment with the South Carolina Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) as a Juvenile Correctional Officer (JCO). During her tenure as a JCO, Pearlie was honored with numerous awards to include the Extra Mile Award and JCO of the Month, among others. She was promoted from JCO to a Youth Specialist where she also received Youth Specialist of the month. Pearlie retired from DJJ in June of 2013.

Pearlie Ann Hayden had a deep passion for children, which was demonstrated throughout her life. She loved her family. Pearlie’s giving spirit touch everyone she met to include, the occasional stray animal. She enjoyed a well lived life as an avid Dallas Cowboys fan. Additionally, she was a member of The Order of the Eastern Star (O.E.S.).

Pearlie Ann Hayden was preceded in death by: her mother, Bleaker Hayden; three sisters, Leola Hayden Crawford, Elizabeth Barnes, and Ruth Mae Ross; her brother, Jesse Clay (J.C.) Hayden; two, four-legged children, Thor and Foxy Hayden.

(Ret.) SFC Pearlie Ann Hayden leaves to cherish her memory: her loving and caring daughter, Paulita Hayden, of Indian Land, SC; her two sisters Francina Grier and Lougenia “Patty” Johnson, both of Charlotte, NC; her brother, James (Jean) Hyatt, of Columbia, SC; and a host of nieces, nephews, god-children, cousins, other relatives, friends, and her four-legged children, all of whom will miss her dearly.

Memories

A Service of Remembrance

Prelude

Processional

Viewing………………………………………Funeral Directors

Opening Hymn……………………………………………….. “…I Am Free”

Scripture Reading…………………………….Chaplain Lynda Jones

Old Testament: Psalm 27

New Testament: Romans 8:31-39

Prayer of Comfort…………………………….Chaplain Lynda Jones

Music Selection…………………………………Ms. Mary L. Miller

Family and Friends Remembrance Tribute

Words of Comfort …………………… Reverend Jacqueline Long

Recessional

Postlude

Committal, Benediction and Interment

2:00 p.m.

Fort Jackson National Cemetery
4170 Percival Road
Columbia, South Carolina