

Obituary

Mr. Leroy Draft, a devoted Navy veteran and proud alumnus of Columbia High School, Class of 1971, passed away peacefully on Friday, October 6, 2023, surrounded by loved ones. Born on December 24, 1952, Leroy lived a life marked by dedication, honor, and unwavering commitment. He was one of twelve children born to the late Joseph Draft and Ida Mae Draft.

His drive and determination sprung forth at a young age joining his older siblings in delivering newspapers. Before graduating from Columbia High School, he was on the varsity football while also participating in other athletic clubs and extracurricular activities. Answering the call to serve his country, he enlisted in the United States Navy. Leroy's time in the Navy was a testament to his courage and patriotism, leaving a lasting impact on all who had the privilege of serving alongside him. Once back home, Leroy entered the retail sector as a merchandiser. Then he worked as a landscaper for the City of Columbia he ensured parks in the downtown and surrounding areas were always pristine. Another career transition led to him joining Ford Motors where he transported parts across South Carolina and retired.

Leroy's love for his family was boundless. He was a beloved companion, father, grandfather, and friend. His warm smile and kind heart brought comfort and joy to all who knew him. Leroy's legacy of love, integrity, and resilience will be cherished and remembered forever.

He is survived by his loving family, including his companion, Arlene Kemp; two sons, Travis Holliday, of Columbia, South Carolina and Marcus (Jennifer) Jiviens, of Seneca, South Carolina; two daughters, Nicole (Tyshawn) Baskerville and Nitesha Welton, both of Columbia, South Carolina; five grandchildren, Hope Holliday, Ke'Ayra Jiviens, Justin Jiviens, Tyani Baskerville, and King Baskerville; eight brothers and sisters, Ida Jackson, George Draft, John (Sylvia) Draft, Micheal Draft, Martha Draft, Naomi (Lee) Glover, Eliza Draft, and Mary Williams; a host of nephews, nieces, and cousins. His memory will also be cherished by his family, friends, and fellow veterans. Leroy Draft's life was a testament to the values of service, honor, and love. His memory will forever inspire those who were fortunate to know him. May he rest in eternal peace.

Memories



Order of Service

Prelude

Processional

Viewing.....Funeral Directors

Opening Selection..... "Wind Beneath My Wings"
Recording by: Gerald Levert

Old Testament.....Minister
Isaiah 41:10

New Testament.....Minister
John 14:1-3

Prayer.....Minister

Remarks.....Mr. Marcus Jiviens, Son
Mrs. Nicole Baskerville
Ms. Nitesha Welton

Selection....."Precious Lord"
Recording by: Luther Barnes

Words of Comfort.....Reverend Nicky Wilson

Acknowledgements.....The Children

Committal and Benediction

Recessional

Postlude



Tribute

Hands that have cultivated the land, the hands of a working man which are firm yet tender. Those hands embodied the essence of who you are, and this same approach translated into the nurturing of your children. Deliberately stern yet your love and affection were never absent. A meticulous man, adhering to routines you've perfected over countless years. But you were never restrictive, always promoting my individuality. Charisma which allowed you to casually converse with anyone you encountered. As an introvert, I always admired your ease of engaging others. You could always find joy in your solitude, allowing internal thoughts to cultivate where no outside influences could disturb that peace. The unwavering resolve of the stoic is a quiet strength, which could never be questioned. "The acknowledgment of who you are and embracing this truth is the purpose of existence" You mastered this task, amongst others, with consistency and precision We enter this world with the knowledge that our physical vessel is merely temporary. Yet, you'll forever be the guiding light that illuminates my path. The harmony from within that has emanated outwardly and impacted those around you reverberating within all our hearts. Proving to skeptics, like me, that there is true happiness in this life.

By: Nitesha Welton

Acknowledgement

We, the family of Mr. Leroy Draft, truly wish to thank each of you for the many loving and wonderful acts of love and kindness rendered during the illness and passing of our loved one. May God bless each of you with His mercy. Special thanks to Amedisys, SC Oncology and MUSC for the wonderful care you provided our loved one.

Homegoing Service In Loving Memory

of

MR. LEROY DRAFT



SATURDAY, OCTOBER 14, 2023
3:00 P.M.

LEEY'S FUNERAL HOME CHAPEL
1831 TAYLOR STREET
COLUMBIA, SOUTH CAROLINA

REVEREND NICKY WILSON
-OFFICIATING-

Services Entrusted To:

Taylor Street Chapel 1831 Taylor Street Columbia, SC 29201 (803)771-7799 I. S. Leevy Johnson -Owner & Director-	Leevy's FUNERAL HOME	Lower Richland Chapel 9120 Garners Ferry Road Hopkins, SC 29061 (803) 776-6922 Chris Leevy Johnson -President & Managing Director- Leverette A. Williams, II -General Manager-
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