



Pallbearers

Xavier M. Phillips Sean Wilson
Lester E. Phillips V Jordon Phillips
Christopher Phillips

United States Army Honor Guard

Floral Bearers

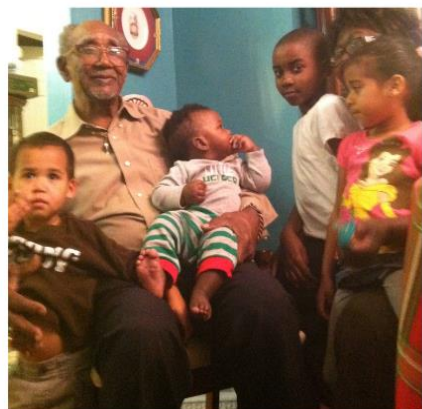
Family and Friends

Acknowledgement

We, the family of 1LT(Ret) Lester Edward Phillips, III, would like to thank each of you for your prayers and support shown to us during the passing of our loved one. It is our prayer that the Lord blesses each of you in a unique way.

Repast

Doko Manor
100 Alvina Haygood Cir.
Blythewood, SC



A CELEBRATION
OF *Life*

1LT (RET)

Lester

EDWARD PHILLIPS, III
MAY 30, 1926 ~ NOVEMBER 16, 2024
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 25, 2024
TWELVE NOON
GREENVIEW FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
101 ISAAC ST, COLUMBIA, SC 29203
REVEREND JOHNNY C. OWENS
PASTOR

CONTACT US:
Taylor Street Chapel
803-771-7799
Lower Richland Chapel
803-776-6922
WWW.LEEVY.COM
I. S. Leevy Johnson
-Owner-

Services Entrusted To:

Chris Leevy Johnson
-Managing Director-

SIGN THE ONLINE REGISTRY:

Leverette A. Williams, II
-General Manager-

Obituary

Lester Edward Phillips was born on May 30, 1926, in Darlington, South Carolina. He was the youngest child of the late Lester and Coramae Phillips. Lester departed this life on Saturday, November 16, 2024.

Lester was educated in the public schools of Hartsville, SC and graduated from Butler High School. During this time, he became the first black Eagle Scout in South Carolina.

In 1945, he entered the United States Army and attended basic training at Fort Leonard Wood, MO. He trained as a construction engineer and was assigned to help in the rebuilding of the German infrastructure following WWII. Once stateside, he enrolled in South Carolina State University (formerly known as the Colored Normal, Industrial, Agricultural and Mechanical College of South Carolina), where he majored in Agricultural Science and participated in the college's ROTC program. Upon graduation, he was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the United States Army Infantry.

In 1951, he was one of the first African American officers to go into the 45th Infantry Division. His service continued in Japan, South Carolina, Germany, Vietnam, and the Tuskegee Institute in Alabama, where he was a professor of military science.

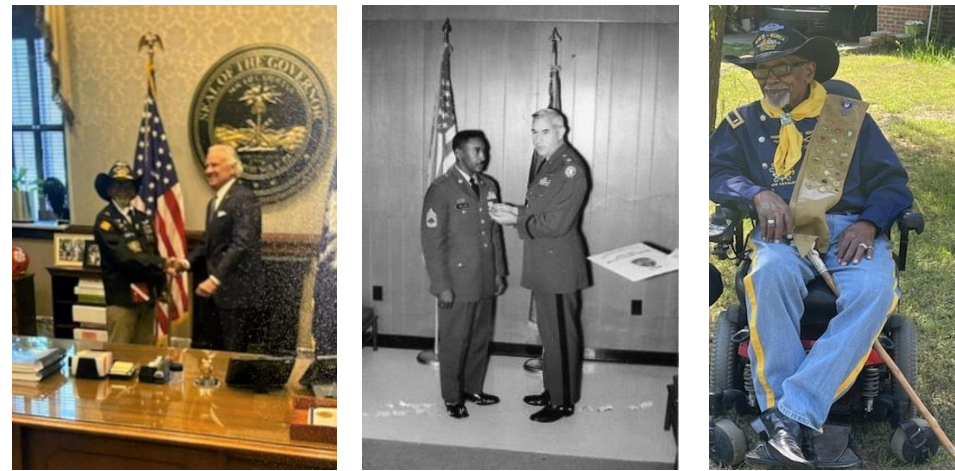
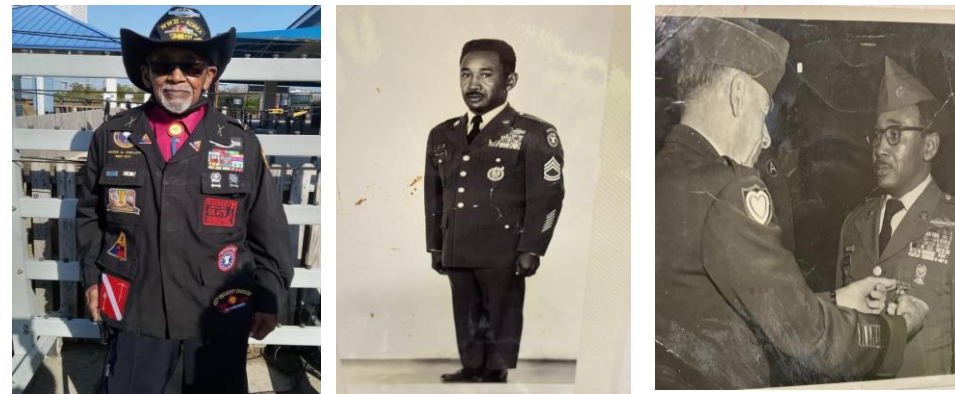
After a career spanning more than thirty years, he retired from active duty in 1974 at Fort Jackson with seventeen awards to his credit, including two Bronze Stars and a Combat Infantry Badge with Stars.

After retiring, Lester began the next chapter of his life as a small businessman in Columbia, SC. He owned and operated the "Stop and Shop" convenience store, a laundry mat, and a residential care facility in the Fairwold and Greenview Communities. It was during this time that Lester met and married Alice Middleton. Together they would spend the next 47 years raising their three children Michael, Coramae, and Christopher.

Lester became a member of Greenview First Baptist Church in 1980 and served until his passing. He was preceded in death by his parents, Lester Phillips and Cora Mae Hunter Wall; siblings, Ethel Phillips, George Phillips, Mildred Juanita Phillips, Wilson Kirven, Samuel Lee Sharper Sr., Charles Ervin Sharper, Ruby Mae Phillips, Ethel Mae Sharper, and Marion Phillips Lighty; and one son, Eric Edgar Furnace Phillips of Hamlet, NC.

Lester is survived by his beloved wife, Alice Middleton Phillips; his children, Marvis Phillips Bookert (Reubin), Lester Edward Phillips IV, Travis Laverne Phillips, Dr. Sonja Renée Phillips, Michael Bernard Phillips, LTC (Ret), Coramae Leslie Phillips Neely (Chris), and Christopher Alan Phillips; sister, Elizabeth Phillips Graham; ten grandchildren, one great grandchild, and many other loving relatives and friends, all of whom will miss him dearly.

Commendations



"The family of 1^{LT} (Ret) Lester E. Phillips would like to extend our deepest gratitude and heartfelt admiration for his extraordinary 30 years of service in the United States Army. Dad's life showed his unwavering dedication, bravery, and sacrifice through three wars exemplified the highest ideals of military service. Through his distinguished career, 1^{LT} (Ret) Phillips has been the recipient of numerous awards including: Two Bronze Star Medals for Meritorious Achievement, a letter of appreciation for actions during the Korean War from the Republic of Korea Army, the Key to the City of Columbia, and two proclamations from the South Carolina House of Representatives and Senate. A then SFC Phillips had the privilege to serve as professor of military science at Tuskegee University. Dad was an exceptional leader who ushered new army officers into a new desegregated military. We salute Dad for your unparalleled devotion to us, the United States and protecting the freedom we all hold dear.

A Service of Remembrance

- Musical Prelude
- Processional
- Viewing.....Funeral Directors
- Musical Selection.....Ms. Maya Phillips, Granddaughter
- Old Testament...Proverbs 3:5-6...Ms. Hailea Phillips, Granddaughter
- New Testament.....John 14:1-4.....Mr. Russell Bookert, Grandson
- Prayer.....Deacon Harvey Banks, Greenview First Baptist Church
- Musical Selection.....Mr. Philip Neely, Grandson
- Poem.....CT12 Brian Bookert, Grandson
Ms. Hannah Kang, Great Granddaughter
- Remarks.....Rear Admiral(Ret) Rueben Bookert, Son-in-Law
Christopher A. Phillips (USMC), Son
Deacon James Wright, Greenview First Baptist Church
- Musical Selection..... Ms. Shayla Jones, Granddaughter
- Words of Comfort.....Reverend Johnny C. Owens
- Recessional
- Postlude



Committal Benediction and Interment

2:00 P.M.
Fort Jackson National Cemetery
 4170 Percival Road
 Columbia, South Carolina