

Obituary

SGT (Ret) Merrill Jerome Preston was born on August 3, 1948, in Rendville, Ohio. He was the oldest child of the late Merrill E. Preston and Lovarn “Vicky” Fountain. He departed this life on Tuesday, April 15th, 2025.

SGT (Ret) Preston was educated in the public school system of Perry County, Ohio and a graduate of Miller High School, Class of 1967. He was drafted into the United States Army at Fort Jackson, South Carolina in 1970 and served two tours in Vietnam. He received The National Defense Service Medal (NDSM), retiring from his military service after 20 years. After his separation from military service, he made Capital Heights, Maryland his home and worked as a Police Officer for the Department of Defense until retiring again in 2008. SGT (Ret) Preston was a member of the Fraternal Order of Police, D.C. State Lodge 1.

After his second retirement he ventured into entrepreneurship, owning multiple businesses and made Columbia, South Carolina his home.

In addition to his parents, SGT (Ret) Preston was preceded in death by his sisters, Patricia “Patty” Boston, Doreatha “Dee” Terrell; and brother-n-law; Louis Brown.

SGT (Ret) Merrill Jerome Preston leaves to mourn his passing: his loving wife of 28 years, Barbara A. Preston of Columbia, South Carolina; a son Marcus Preston of Los Angeles, California, four daughters, Traci (William) Brown of Blacklick, Ohio, Julie (Alan) Morrison of Pickerington, Ohio, Nikkya Preston of Canal Winchester, Ohio, and Angel (Major) McNair of Fort Meade, Maryland; four sisters, Juanita Hawkins, Regina “Darlene” Jones, Tona “Lisa” Preston all of Columbus, Ohio, and Diamond Preston of Charlotte, North Carolina; eight grandchildren; five great-grandchildren; seven sisters-in-law, Ethel Green, Thelma Watkins, Julie A. Brown, Cheryl Brown all of Awendaw, South Carolina, Earline (Reverend Issac) Grant and Ernestine (James) Pitchford of Mount Pleasant, South Carolina, and Doreen (Michael) Coackley of Summerville, South Carolina; special family members, Uncle Roosevelt (Norma) Brown of Newark, New Jersey, special aunt, Ruth Green of Awendaw, South Carolina; special nieces; Traci Hawkins and Merryl Preston of Columbus, Ohio; special nephew, Preston Brown of Columbia, South Carolina; special friends, Elton J. Cook of Columbia, South Carolina, Viola Vaugh of Capital Heights, Maryland, Engrid G. Parks of Washington DC; a dedicated caregiver Sharmain Reed of Columbia, South Carolina; a host of other loving family, and friends that he loved dearly.

Memories



Order of Service

Minister Loretta Able, Presiding

- Prelude
- Processional
- Viewing.....Funeral Directors
- Opening Hymn.....Reverend Anita McCarthy
- Old Testament.....Minister Tamaul Boston
- New Testament.....Reverend Anita McCarthy
- Prayer.....Reverend Loretta Able
- Solo.....Reverend Anita McCarthy
- Poem.....Ms. Alexis Chambers, Ms. Camae Hill, and Mrs. Kamryn Preston-Madison
- Remarks.....Mrs. Thelma Watkins
- Words of Comfort.....Reverend Isaac Grant
- Recessional
- Postlude



Committal, Benediction and Interment

1:00 p.m.
Fort Jackson National Cemetery
4170 Percival Road
Columbia, South Carolina

The Broken Chain

We little knew that morning,
that God was going to call your
name.

In life we loved you, dearly,
in death, we do the same.
It broke our hearts to lose you,
but you didn't go alone;
For part of us went with you
the day God called you home.
You left us peaceful memories,
your love is still our guide.
And though we cannot see you,
you are always at our side.
Our family chain is broken,
and nothing seems the same.
But as God calls us one by one,
the Chain will link again.
We love and miss you ever so much.

Pallbearers

United States Army Honor Guard

Floral Bearers

Family and Friends

Acknowledgement

We, the family of SGT. (Ret) Merrill Jerome Preston,
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 very special way.

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:

Leevy's
Chris Leevy Johnson
-Managing Director-

SIGN THE ONLINE REGISTRY:



Leverette A. Williams, II
-General Manager-

*Celebration of Life
In Loving Memory
of*

SGT. (RET) MERRILL JEROME PRESTON



**FRIDAY, APRIL 25, 2025
11:00 A.M.**

**REHOBOTH BAPTIST CHURCH
4646 HARD SCRABBLE ROAD
COLUMBIA, SOUTH CAROLINA**

**REVEREND DR. IVORY THIGPEN
-PASTOR-**