

Pallbearers
United States Army Honor Guard

Acknowledgement

The family of Lawrence Loftley gratefully acknowledges the many expressions of love, concern, and kindness shown during this time of bereavement. Your prayers, calls, visits, food, flowers, and presence have been a source of strength and comfort. May God bless each of you.

— The Loftley Family

Repast

First Nazareth Baptist Church Fellowship Hall

**A Service of Remembrance
Celebrating the Life
of
Sergeant First Class (Ret.) Lawrence Loftley**



January 15, 1947 – May 14, 2026

**Thursday, May 21, 2026
12:00 Noon**

**Fort Jackson National Cemetery
4170 Percival Road
Columbia, South Carolina**

**Reverend Dr. Blakely N. Scott
-Officiating-**

CONTACT US:
Taylor Street Chapel
803-771-7799
Lower Richland Chapel
803-776-6922
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Services Entrusted To:

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Chris Leevy Johnson
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Reflections of the Life of Sergeant First Class (Ret.) Lawrence Loftley

Sergeant First Class (Ret.) Lawrence Loftley was born on January 15, 1947, in Oglethorpe, Georgia, to his loving parents, the late Johnnie Loftley and Hattie Lucy Lumpkin Loftley. He was a grandson of the late Horace T. Lumpkin, founder of the historic Lumpkin Academy in Oglethorpe, Georgia — one of the first schools for African Americans in the state. From those Georgia roots, Lawrence carried a lifelong sense of family, faith, and quiet pride in where he came from.

Lawrence transitioned from life's labor to eternal reward on Thursday, May 14, 2026.

He acquired his education from the Macon County Public School System where he attended D.F. Douglas High School in Montezuma, Georgia. Lawrence entered the United States Army in Atlanta, Georgia, and served his country with distinction for approximately twenty years, retiring on June 30, 1988, with the rank of Sergeant First Class (E-7). He served as an Indirect Fire Infantryman and Instructor — a mortar specialist who, in the later years of his career, helped train the next generation of soldiers at Fort Jackson's Training Command.

Lawrence was a combat veteran of the Vietnam War. Among his many decorations were the Combat Infantryman Badge, the Expert Infantryman Badge, the Vietnam Service Medal with two bronze service stars, the Vietnam Campaign Medal, the Vietnam Cross of Gallantry with Palm Unit Citation, the National Defense Service Medal, and three awards of the Army Good Conduct Medal. The discipline, devotion, and steadiness of his years in uniform shaped the man his family knew all his life. In Salina, Kansas, Lawrence met the love of his life, Constance "Connie" Miller. They were married on November 29, 1974, and shared 47 years of devoted marriage until Connie's passing in 2022. Together they lived in Germany and Louisiana before settling at Fort Jackson in Columbia, South Carolina, where they raised their family and made their home for the rest of their lives.

Lawrence had a love for the water and enjoyed spending time on his pontoon boat. He was a lifelong fan of wrestling, and his enthusiasm for the sport was matched only by his devotion to his family. He was a father first — present, loyal, and steady — and that dedication was the throughline of his life.

Lawrence was preceded in death by: his beloved wife Constance Elizabeth Loftley; his son, Lawrence Loftley, Jr.; his parents, Johnnie and Hattie Lucy Lumpkin Loftley; and his brothers, Johnny Loftley and Leonard Loftley.

Lawrence is survived by: his daughters, Sharon (Stephen) Bolden of Fletcher, NC and Lauren Loftley of Columbia, SC; his son, Charles (Aundrea) Loftley of Columbia, SC; nineteen grandchildren, five great-grandchildren, a close family friend Benita Jacobs and a host of other relatives and friends all of whom will miss him dearly.

He now rests with his beloved Connie at Fort Jackson National Cemetery — together again.

Miss Me But Let Me Go

*When I come to the end of the road
And the sun has set for me,
I want no rites in a gloom-filled room
Why cry for a soul set free?*

*Miss me a little - but not too long
And not with your head bowed low.
Remember the love that we once shared,
Miss me-but let me go.*

*For this is a journey that we all must take
And each must go alone.
It's all a part of the Master's Plan,
A step on the road to home.*

*When you are lonely and sick at heart,
Go to the friends we know
And bury your sorrows in doing good deeds.*

Memories



Order of Service

The Call to Worship

Prayer of Comfort

Scripture Reading

Words of Comfort

Reverend Dr. Blakey N. Scott

Presentation of Colors/Military Honors

Committal

Closing Prayer

Benediction



Memories



Memories

