



Mr. Gary J. Wilkins

September 2, 1956 - October 8, 2025

“To be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord.” 2nd Corinthians 5:8

Gary Jerome Wilkins was born on September 2, 1956 at Bethel Clinic, Bethel, NC to James Columbus Wilkins and Mary Lee Wilkins. He departed this life on Wednesday, October 8, 2025.

From his youth, Gary carried a gentle spirit and a heart filled with compassion for others. He lived his life as a servant to his family, his church, his community, and his country.

Gary attended the local school in Pitt County and graduated from North Pitt High School class of 1975. He went on to further his education at Pitt Technical Institute for one and half years and decided that he wanted to do something else. Gary decided to join the US Army and served honorably for 40 years, achieving the distinguished rank of Master Sergeant. He was also a secret service agent, Colin Powell administration secretary, a tester for new enlisting soldiers. His years of service reflected his strong faith, sense of duty, and love for helping others. Whether in uniform or at home, Gary's integrity, patience and warmth left a lasting impression on everyone he met.

Gary married his high school sweetheart in Mattie Elaine Parker on December

24, 1977 and they would have celebrated forty-eight years of marriage this December.

Gary loved the Lord deeply and was a devoted member of his local Church of Christ, where he was always present, praying, singing, serving, and encouraging others in their walk with Christ. His favor saying was "God's been too good to me to complain," and those words guided how he lived every day of his life.

Gary was a man with a big heart and a spirit full of compassion. He never met a stranger, and his laughter could light up a room. He believed in giving whether through time, love, or simply listening and he leaves behind countless lives touched by his kindness.

Gary was preceded in death by his beloved parents, James Columbus Wilkins and Mary Lee Wilkins; his dear siblings, Jeffery Wilkins, Hattie Mobley Camp; his godparents, Annie Ruth Langley, Henry B. Langley.

Gary leaves to cherish his memory his devoted wife, Mattie Elaine Wilkins; siblings, Reatha Wilkins of Petersburg, VA, William James Wilkins (Belinda) of Greenville, NC, Grace Wilkins of Washington, DC, Dennis Wilkins (Anna Jean) of Greenville, NC, Connie Harvard of Washington, DC, Nancy Wilkins of Charlotte, NC; three sisters-in-law, Bernice Brown (Eric) of New Haven, CT, Cynthia Ifill of Waterbury, CT, Rosa Parker of Greenville, NC; six brothers-in-law, Douglas Murchinson (Nita) of Georgia, Ronnie Sharpe (Donna) of Suffolk, VA, Ronnie Green of Greenville, NC, Reginald Murchinson of Baltimore, MD, Clyde Murchinson (Rita) of Greenville, NC, Anthony Randall of Baltimore, MD, Jarvis Carroll of New Haven, CT; a host of aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, great nieces, great nephews who adored him.

Gary was lovely raised alongside Julie, Deborah, Margaret, Laura, Clariss,

Henry, Eddie Dean, Willie and Benjamin, sharing a bond that went far beyond family-it was one of love, laughter, and unbreakable connections.

Gary's love extended to his godchildren Clarissa, Caleb, Kymisha, Quincy, Davon, Tinisha, and Mark, and Rachel, each of whom he loved as his own. While Gary's presence will be deeply missed, his memory will continue to inspire love, faith, and strength in all who knew him. His life was a living example of God's grace — a reminder to love unconditionally, serve faithfully, and live joyfully.

“Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord... that they may rest from their labors; and their works do follow them.”

— Revelation 14:13

Cemetery Details

Albert G. Horton, Jr. Memorial Veterans Cemetery

5310 Milners Road
Suffolk, VA

Previous Events

Viewing/Visitation

OCT **19**. 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM (ET)

Philippi Church Of Christ
3760 Philippi Drive
Greenville, NC 27858

Celebration of Life Service

OCT **19**. 1:00 PM (ET)

Philippi Church Of Christ
3760 Philippi Drive
Greenville, NC 27858

Burial Service

OCT **23**. 3:00 PM (ET)

Albert G. Horton, Jr. Memorial Veterans Cemetery
5310 Milners Road
Suffolk, VA

Tribute Wall



“ *View and Download the Funeral Program*

Congleton Memorial Mortuary - October 20, 2025 at 10:08 AM



“ *Cecily Sene lit a candle in memory of Mr. Gary J. Wilkins*



Cecily Sene - October 24, 2025 at 01:29 AM



“ *Dearest Lady Wilkins: Please we receive our Heartfelt Condolences at this time of sorrow and the days ahead.*

We are praying for strength from on High for you, the family, and the wonderful friends. Much love and peace...

Take your REST Sir Wilkins R.I.P.



Evangelist V.S. Moore (Formerly of NC) - October 19, 2025 at 08:36 PM

SS

“ Too the
Wilkins family I am so sorry for your loss. I did
not know

Gary personally. I knew the name. But Bobby
I am so sorry for your loss. Please reach out. Suzanne
Streeter Swain



Suzanne Streeter Swain - October 19, 2025 at 03:05 PM

DC

“ Dorothy Clemons lit a candle in memory of
Mr. Gary J. Wilkins



Dorothy Clemons - October 19, 2025 at 01:25 PM

ST

“ Elaine
Know that Gary was a good and honorable man whom I have the
utmost respect and love for. I always adored the way he looked at
you and spoke of you so lovingly. He was my friend and I will miss
him dearly. You two were my inspiration and one of the reasons I
decided to get married. Thank you best friend. I love ❤️ you.
Shirley (Faye Taylor) Boyd

Shirley Taylor-Boyd - October 18, 2025 at 06:06 PM

EL

My condolences to the family.

Evelyn Little - October 19, 2025 at 07:27 PM

ST

“ Shirley Taylor-Boyd lit a candle in memory of Mr. Gary J. Wilkins



Shirley Taylor-Boyd - October 18, 2025 at 05:50 PM

RM

“ Praying for you Elaine & family during this difficult time!

RaVonda Meachem - October 18, 2025 at 04:22 PM

CS

“ Wilkins Family; May the comfort of God keep you in perfect peace during your bereavement. I will always remember Gary's kind spirit and smile. I always look forward seeing him at Bobby's 4th July Family gathering. He make sure to take his wife Elaine a plate back. Lol!

Carolyn Lewis (Belinda Wilkins sister) - October 17, 2025 at 11:14 PM

CS

“ Cecily Sene lit a candle in memory of Mr. Gary J. Wilkins



Cecily Sene - October 17, 2025 at 06:53 PM

CS

I will always keep good thoughts of my friend Gray was like a real borthor to me we would Xmas there he would cook his cakes and pies I will tell he he needed to open up his business he would smile but gray and would lake long walks together at fort Lee army base man he could walk I enjoyed his company every time we visit him and Elain home they were so nice glad to see us come and sad to see leave he did super thing for lots of people I will miss talking to him from to time now before he past we text each other and he loved his family and would anything for them and mine and gave me good advice so I'm going to b strong that what I do believe he wanted me to do

carl smith - October 18, 2025 at 10:52 PM

LH

“ *Mattie,
We share your grief at this time. It was really, really good to see you and Gary recently at our class reunion. Always a kind and thoughtful word and a memory from him when we spoke. Please know that you always have our kindest regards and deepest condolences.*

Lindsay and Diane Howard

Lindsay & Diane Howard - October 17, 2025 at 05:09 PM

CM

“ *I would like to say I am truly sorry for the loss of your loved one. I am trusting and believing God for his comfort, peace, and to reign down his love from heaven like only he can. Jesus Christ can do anything but fail. Take your rest family. God made the call and you answered.*

Collier Mullins - October 17, 2025 at 02:03 PM

BC

“ Barry Compton lit a candle in memory of Mr. Gary J. Wilkins



Barry Compton - October 17, 2025 at 12:52 PM

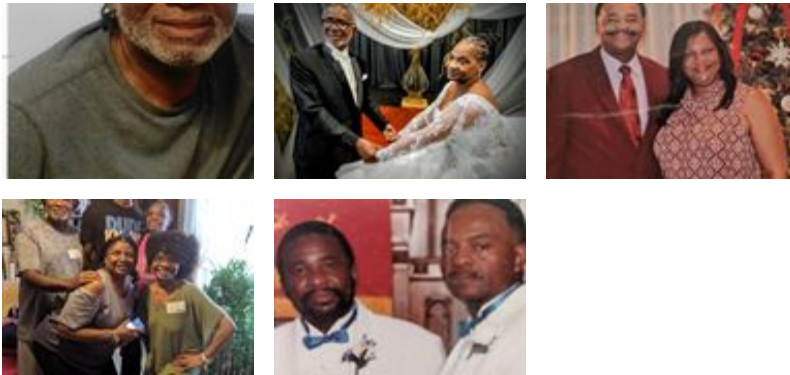
EL

Mattie, just a phone call away if you need to talk, love you girl classmates of 1975 beautiful soul at rest you will be missed, Gary

Emma Langley - October 19, 2025 at 07:36 PM



“ 52 files added to the album Life Tributes



Congleton Memorial Mortuary - October 17, 2025 at 11:08 AM

CC

“ Carlton Clemons sent a virtual gift in memory of Mr. Gary J. Wilkins



Carlton Clemons - October 16, 2025 at 09:23 PM

SC

“ Thinking of you during this difficult time.
Wishing you comfort and peace. Gary was
truly a special and he will be deeply missed.



Steve and Ellen Cox - October 16, 2025 at 01:28 PM

GB

“ Thoughts and prayers are with you Elaine and
the entire family. Gloristeen Barnhill class of
75



Gloristeen Barnhill - October 15, 2025 at 01:40 PM

TB

“ TashaKeisha Brown lit a candle in memory of
Mr. Gary J. Wilkins



TashaKeisha Brown - October 15, 2025 at 09:38 AM

NW

“ Gary was so many different things to so many people. Thank you Elaine for sharing your husband best friend and soulmate. For me he was a brother father figure who I could always go to for advice and comfort. He fed me physically,(lol) and spiritually I was definitely bless by him. He always made you feel like you are the most important person in the world, and he share that with all of the family he truly was the Patriarch of the family and he will always be in my heart with love your little sister, Nancy



Nancy Wilkins - October 15, 2025 at 12:06 AM

DW

“ To the Wilkins Family we are sending a heartfelt condolence to the family and keeping you and your family in our thoughts and prayers. The world has lost a good man, and we have lost a great friend (Gary). He was a giving person and funny and full of life. We grew up together around Stokes, NC and we played a lot of basketball in Stokes, NC with a lot of our cousins and buddies. That bond doesn't fade, and we will cherish those memories and love he brought into our lives. He will be missed!

Johnny "Topop" & Doris Wilkins and Family

Doris Wilkins - October 14, 2025 at 02:52 PM

AG

“ I am heartbroken to hear this. Gary was always a light, he was a calm soul who I have never seen mad, sad or angry. You will truly be missed!

Alvonette K Grimes - October 14, 2025 at 12:17 PM

CS

“ Congleton Funeral Home and Staff wishes to express our sincere condolences on the passing of your love one. We light this candle in their memory.



Congleton Funeral Home and Staff - October 14, 2025 at 10:29 AM

JB

“ Woow still trying to wrap my head around this one. You was truly indeed a brother and was always there for us even when we lost our parents. You will always be in our heart. Praying God strength for you Elaine and the rest of the family. 🙏



Julie Langley Bunn - October 13, 2025 at 08:42 PM

CS

“ Cecily Sene lit a candle in memory of Mr. Gary J. Wilkins



Cecily Sene - October 13, 2025 at 07:47 PM

CS

“ Cecily Sene lit a candle in memory of Mr. Gary J. Wilkins



Cecily Sene - October 13, 2025 at 07:46 PM

Mattie Webb

“ Elaine, my deepest condolences. I’m praying for peace and strength for you during this difficult time. Sending you ❤️. Gary was always such a kind and cool person. I still remember your retirement party—he made sure everyone was having a good time. He’ll be deeply missed. 🕊️
🙏



Mattie Webb - October 12, 2025 at 11:32 PM

TG

Elaine, I am sending my condolences to you. I pray that all your wonderful memories together help you through this difficult time.

Tina Grimes - October 13, 2025 at 02:17 PM



“ When I was going to college at Howard University in Washington DC. Bro Wilkins and Sister Wilkins took me in just like I was their son. They feed me and gave me a ride to DC from their home in Virginia. Bro. Wilkins was just like a father to me and I will miss him and I thank him for his kindness that he shown in my life. Sis. Wilkins I love you and I’m praying for you and the family.

Jamall White - October 12, 2025 at 08:40 PM



“ Sorry for your loss Cousin, praying God give you strength through this tough time 🙏❤️



Harvette Brown - October 12, 2025 at 05:05 PM

HD

“ Elaine, I pray that God gives you strength as you go through the tremendous loss of losing your husband, your best friend. Not only was Gary my classmate, but a great friend. My mine goes back to when he drove to N.C. to bring me a couple of his famous sweet potatoe pies for my Thanksgiving dinner. You and entire WILKINS' FAMILY have my sincere condolences. 🕊️❤️.



Hazel Brown Davis - October 12, 2025 at 02:49 AM

SC

“ Shirley Cox lit a candle in memory of Mr. Gary J. Wilkins



Shirley Cox - October 11, 2025 at 11:35 PM

CB

“ You have now gained your wings Uncle Gary
You are truly missed... You are now at peace
We Love you forever!~~~ Your Neice~~Cristal
🙏❤️❤️🕊️🥹🥹



Cristal Barnhill - October 11, 2025 at 04:10 PM

LC

My condolences to the family. Gary was a great person; I will always remember Gary and Henry walking back and forth on Oakley Rd visiting each other

Larry Chance - October 12, 2025 at 06:56 PM

AT

Elaine
May God grace and peace in this time of the loss of your dearly beloved husband.
Love you girl,
Annette Taylor Teel

Annette Taylor Teel - October 18, 2025 at 06:13 PM

SJ

“ *A TRUE WARRIOR WHO WALK AND MARCH WITH ALL OF US DAILY! YOU WERE A LIGHT THAT WE ALL SHOULD FOLLOW OUT OF DARKNESS. R.I.P.*

SSGT. EDDIE M. DAVIS JR - October 11, 2025 at 12:06 PM

DB

“ *Dorothy Brown lit a candle in memory of Mr. Gary J. Wilkins*



Dorothy Brown - October 11, 2025 at 10:37 AM

SD

SORRY FOR YOUR LOSS. MY CONDOLENCES TO YOU AND YOUR FAMILY

SELENA DIXON - October 14, 2025 at 01:16 PM