



Deacon Ernest J. Jackson

August 2, 1935 - October 9, 2025

Statesboro, Georgia

Deacon Ernest Jones “Duke” Jackson was born in Screven County, Georgia on August 2, 1935, to Joe and Ella Jackson. He passed away at home on October 9, 2025, surrounded by family. A devoted Christian, Deacon Ernest faithfully served Elm Street Church of God in roles such as Chairman of Deacons, Sunday School Superintendent, and Finance for over 35 years, contributing significantly to church reconstruction with his brother George.

Raised with a strong work ethic, Ernest left school early to help his family, later mastering brick masonry and co-founding Jackson Construction Co., becoming one of Bulloch County’s first African American business owners. His craftsmanship earned respect throughout Georgia, South Carolina, and Florida. After retirement, he enjoyed fishing and fellowship, remaining active in the Community Brotherhood Fishing Club.

Ernest was married to Carrie Lee Smart for 54 years, and together they had five daughters, including Carolyn Clark, who preceded him in death, as did his wife and brother George Willie Jackson, Sr.

He is survived by daughters, Cheryl (Joseph) Stephens, Gwen Jackson, Betty (Collins) Lyons, Stacy (Terrance) McGee, and Lakeidra Lee; son-in-law, Bob

Clark; grandchildren, Terrell (Latosha) Jackson, Lavena Burke, Tiffany (Deandra) Ward, Erica (Waldo) Lester, Brandon Jackson, Tierra Jackson, Terryn McGee, and Mekhi McGee; great-grandchildren, Bryan Burke Jr., Alivia Grant, Amelia Pace, Carrina Lane, Kalyn Ward, and Aria Lester; sister, Ella Jackson; brothers, William "Bill" Jackson and James (Sheila) Jackson; sisters-in-law Rosa Jackson, Mary Murray, Eloise Childers, Barbara Murray, Emily Taylor, Debra Smart, Diane Smart, Aisha Abdul-Basit; brother-in-law Micheal Smart; step-mother-in-law Reba Smart, as well as numerous nieces, nephews, relatives, and friends. He will be dearly missed, but his loved ones celebrate his faithful life.

A public viewing for Deacon Jackson will be held on Thursday, October 16, 2025, from 4 P.M. to 7 P.M. at Hill's Mortuary, Inc.

Deacon Jackson will lie in state at the church on the day of service from 12 noon until the funeral hour. There will be no viewing after the eulogy.

The funeral service for Deacon Ernest Jackson will be held at 1 P.M., Friday, October 17, 2025, at the First Baptist Church 108 N Main St. Statesboro, GA, Dr. John Waters, Pastor the Rev. Dr. Alexander Smith, Jr., officiating. Burial will follow in the Bulloch Memorial Gardens.

Service for Deacon Jackson may be viewed via-live stream at our Hill's Mortuary, Inc. Facebook page or C & C Photography Media Production on Youtube.

Final rites have been entrusted to Hill's Mortuary, Inc.

Previous Events

Visitation

OCT 16. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Hill's Mortuary
58 Packinghouse Road
Statesboro, GA 30458

Lie In State

OCT 17. 12:00 PM (ET)

Fist Baptist Church of Statesboro
108 North Main Street
Statesboro, , GA 30458

Celebration of Life Service

OCT 17. 1:00 PM (ET)

Fist Baptist Church of Statesboro
108 North Main Street
Statesboro, , GA 30458

Burial

OCT 17 (ET)

Bulloch Memorial Gardens
22002 US-80
Statesboro, GA 30459
(912) 764-4626

Tribute Wall

AJ

“ *I loved your smile Uncle Ernest. I love you.* ”



Angel Jackson - November 03, 2025 at 06:15 PM

MF

“ *Marilyn Childers & Family lit a candle in memory of Deacon Ernest J. Jackson* ”



Marilyn Childers & Family - October 27, 2025 at 10:41 PM

ER

“ *Eva Rivers lit a candle in memory of Deacon Ernest J. Jackson* ”



Eva Rivers - October 18, 2025 at 02:55 AM

DE

“ *Delphinia Smith Elliott* ”



Delphinia Smith Elliott - October 17, 2025 at 05:37 PM

KR

“ *Katie Raymond lit a candle in memory of Deacon Ernest J. Jackson*



Katie Raymond - October 17, 2025 at 03:27 PM

MJ

“ *From Minister Frank Nixon and Celeste Nixon. Our condolences to the Jackson Family*



Minister Frank Edward Nixon Jr. - October 17, 2025 at 02:29 PM

MC

“ *Mobley children purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Deacon Ernest J. Jackson.*



Mobley children - October 17, 2025 at 08:01 AM

MC

“ *Mobley children planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Deacon Ernest J. Jackson.*

Mobley children - October 17, 2025 at 08:01 AM

LM

“ Sending prayers of comfort for you Lakeidra, and your Family. Mr Earnest aka Mr Duke was one in a million. I enjoyed many afternoons at yalls house after hopping out of the truck. Mrs Carrie would have us some Cinnamon Rolls and your granddad would be hanging out after work making us laugh. He is/was a sweet and kind man, and truly a blessing.

Leslie Michelle Moore - October 17, 2025 at 01:46 AM

JP

“ To The Jackson Family
Deacon Jackson, a true man of God. His great work will speak for him. Always kind and caring. May you look to our heavenly father for strength. He will never leave you. My heartfelt prayers are with the family.
Janice Williams Parrish

Janice Parrish - October 16, 2025 at 04:08 PM

AN

“ Anonymous lit a candle in memory of Deacon Ernest J. Jackson



anonymous - October 16, 2025 at 10:33 AM

MB

“ Stacy and family,
Sending my sincerest condolences in your loss. Holding you close in my heart,
Missy Bennett

Missy Bennett - October 16, 2025 at 09:47 AM

LF

“ Love, Doretta Mobley Perdue and family purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of Deacon Ernest J. Jackson.



Love, Doretta Mobley Perdue and family - October 16, 2025 at 09:01 AM

LF

“ Love, Doretta Mobley Perdue and family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Deacon Ernest J. Jackson.

Love, Doretta Mobley Perdue and family - October 16, 2025 at 09:01 AM

BF

“ Condolences 🙏 to the Jackson family, sorry to hear about the passing of Deacon Ernest Jackson, I have known him for a few years, he was always the same person when you met him,,i don't think that he met a stranger. I would always see a smile on his face, He would ask me how my day was going, I worked with his daughter Gwen at Georgia Southern University Physical plant(Facilities planning) Custodial department in the early two thousand for many years, Earth has no sorrow heaven can't heal..May God continue to give the Jackson family strength ,comfort and peace in the days ahead.!



Brent Mosley and family!

Portal, Ga

Brent Mosley and family - October 15, 2025 at 11:14 PM

LW

“ *Lucia Wallace lit a candle in memory of Deacon Ernest J. Jackson*



Lucia wallace - October 15, 2025 at 07:05 PM

JF

“ *Jennell Floyd-Tompkins lit a candle in memory of Deacon Ernest J. Jackson*



Jennell Floyd-Tompkins - October 15, 2025 at 03:46 PM

RG

“ October 15, 2025

To The Jackson Family,

Allow me to extend our deepest condolences to you as we lift you and your family before the throne of God in the passing of Deacon Ernest Jackson.

Truly, our love for you and your family constrains us to take part in your sorrows. We know that sorrow at the death of a loved one is not improper. It is proper to mourn, it is right to weep. Indeed, weeping endures for a night, but joy comes in the morning. Hence, we mourn not as the world mourns, but with submission to God; we weep not as the world weeps, but without complaining; and we do not harden the heart but rather we bring the soul, tender by grief, to receive the sweet influences of our faith in the Lord Jesus Christ to find grace and peace in the God of all consolation.

We stand with you as family and will continually support and uphold you in prayer.

Please let us know if there is anything that you need, as you allow the Lord to fill every void and strengthen every weak place.

*With Sincere Love,
Martin Street Church of God
Rev. Arthur Grier & Rev. Grace Grier
Pastor*

Rev. Arthur and Rev. Grace Grier - October 15, 2025 at 02:31 PM

SH

“ *Sharella McCall Holloway lit a candle in memory of Deacon Ernest J. Jackson*



Sharella McCall Holloway - October 15, 2025 at 12:25 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Deacon Ernest J. Jackson.*



October 15, 2025 at 10:22 AM

IT

“ *Indiana University Health- Pharmacy Team planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Deacon Ernest Jackson.*

Indiana University Health- Pharmacy Team - October 15, 2025 at 10:22 AM

DO

“ *Stacy & Family - Thank you for so generously sharing "Mr. Telephone Man" with everyone. We enjoyed every update, conversation, and laugh. May these memories bring you comfort. We are holding you in our prayers. // Troy & Sara Donaldson*

Donaldson - October 15, 2025 at 10:18 AM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Deacon Ernest J. Jackson.*



October 15, 2025 at 10:14 AM



“ *Lucia Wallace lit a candle in memory of Deacon Ernest J. Jackson*



Lucia wallace - October 14, 2025 at 09:14 PM



Evonn Roberts Key shares in the lost of our love one. God continue to bless and keep the family.

Evonn key - October 17, 2025 at 06:37 AM



Tejia and Coco Roberts remember God will strengthen you during your time of sorrow. Love the family.

Evonn key - October 17, 2025 at 06:40 AM

PO

“ *May the family be encouraged of the spiritual life Mr. Ernest lived. His life mirrored that of a God-fearing man. A man who I prayed a certain prayer at one time in my family life & God answered that prayer in my life. His late daughter Carolyn was my bestest & we shared many spiritual insights & journeys together & enjoyed life together. Be encouraged, be joyous that your father now lives eternally face to face to worship the Jesus that he so devotedly love. TIME heals all wounds Polly*

Polly - October 14, 2025 at 12:43 PM

DF

“ *My condolences to the family.*



Delphia Florence - October 12, 2025 at 06:33 PM

EB

“ *Easter Brinson lit a candle in memory of Deacon Ernest J. Jackson*



Easter Brinson - October 11, 2025 at 02:15 PM

CM

“ Cynthia And Mack lit a candle in memory of Deacon Ernest J. Jackson



Cynthia and Mack - October 11, 2025 at 08:34 AM

LS

“ Lisa Smith lit a candle in memory of Deacon Ernest J. Jackson



Lisa Smith - October 10, 2025 at 08:14 PM

WF

“ We send our love & deepest condolences to the Jackson family. Our dad has fond memories of Mr Ernest because he was one of his customers at His Barber Shop. He will certainly be missed by many.....: Eugene & Bonita McCray White/ our father Harold McCray

White/ McCray Family - October 10, 2025 at 03:29 PM

DF

“ My condolences to the family.



Delphia Florence - October 10, 2025 at 02:41 PM

DF

“ *Deepest sympathy to the Jackson family. Indeed our loss is Heaven's gain. Bro. Ernest will truly be missed. He was such a loving and kind Godly man. His smile always made it seem as if everything was alright with the world. Family please know that you are in our thoughts and prayers today and every tomorrow. Trust God and HE will see you through this difficult time of sorrow. Much love, Dwayne and Rosetta {Daniel} Fowler*

Dwayne and Rosetta Fowler - October 10, 2025 at 12:16 PM

AP

“ *Arnold Perkins lit a candle in memory of Deacon Ernest J. Jackson*



Arnold Perkins - October 09, 2025 at 05:05 PM

PE

“ *Well done, thou good and faithful servant... Much love and gratitude for a life well lived. Your cousin, Pearl* ❤️🙏

Pearl - October 09, 2025 at 04:54 PM