

*Your life was a blessing, your memory a treasure, you
are loved beyond words, and missed beyond measure.*



Military Burial with Honors

10 am - Monday, November 29, 2021
Sandhills State Veterans Cemetery
8220 Braggs Blvd - Fort Bragg, NC 28310

Acknowledgements

~There are not enough words to fully express our heartfelt thanks for the sympathy, support and love you have extended to our family during this time. It is deeply appreciated and will always be remembered by the family of Reverend Lee Taft Matthews. ~

Heartfelt thanks to both Mt. Zion AME Church & Union Grove Church of Christ

Funeral Services Entrusted to:
Brock Memorial & Worley Funeral Home
639 Lisbon Street - Clinton, NC 28328



Celebrating

The Life Of

Reverend Lee Taft Matthews

May 18, 1935 - November 13, 2021

12:00 pm visitation / 1:00 pm service
Monday, November 22, 2021
Union Grove Church of Christ DOC
716 Lisbon Street - Clinton, NC 28328

In Memoriam

Reverend Lee Taft Matthews

The "Always Loyal" Servant of God



Order of Service

Musical Prelude	-----	
Processional	-----	Minister & Family
Scripture Reading		
Old Testament	-----	Elder Richardson
New Testament	-----	Elder Richardson
Musical Selection	-----	
Acknowledgements	-----	Andrea Hill
Reading of Obituary	-----	Andrea Hill
Special Tributes & Reflections	-----	Dawn Matthews-Holmes; followed by family, friends & grandkids (3 mins each)
Musical Selection	-----	
Eulogy	-----	Reverend Melvin
Benediction	-----	Elder Richardson
Musical Selection	-----	
Recessional	-----	Minister & Family

Obituary

With a personality that was bigger than life, Reverend Lee Taft Matthews, will be missed by all of those he encountered within the past 86 years. He was born May 18, 1935 to the late Maude Matthews-King and was lovingly raised by the Peterson family (Richard* and Lillie*) in Sampson County, NC.

Rev. Matthews attended Sampson County public schools and later earned his Associates Degree in Textile from the University of Kentucky. He demonstrated his favorite mottos: "never quit", "be the best you can be" and "make adjustments and keep living" by serving 30 years - both active and reserved duty - with the United States Marines. He is a veteran of both the Korean and Vietnam Wars, earned many honorable awards and achieved the rank of Gunnery Sergeant before retiring in 1986.

Rev. Matthews was a jack of all trades, never allowing grass to grow under his feet. He stayed busy gardening, cooking, fishing, traveling, remodeling cars, designing clothes, playing a role in the movie "Brotherhood of Death" and cheering for his Redskins football team. He loved music so much that he even taught himself how to play a guitar. You name it, he could do just about anything.

Rev. Matthews was also involved in a host of volunteer efforts from feeding the hungry, mentoring young adults. If he saw a need in the community, he would start a business at a blink of an eye. Very few know that he once owned a record store and a nonprofit food bank that fed countless residents in both North Carolina and Virginia.

The Marines played a very important role in Rev. Matthews' life. He had the experience of travelling the world and frequently mentioned that the Marines taught him the value of family, discipline, teamwork, and investing in a cause larger than himself. He often explained to loved ones how these values contributed to his success with his career while serving in the military and working for the Federal government. Before retiring, he completed Theology school through AME Zion and served as associate minister at Mount Zion AME Church in Delway, North Carolina.

Rev. Matthews had a big heart and warming soul, so he supported numerous veteran groups and causes throughout his life. Volunteering provided him with a tremendous sense of personal satisfaction. He frequently spoke at various congressional hearings that led to the development of several diversity and inclusion policies, including a pivotal provision that limited the return of minority soldiers to the same war zone. And let's not forget . . . he was a proud Mason of Prince Hall Grand Lodge #235 in Triangle, Virginia. He so loved his local Mason chapter and brothers.

There was never a dull moment around him, so many would describe Rev. Matthews as fun and outgoing. He never met a stranger and most importantly, he was a proud man, who loved his family.

Rev. Matthews is survived by his beautiful wife, Christine, of 56 years. He's a proud dad of four daughters: Jackie Robinson, Lisa Grant, Dawn Holmes and Tonya Matthews*; his sisters Barbara Thomas (Abraham*), Helen Washington (Alonzo*), Laura Minor* (Tom*) and Mavis Eaton* (Robert*); brother-in-laws Charlie "Bud" Simmons (Dora*) and James Peterson (Nancy); sister-in-laws Shirley Campbell (Larry), Rosie Peterson (Troy) and Rosa Lee Peterson (Thurman). He has 7 loving grandchildren: David, Jameel (Ashley), Mitchell "CJ", Nikki, Delante (Tiffany), Latonya and Breanna; 8 great grandchildren: Alaya, Carmelo, Karmalani, Skylar, Heaven, Serenity, Toni, and Starr (Aleta); along with a host of nieces, nephews, friends and neighbors.

**indicates the love one preceded Reverend Matthews in death*