

## LONNIE HAYNIE, JR.



Lonnie Haynie, Jr. was a beloved Husband, Daddy, Brother, Uncle, Paw Paw and Friend. He departed this life peacefully, on April 5, 2023, at the age of 88 – 9 days before his 89<sup>th</sup> birthday.

He was born on April 14, 1934, in Hazlehurst, Mississippi to Carrie Henrietta Dickerson and Lonnie Haynie, Sr. After graduating high school, Lonnie went on to join the Army, receiving an honorable discharge. He received his bachelor's degree from Tougaloo College and a master's from Jackson State University. He was a member of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity and a Mason.

After the passing of his sister Margaret, Lonnie and his mother stepped in and raised John – who was his nephew and became his son, his brother, and his friend. They shared many memories and secrets – including that car Lonnie would not let John drive. They remained competitors to the end, with John forever being able to claim the chess throne – all because he wouldn't give Lonnie a rematch.

In 1957, he met the love of his life – Mrs. Vera Foster Haynie. She was, as he described it, the ripe “old” age of 23 and the woman he was destined to married. From this love came 2 daughters (Sandres and Sonya), 5 grandchildren and 10 great grandchildren. For over 64 years, Lonnie and Bee (as he called her) showed us all the importance of family, love and education. Forever her protector, in the end he knew, she was going to be alright.

A committed educator, his impact could be felt from the halls of Hazlehurst High School to the Offices of Utica Junior College. He was unrelenting with his children, grandchildren, great grandchildren, brothers, sisters, nieces, nephews, friends and strangers when it came to the importance of education. One degree was just the start – and he was always proud when anyone crossed that stage.

He loved his role as daddy and paw-paw. He spent his last few years living with Sandres (affectionately known as Sandman) and her family in Louisiana, with Renee always being a call or road trip away. He loved his girls and was always proud of them. His grandchildren kept him going. His first grandchild Kim (who he called #1) was his representative and biggest challenger, Chris was his forever Hall of Famer, Missy was the hardest working principal (who he said was never at work), Patrick was his gentle giant, and Brianna was his favorite nurse. He enjoyed time with all his great grandkids. He especially enjoyed his daily talks with Ashlyn. Their talks lasted until his last day.

Lonnie was Brother and Friend. Whether he was laughing on the phone with Bead, checking in weekly with his sister Olivia, or catching up with many friends on all the Hazlehurst happenings.

He will be remembered for his honesty, dedication to his family and friends and gentle but firm demeanor. His laugh filled whatever spaces he was in, and his love could be felt to the end. When he spoke you listened, when he smiled you smiled and when he laughed – you felt it in your bones. Even when he lost his legs, he remained the biggest man in the room.

In his last days, he could still be found cracking jokes with his “Big 3”. He told them, “When I leave, I kicking down the doors of heaven like King Jesus. I am going to prepare a party for my friends.”

He is preceded in death by his mother Carrie Henrietta Dickerson, father Lonnie Haynie, Sr, 2 brothers (Issac and Johnnie), 3 sisters (Margaret, Minnie, Lizzie) and many others who we know he is having a grand time with in heaven.

He leaves to carry on his love and legacy his wife of 64 years Vera “Bee” Haynie. His daughters, Sandres “Sandman” Williams (Joe) and Sonya Renee Haynie; five grandchildren, Kim, Chris (Marissa), Missy (Clarence), Patrick and Brianna; 10 great-grandchildren (Kenadi, Caleb, Ashton, Olivia, Cayden, Jonathan, Grace, Kelsey, Ashlyn and Matthew); son/brother John Swan (June), their 2 daughters (Natasha and Nichelle) and 1 granddaughter (Kaelyn) ; three brothers, Leon, Lester (Etheldra), and Henry L. Reed; five sisters, Olivia Sandidge, Carrie Z. Henderson, Classie M. McMurray (Fred), Stephanie Y. James, and Teresa Lee-Williams (Raymond); sister(s) in love Lucille Haynie, Rosemary “Kitten” Conley, Nellie Beard, and Regina Singleton ; along with beloved nieces, nephews, bonus sons, and daughters.