



SFC Howard Edward Laney, Jr., US Army Ret.

March 23, 1954 - March 30, 2025

SFC Howard Edward Laney, Jr., US Army, Ret., age 71, passed away suddenly, Sunday morning at Coffee Regional Medical Center.

Howard was born March 23, 1954, in Orlando, Florida, to the late Howard Edward Laney, Sr. and the late June Marie Wise Laney. He was a proud veteran of the United States Army where he retired after 20 years of honorable service with the rank of Sergeant First Class. During his military career SFC Laney was a Combat Engineer serving during the Persian Gulf War/Operation Desert Storm. Following his retirement he returned to his home and family in Willacoochee, Georgia, where he enjoyed spending his time with his wife, children, grandchildren and great grandchildren. He was a history buff and an avid reader, enjoying science fiction and history books. He was of the Pentecostal faith.

Howard is survived by his wife of 50 years Janice Lucille Smith Laney of Willacoochee, Georgia; 2 children: William Howard Laney (Crystal) and Mary Marie Graham (Scott) both of Willacoochee, Georgia; one son-in-law, Dennis Mason; 17 grandchildren; 34 great grandchildren; 1 sister, Carroll Wood of Willacoochee, Georgia; along with numerous nieces, nephews, cousins and extended family.

Along with his parents, Howard was preceded in death by one daughter, Tina

Mason; one grandson, Todd Mason; one great grandson Levi Smith; and one sister, Rosie Bragg.

Howard's family will receive friends Wednesday evening, April 2, 2025 from 6:00 PM – 9:00 PM at Ricketson Funeral Home chapel. His funeral will be held on Thursday afternoon, April 3, 2025 at 2:00 PM in the Ricketson Funeral Home Chapel with Rev. Charles Blair officiating with Sis. Jessica Benefield and Bro. Brian Sirmans giving eulogies. Interment will follow in the Willacoochee City Cemetery where full military honors will be rendered by the United States Army. Howard's family request that all in attendance wear Red, White, and Blue in honor of SFC Laney's dedicated service to our country.

Condolences, kind words and fond memories may be left for Howard's family at www.ricketsonfuneralhome.com.

Howard's arrangements have been entrusted to the kind and compassionate staff of Ricketson Funeral Home, Inc.

Cemetery Details

Willacoochee City Cemetery

Ruby Giddens Street
Willacoochee, GA 31650

Previous Events

Visitation

APR 2. 6:00 PM - 9:00 PM (ET)

Ricketson Funeral Home Chapel
305 West Ward Street
Douglas, GA 31533

Funeral Service

APR 3. 2:00 PM (ET)

Ricketson Funeral Home Chapel
305 West Ward Street
Douglas, GA 31533

Burial

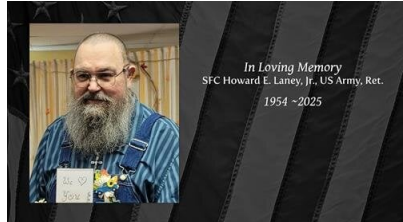
APR 3 (ET)

Willacoochee City Cemetery
Ruby Giddens Street
Willacoochee, GA 31650

Tribute Wall



“ *Ricketson Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of SFC Howard Edward Laney, Jr., US Army Ret.*



Ricketson Funeral Home - April 03, 2025 at 09:42 AM

SD

“ *Dear Janice and family. So very sorry to hear of Howard's passing and I know he surely will be missed by family and friends. My thoughts and prayers go to all of you. Thank you Howard for your military service to our country*

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Shirley Dill - April 03, 2025 at 09:27 PM

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“ *From Edward, Donna, and Marissa Pitts purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of SFC Howard Edward Laney, Jr., US Army Ret..*



From Edward, Donna, and Marissa Pitts - April 02, 2025 at 12:10 AM