

Wilburn David "Willie" Jones, Jr., 81, of LaFayette, Ga. passed away on Friday, November 6, 2026 of an apparent heart attack. The Folkston native and Christian had lived in Wayne County for many years prior to being transferred with the Georgia State Patrol to several locations in his tenure of service. On retirement, he settled in LaFayette and enjoyed traveling and spending time with his family.



The U.S. Army Veteran served in the Vietnam War with Delta Company of the 1st Battalion (Mechanized), 50th Infantry which was attached to the 1st Cavalry Division, the 4th Infantry Division and the 173rd Airborne Brigade during his tour from September of 1967 through August of 1968. He was a recipient of the Purple Heart Award and became a member of the 50th Infantry Regimental Association in 2003.

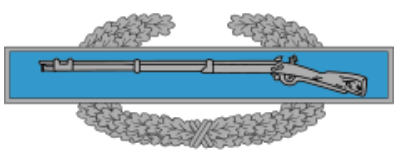
His parents, W.D. "Farmer" and Kathleen Jones preceded him in death along with his sister, Susan J. Harris; brothers, Lindsay and Scott Jones; brother-in-law, Dwight Dunham.

Survivors are his wife of 60 years, Diane Ring Jones of LaFayette; a daughter, Katrina (Micky) Francis of LaFayette; brother, Johnny (Vivian) Jones and sister, Kathie Dunham, both of Jesup; sister-in-law, Janette Westberry Jones of Jesup; grandchildren, Victoria Doris and Zachary Doris.

Funeral services will be 11 AM Tuesday, November 10, 2026 at Rinehart Chapel with Dr. Patrick Singh and Mike Welch officiating. Interment will follow at 1:00 p.m. in the Georgia Veterans Memorial Cemetery in Glennville with full military honors. Honorary pallbearers will be the officers of the Georgia State Patrol.



50TH INFANTRY REGIMENT



COMBAT INFANTRY BADGE