

A CELEBRATION OF LIFE FOR "HON"

— *The Chain* —

We knew little that morning that  
God was going to call your name,  
In life we loved you dearly,  
In death we do the same.  
It broke our hearts to lose you,  
You did not go alone.  
For part of us went with you,  
The day God called you home.  
You left us peaceful memories,  
Your love is still our guide,  
And though we cannot see you,  
You are always at our side.  
Our family chain is broken,  
And nothing seems to be the same,  
But as God calls us one by one,  
The chain will link again.

— *Mr. Johnnie* —

Today, we honor the life and legacy of our "Mr. Johnnie" — a longtime friend, coworker, and treasured member of the Southern Union State Community College family. Often referred to as a "walking history book", he never met a stranger. Whether sharing stories from his military days, talking about the many places he traveled, or simply stopping by to brighten someone's day, Mr. Johnnie had a gift for making people feel valued and loved.

I will deeply miss the Valentines he faithfully shared with the ladies of Southern Union and the popcorn deliveries he regularly brought to the Financial Aid Office that always filled the room with smiles and laughter. His kindness, humor, and genuine spirit made ordinary days special.

From doctor appointments and shopping trips to Harbor Freight, every moment shared will forever be cherished. Thank you for the memories, the conversations, and the friendship that left a lasting mark.

Mr. Johnnie will always hold a special place in my heart and in the hearts of all who had the blessing of knowing him. His legacy of kindness, service, and joy will never be forgotten.

With Love,  
Your Southern Union Daughter, Melissa Todd

— *Pallbearers* —  
Military

— *Flower Bearers* —  
Family, Friends and Coworkers

— *Interment* —  
Fort Mitchell National Cemetery  
553 Highway 165  
Fort Mitchell, AL 36856

— *Acknowledgment* —

The family of the late SFC Johnnie C. Jones acknowledges with grateful appreciation all acts of kindness, prayers, cards, telephone calls, flowers, and words of comfort extended to us during our time of bereavement. May God bless each one of you.

— *Repast* —

Southern Union State Community College  
Southern Room  
301 Lake Condry Road  
Opelika, AL 36801

IN MEMORIAM

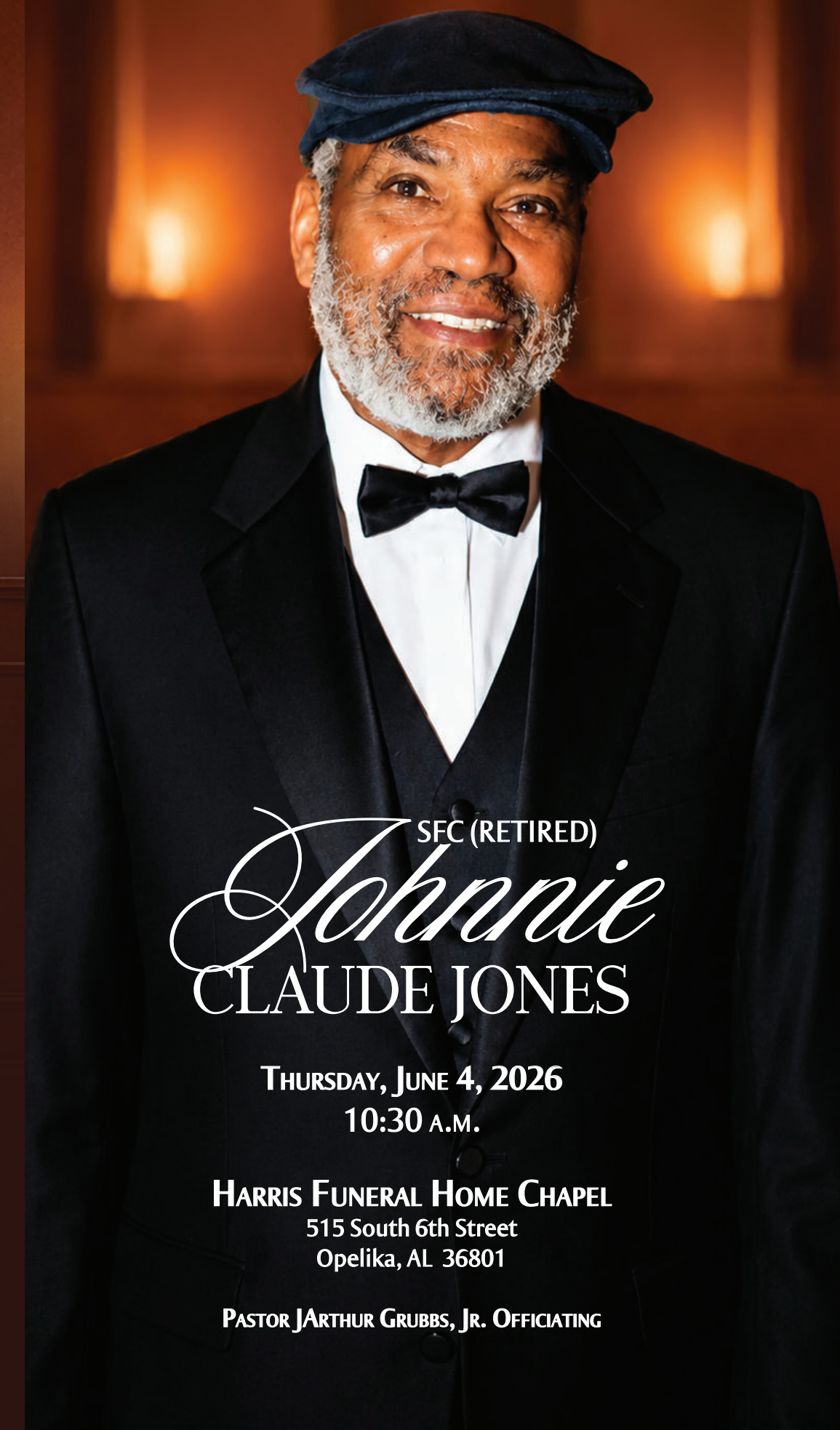
May we take this opportunity to express sincere and deep appreciation for allowing us to serve you during this most difficult period. It is our constant aim to afford to the people of this community a service completed in all details and faultlessly executed with sympathy and understanding.



Final Arrangements Entrusted to:

*Harris Funeral Home*  
Sympathetic, Courteous & Professional Service

515 South Sixth Street  
Opelika, Alabama 36801  
(334) 749-6583 Fax (334) 759-7018  
www.harrisfuneralhomeinc.com



SFC (RETIRED)  
*Johnnie*  
CLAUDE JONES

THURSDAY, JUNE 4, 2026  
10:30 A.M.

HARRIS FUNERAL HOME CHAPEL  
515 South 6th Street  
Opelika, AL 36801

PASTOR J ARTHUR GRUBBS, JR. OFFICIATING

## - Obituary -

Mr. Johnnie Claude Jones, son of the late Mr. Robert Lee and Mrs. Endia Elliott Jones, was born February 2, 1941, in Monroe County, Mississippi.

"Hon", as he was affectionately known by family and friends, was raised surrounded by his two brothers, Robert and Ronald and his sister, Lillian Jeanett Jones along with his mother, who he loved so much.

He was a Hally Technical High School Class of 1960 graduate. His favorite sports in high school were basketball and track.

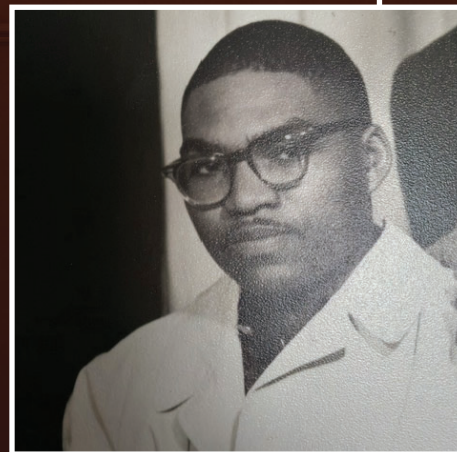
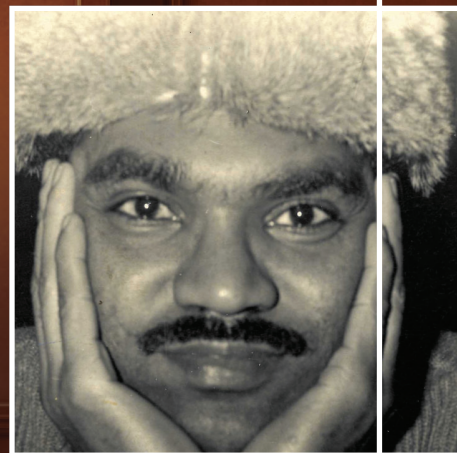
In 1989, he graduated from Opelika Technical College. SFC Jones enlisted in the United States Army on June 6, 1960, and served as a Chemical Equipment Repairman for nine years. He was later retrained as a Chemical Staff NCO and served as an instructor from July 1969 until August 1985. During his military career, he was deployed to Germany three times, Korea twice, and served two tours during the Vietnam War.

While in the military he met the love of his life, Gwendolyn Gardener, and became the provider for her and her children. Once he retired from the military they decided to move to Opelika, Alabama where he was employed at Southern Union Community College and dedicated twenty-four years of service.

In his spare time, he enjoyed woodworking and had a passion for building and repairing things. He was skilled in mechanics, masonry, cabinetmaking, and furniture making, earning a reputation as a true jack of all trades. He also loved photography, music, and traveling, and was known by family and friends as a walking history book.

On Wednesday, May 20, 2026, he departed this life at the East Alabama Medical Center in Opelika, Alabama. He was preceded in death by: his wife, Gwendolyn Jones; three siblings, Robert Howard Jones, Lillian Walls and Joe Ollie Brown, Jr.

He leaves to cherish his memory: six children, Robert Chapman of Birmingham, AL, Angela Chapman of Riverdale, GA, Christopher (Kelly) Chapman of Columbus, GA, Yulanda Marbury of Atlanta, GA, Demetris (Sharon) Chapman of Hurtsboro, AL and Trendina (Woodie) Paige of Prattville, AL; grandson as a son, Andre Chapman of Opelika, AL; eighteen grandchildren; one brother, Ronald (Brenae) Jones of Denver, CO; three special friends, Oscar Monagan, John Stinson and Jessie Pink; a host of nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends.



## - Order of Service -

**PROCESSIONAL**  
Clergy and Family

**SCRIPTURE READINGS**  
Pastor Josphe Halsey

**PRAYER OF COMFORT**  
Pastor Joseph Halsey

**MUSICAL SELECTION**  
Jarvis R. Harris

**REFLECTIONS**  
Two Minute Limit (Please)  
Family and Friends

**EULOGY**  
Reverend JArthur Grubbs, Jr., Sr. Pastor  
Greater Friendship Missionary Baptist Church, Tuskegee

**RECESSIONAL**