

PALLBEARERS
Family and Friends

FLOWER BEARERS
Family and Friends

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

The family of the late Mr. John Roger Zellars 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 of you.

REPAST
1:30 p.m.
Ole Time Country Buffet

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:



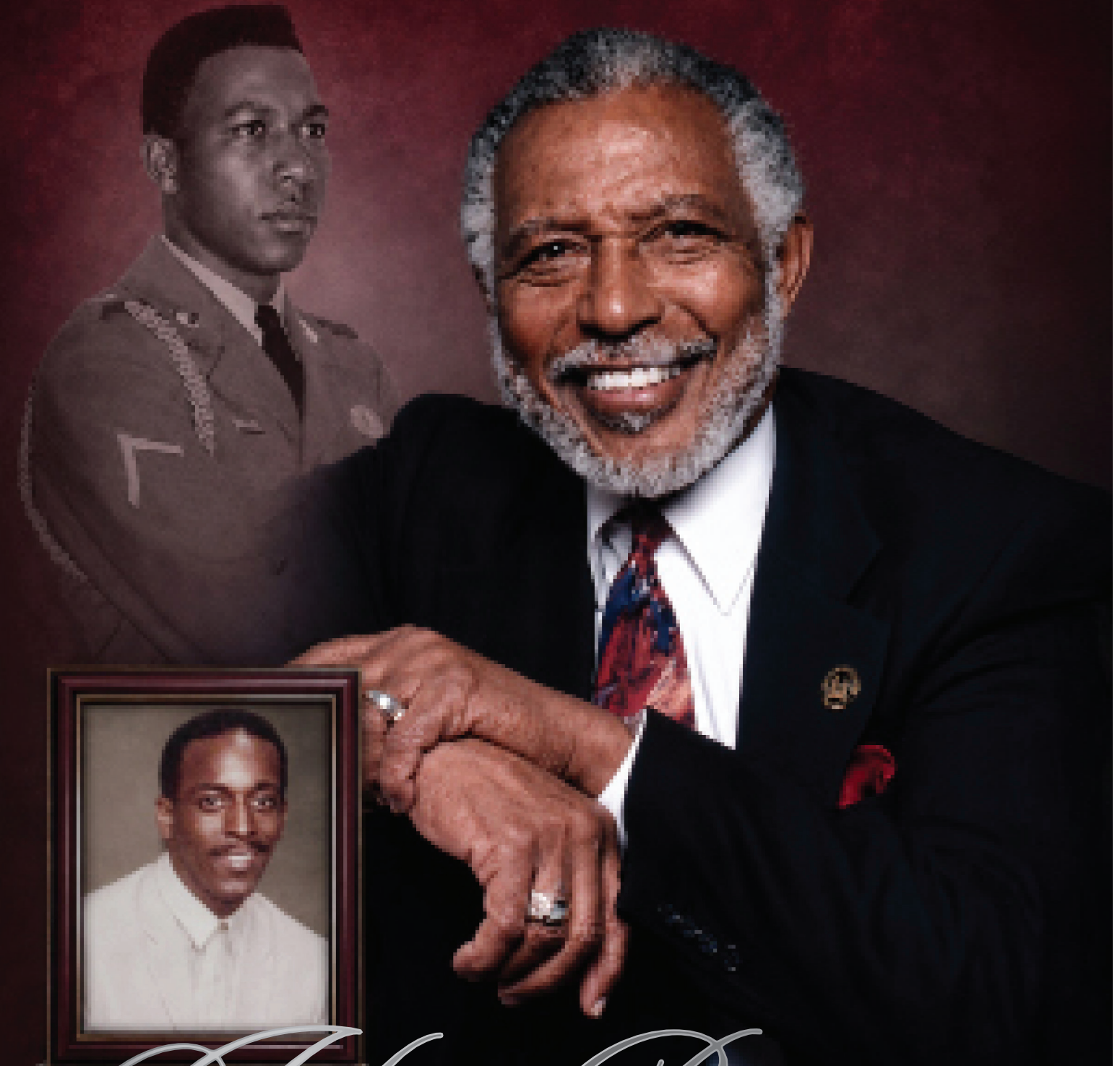
Harris Funeral Home
Sympathetic, Courteous & Professional Service
515 South Sixth Street
Opelika, Alabama 36801
(334) 749-6583 Fax (334) 759-7018
www.harrisfuneralhomeinc.com



DESIGNED & PRINTED BY CHERISHED MOMENTS BY D. LOVE
A Studio of Dionne Love Atelier • 205.848.5576 • dla.studio

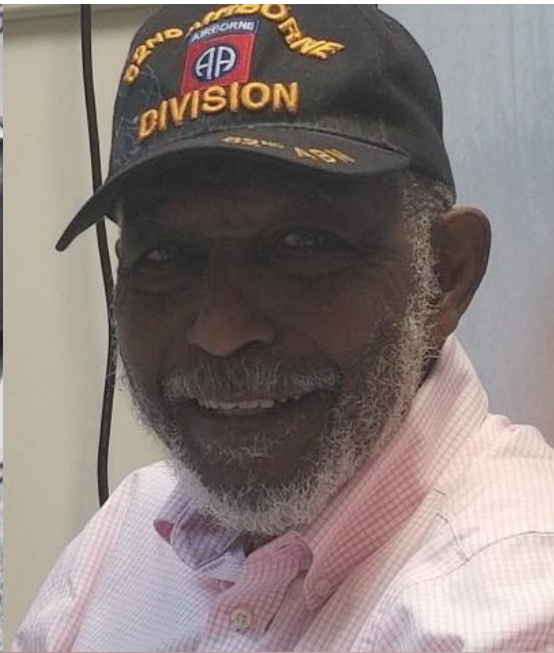


CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF



John Roger
ZELLARS

AUGUST 11, 1936 - JULY 1, 2026



REFLECTIONS —OF LIFE—

JOHN ROGER ZELLARS

John R. Zellars, 89, passed away peacefully on July 1, 2026, in Auburn, Alabama where he resided with his family at 1759 Old Wrights Mill Road, Auburn, Alabama.

John was born on August 11, 1936, in Auburn, Alabama, to Berta Morgan and Nathaniel Echols.

In 1955, he graduated from Lee County Training School. He was known as one of the finest football players in Auburn.

On April 12, 1957, John enlisted in the United States Army and served as an Infantryman. He was assigned to the 82nd Airborne Division at Fort Bragg, North Carolina, and completed a tour of duty in Germany. During his military service, John earned the Expert Infantryman Badge and Parachutist Badge. He was honorably discharged on September 8, 1960.

Following his discharge from the U. S.

Army, John married Mamie Byrd of Auburn, Alabama. Together, they moved to Chicago, Illinois, where they began building their life and raising their family. They remained in Chicago for 14 years before relocating to Auburn in 1974.

Upon returning home, John quickly became a familiar and respected figure in the Auburn community. Many people knew him simply as their "insurance man." He worked for many years as an insurance underwriter and agent with Liberty National Life Insurance Company in Opelika, Alabama.

John's true passion, however, was entrepreneurship and serving his community through his own businesses. Driven by determination and a strong entrepreneurial spirit, he opened the Wolf Trap, the Lion's Den, the Fox's Den (aka: Vans Lounge renovated), and the Auburn Currency Exchange. Through these ventures, John provided entertainment, employment, financial services, and a gathering place for

Taps

Day is done, gone the sun
From the lakes, from the hills, from the sky
All is well, safely rest
God is nigh

Fading light dims the sight
And a star gems the sky, gleaming bright
From afar, drawing near
Falls the night

Thanks and praise for our days
Neath the sun, neath the stars, neath the sky
As we go, this we know
God is nigh

My Prayer to the World

John Roger Zellars, A Fellow Traveler

Dear Heavenly Father, what have we done to your perfect world? We have almost destroyed your beautiful creation. We have let the seven deadly sins of mankind get between us and you our God. They are the sins of Greed/Envy - Revenge - Egotism - Suspicion - Jealousy - Intolerance and Selfishness.

Intolerance has killed more people, destroyed more friendships, brought more misery and suffering in the world than all the other sins. It has made us intolerant of our children, of our aging and of ourselves. It has filled us with prejudice and hatred toward one another, because we have different religious beliefs, racial customs and learning.

Lord, help me to overcome these sins. Help me to overcome Ignorance. Help me to overcome Fear. Help me to overcome Superstition.

HELP ME TO LOVE-that I may truly be my brother's keeper.

Lord you have given us a speck in time. Like a candle our light will shine for a short (while) time and then flicker out.

We must learn during this short earthly stay that when the Rider of The Pale White Horse comes-we have come to our journey's end.

We must be ready to fold our tents and quietly follow without fear or trembling.

It is my hope that when I cross over to the other side I will not find Jews or Gentiles, Protestants or Catholic, Black or White, Brown or Yellow.

I pray that I will find only Human Souls, there, Brothers and Sisters all, not marked by Race, Creed or Color - I pray the Intolerance is over and I can Rest in Peace forever. Amen

members of the Auburn community.

Among his most cherished community events were the annual Thanksgiving Dinner and Christmas Party and Gift Giveaway held at the Wolf Trap. These occasions allowed John to do what he loved - giving back to others. Over the years, he provided Thanksgiving meals, Christmas gifts, fellowship, and joy to generations of families throughout the Auburn community.

During his long and productive life, John made a lasting impact on Auburn. He advocated for zoning reform and community improvements in Northwest Auburn, participated in the annual Selma Bridge Crossing Jubilee, and helped organize members of the Auburn community to attend. John was also active in local politics, supporting and organizing numerous candidates seeking public office.

As president of the Lee County Chapter of the Alabama New South Coalition, headquartered in Montgomery, Alabama, John worked to advance the organization's guiding principle: "Make a change for the better in our lifetime." Through his leadership, he helped educate, organize, and encourage greater political participation among marginalized communities throughout Alabama.

Despite his many accomplishments, John's proudest titles were Dad, Granddad, and Great-Granddad. His family was central to his life,

and he took great pride in the accomplishments of his children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren.

John was preceded in death by his mother, Berta Zellars; his father, Nathaniel Echols; his daughter, Harriet North; his son, Marc Zellars; his grandson, Adam North and his daughter-in-law, Cathy Zellars.

He leaves to cherish his memory: his former wife, Mamie Byrd Zellars; his children, Technical Sergeant (Retired) William Zellars of Murfreesboro, TN (widower of Cathy Zellars), Connie (Mark) Caulton of Charlotte, NC, Dr. Malcolm Zellars of Atlanta, GA, Colonel (Retired) Eric (Kathy) Zellars of Acworth, GA, Quia Zellars Jumah of Maplewood, NJ, Emberly (Thobo) Letlape of Ellicott City, MD and Jaeston R. Zellars of Auburn, AL; his daughter-in-law, Deborah Zellars of Las Vegas, NV (widow of Marc Zellars); ten grandchildren; seven great-grandchildren and his loving cousin, Virginia Devoise of Auburn, AL.

John is also lovingly remembered by numerous nieces, nephews, cousins, extended family members, friends, former customers, and members of the Auburn community whose lives he touched.

He will be deeply missed, but his service, generosity, entrepreneurial spirit, and commitment to his family and community will never be forgotten.

JOHN'S FAVORITE SCRIPTURE:

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters. He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake. Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me. Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

PSALM 23

A TRIBUTE TO OUR UNCLE *John R. Zellars*

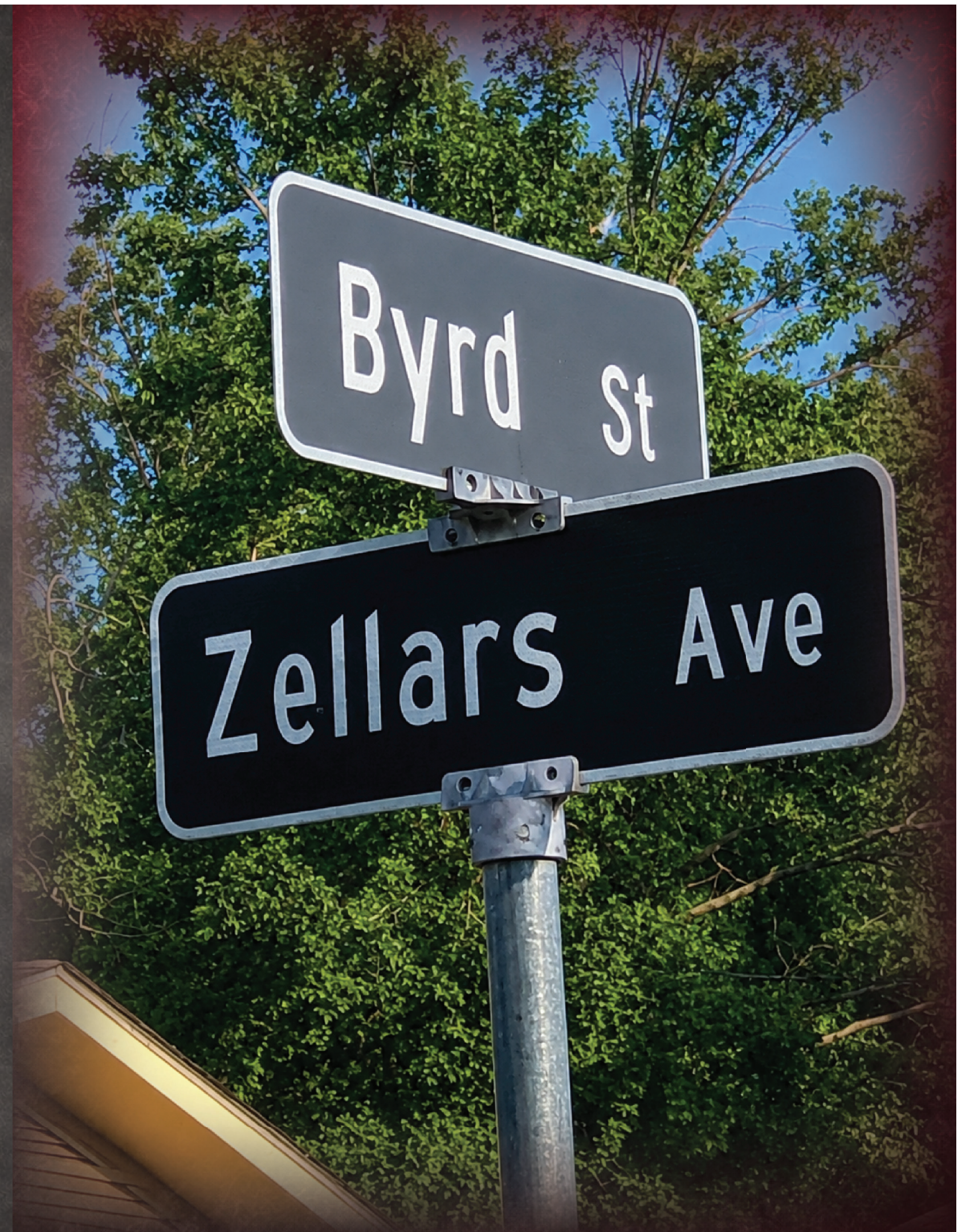
It is with a heavy heart and deep sympathy that we extend these words of comfort to our family. During this most difficult time, know that God is still on the throne, and He knows where you are and what you are going through. Jesus said in John 11:25-26, "I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; and whoever lives by believing in me will never die."

The Apostle Paul also reminds us that to be absent from this earthly body is to be in the presence of the Lord.

Be it Resolved, the nieces and nephews of John Roger Zellars remember him as a "walking encyclopedia, an engaging and historic one-of-a-kind individual always ready to share family history with us all. He was simply an amazing man. Nieces and nephews from East Chicago, Indiana, Chicago, Milwaukee, Alabama, Indianapolis, Atlanta, Tennessee, and New York all send our sincerest condolences.

Humbly Submitted,

The Zellars Family
on this 11th day of July 2026



ORDER OF SERVICE

SATURDAY, JULY 11, 2026 | 11:00 A.M.

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

REVEREND DESMOND SCAIFE, OFFICIATING

The Processional.....Clergy and Family
His Eye is of The Sparrow

Musical SelectionRequested Selection

Scripture Reading..... Reverend Tyrone D. Edwards
Psalm 23

Prayer of Comfort/Comments..... Reverend Tyrone D. Edwards

Musical SelectionSister Earnestine H. Robinson

Expression of LoveFamily Member

Eulogy Reverend Desmond Scaife

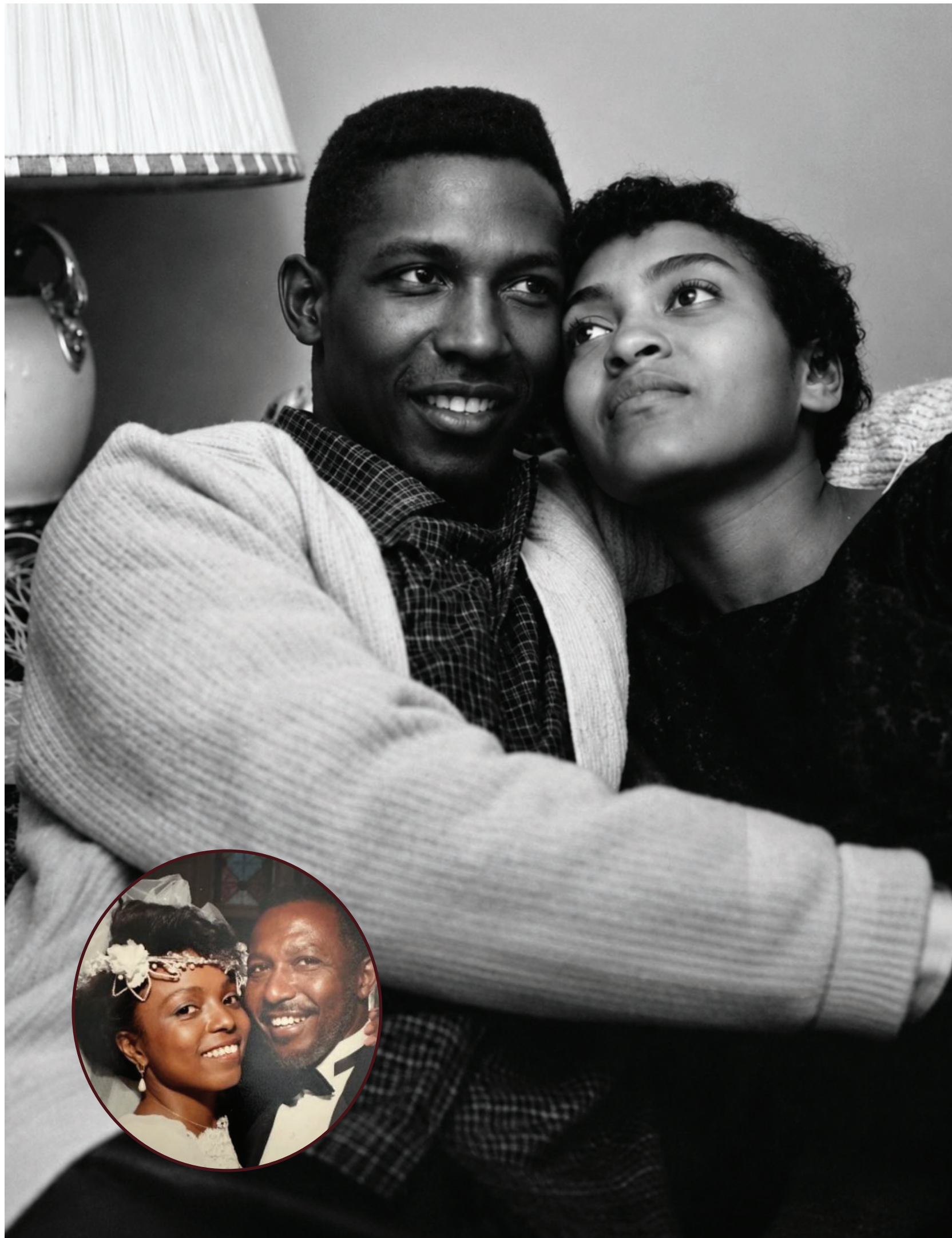
Military Honors

Benediction.....“It Is Well With My Soul”

President Obama framed Selma as a defining moment in American history — “a place and a moment in America where this nation’s destiny has been decided” — and linked the 1965 marches directly to the passage of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 under President Lyndon B. Johnson



Their lives were threatened. Their patriotism challenged,” yet their actions embodied the creed of the U.S. Constitution: “We the People...in order to form a more perfect union. We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal”
- President Obama



Auburn
Currency
Exchange

*Fastest, Friendliest
Service In Town*

**184 N. Donahue Dr.
in the Goal Post
Shopping Center**

**1 Block from campus
Next to Subway**

821-0811



