

SFC (Ret.)

# Order of Service for Elmer Lee Donaldson

Officiating  
**Pastor Christopher Abernathy**  
True Vine Ministries • 4105 Bellwood Avenue • Columbus, GA 31904

Music provided by  
**Bishop Joseph W. Jackson** • Salt of the Earth Ministries

**Prelude** – (Soft Music)

**Presiding & Opening Remarks**..... Pastor Christopher Abernathy

**Opening Prayer** ..... Pastor Christopher Abernathy

**Lessons from the Scripture** ...READ BY Bishop Joseph W. Jackson  
Salt of the Earth Ministries – Columbus, GA

Old Testament – *Psalm 23*

New Testament – *Hebrews 11:4-7,9-10*

**Musical Selection**..... Bishop Joseph W. Jackson  
Salt of the Earth Ministries – Columbus, GA

**Reflections**

Sergeant First Class (Ret.) Arthur Ray Hawkins

Debbie Sue Miller (sister)

Karia Smith (niece)

**Resolutions, Acknowledgments, and Appreciations**  
Sconiers FH Representative

**Musical Ministry Selection**..... Bishop Joseph W. Jackson  
Salt of the Earth Ministries – Columbus, GA

**Words of Comfort** ..... Pastor Christopher Abernathy

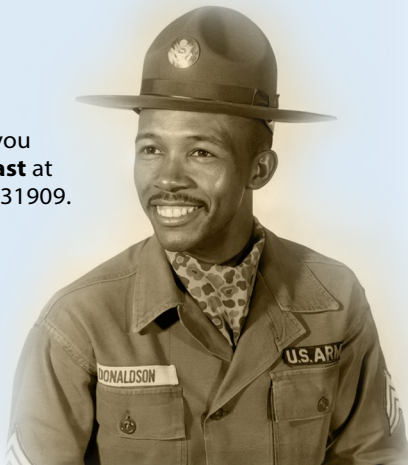
**Recessional**

## A Repast

Immediately following the interment, you are invited to join the Family for a **Repast** at **Cheddar's**, Whittlesey Blvd, Columbus 31909.

*Yet we have this assurance:  
Those who belong to God  
will live; their bodies will  
rise again! Those who  
sleep in the earth will  
rise up and sing for joy!*

– Isaiah 26:19 NLT



*“And God shall wipe away  
all tears from their eyes; and  
there will be no more death,  
neither sorrow, nor crying,  
neither shall there be any  
more pain; for the former  
things are passed away.”*

– Revelation 21:4

## Pall Bearers

Family and Friends

## Flower Attendants

Friends of the Family

## Interment

**Fort Mitchell Cemetery**  
553 Highway 165  
Ft. Mitchell, AL 36856

## Words of Appreciation

The Family of Elmer Donaldson wishes to express their deepest appreciation and sincere gratitude to those who have offered their prayers, support, and well wishes during our time of bereavement. Thank you for your love and strength which, along with the strength of God, has helped to sustain us through our sorrow.

May God continue to bless you!

We take comfort in 1 Corinthians 2:9...

*“Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor  
have entered into the heart of man,  
the things which God has prepared  
for those who love Him.”*

– The Family



**Sconiers Funeral Home**  
Directors

*“At Your Side Throughout the Journey”*

836 5th Avenue, Columbus, GA 31901 • (706) 322-0011

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# In Loving Memory of “Flip”

SUNRISE  
**October 8, 1939**

SUNSET  
**January 10, 2026**

IN THE CHAPEL OF  
**Sconiers Funeral Home**  
*Friday, January 23, 2026*  
**11:00 A.M.**

Officiating  
**Pastor Christopher Abernathy**

**True Vine Ministries**  
4105 Bellwood Ave.  
Columbus, GA 32904

**SFC (Ret.)**

# Elmer LEE DONALDSON



*Services Entrusted To*

**Sconiers Funeral Home • 836 5th Avenue • Columbus, GA 31901**



# A Legacy™

a heritage: character qualities, memoirs . . .

*“To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven: a time to be born, and a time to die, a time to plant, and a time to pluck up that which is planted...a time to weep, and a time to laugh: a time to mourn, and a time to dance...”*

— Ecclesiastes 3:1, 2, 4

SFC (Ret.)

## ELMER LEE DONALDSON

FAITH • SERVICE • STRENGTH

### A TIME TO BE BORN....

.... and for Elmer Lee Donaldson, that time began on October 8, 1939, in Wakulla County, Florida. He was born to James Scott Donaldson and Ollie Mae Donaldson, and was the third oldest of seven children in a close-knit family rooted in faith, love, and perseverance.

Elmer was raised in Wakulla County, where he began his early education. Later, the family relocated to Orlando, Florida, where he proudly attended and graduated from the historic Jones High School, Class of 1959. During his school years, Elmer was known for his athletic ability and love for basketball — a gift that would later be reflected in the generations that followed him.



### A TIME TO SERVE....

....and Elmer answered that call with honor.

After graduating high school, Elmer enlisted in the **United States Army**. He served his country faithfully for **23 years and 4 months** as an **11 Bravo Infantryman**. Throughout his military career, he rose through the ranks and became a respected leader. He served as a **Drill Sergeant and Drill Sergeant Instructor**, earning the distinguished **Drill Sergeant Badge**. Known for his discipline, excellence, and commitment, he also qualified as a **Sharpshooter** and completed multiple overseas tours, including assignments in **Korea**, the **Panama Canal Zone**, **Germany**, and **Fort Ord, California**, before finishing his career at **Fort Benning, Georgia**.

Elmer's dedication earned him numerous commendations and service ribbons, reflecting a life marked by courage,

responsibility, and integrity. Beyond his military service, he was a man of remarkable intelligence and adaptability — fluent in both **Korean** and **Spanish**, an accomplishment discovered by his family later in life and one that further speaks to his global experience and leadership.

### A TIME TO LOVE....

....and Elmer did just that. He was first married to **Annie Lee Donaldson**, who preceded him in death. From that union came one beloved son, **Troy L. Donaldson**, whom Elmer loved deeply. Later, Elmer married **Cynthia Donaldson**, and from this union a cherished daughter, **Whitney Donaldson**, was born.

After retiring from the Army, Elmer continued working on base as a civilian for several years, remaining a servant at heart and a leader by example.

### A TIME TO WORSHIP....

....and Elmer was a man of faith. He united with Mount Pilgrim Baptist Church in Columbus, Georgia, where he continued his journey of spiritual growth and fellowship.

### A TIME TO CARE....

....and Elmer loved well. To those who knew him, he was known as *“the man of Columbus”* — always offering wisdom, guidance, and a kind word. He had a gift for remembering people and never forgot a friend from his Army days.

Elmer was also a **doting grandfather**, with cherished photographs of his children and grandchildren proudly displayed in his home. He took joy in seeing his family thrive and took pride in the lives he helped shape.

He was known for his memorable sayings and life lessons, often encouraging others to: *“Stay focused!”* and *“Be a leader, not a follower.”*

Elmer was **preceded in death** by his **father** — James Scott Donaldson, **mother** — Ollie Mae Donaldson, and **sisters** — Lee Esther Price and Blonza Mae Donaldson Young.

**Those who cherish his memory:** He leaves to cherish his loving memories: his **wife** — Cynthia Donaldson; his **son** — Troy L. Donaldson and **granddaughter** — Taylor Donaldson; his **daughter** — Whitney Donaldson and **grandsons** — Damien Clayton and Dominique Clayton; **bonus son** — Torie (Toriano) Underwood and **granchildren** — Ja'Toreano King, Jordan Underwood, and Taylor Wright;

his **brother** — James “Buddy” (Hearlie) Donaldson of Orlando; his **sisters** — Mary Stevenson of Orlando, Annie Bell Hamm from Cantonment, FL, and Debbie Sue (Stanley Sr.) Miller from Atlanta, GA); **sisters-in-law** — Laurette (Eugene) MaBry, Deborah Underwood, and Yvette Underwood; and a host of **nieces**, **nephews**, **great-nieces** and **great-nephews**; and many other relatives and friends.

*“For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor ANY other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”*

— Romans 8:38-39

