

JEROME ARNOLD, JR.



Jerome Arnold, Jr., of Hilliard, passed from this life December 6, 2024, in the Warner Center for Caring in Fernandina Beach, surrendering in his 5-year fight against bladder cancer. He was the only son of six children born to Jerome and Ellen Geneva (Barber) Arnold. He was born December 1, 1941, in the home of his grandmother, Mary Jane (Justice) Barber in Manor, Ware County, Georgia. The Arnold family's residence was in Fernandina Beach when, at the time of his birth, his mother traveled to her parental home where he was born. Jerome attended school in Fernandina and continued living there until moving to Hilliard in 1981.

He retired from the Nassau County School Board maintenance department and remained close friends with many of his co-workers. He was an avid fan of racing and of Dale Earnhardt with an extensive collection of race car memorabilia. Following retirement, he spent time traveling, fishing, having daily breakfast with the guys at the local Hardee's and continued development of his talent for "horse trading". Along with his parents; he was preceded in death by his son Jerome Arnold, III; grandson Shaun McClung; sister Gwanis Freeman Johns; and the mother of his children Carolyn (Weaver) Arnold.

He is survived by his wife of 40 years, Nella J "Butch" Arnold; daughters Vicky L. Rushing of Fernandina Beach and Carol D. Arnold of Waycross; son Grady D. Arnold of Hilliard; sisters Imogene Smith and Janice Stokes, of Fernandina Beach, Geraldine "Jerri" Miles and Wanda Arnold of Hilliard; stepsons Leland and Dean Higginbotham of Hilliard and Garland Higginbotham; four grandchildren and four great-grandchildren; along with numerous nieces, nephews, cousins and other relatives.

The family will receive friends, Wednesday, December 11 a.m. at Hilliard First Assembly of God prior to the funeral service at 11 a.m.

A family graveside memorial service will be held later at Bosque Bello Cemetery Fernandina Beach.

Oxley Heard Funeral Directors, Fernandina Beach is in charge of arrangements.

Please share your memories and condolences at www.oxleyheard.com.