

### JOHN ALLEN MERRITT



John Allen Merritt, 81, of Callahan, went home to be with his Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ Sunday, August 12 at his residence, surrounded by loved ones. John was born January 28, 1937 in Wilmington, North Carolina to Della Mae and Allen Hall Merritt. He served in the



United States Army and the Army National Guard for 18 years.

His life revolved around his family and friends. He loved fishing, UNC Tar Heels basketball, watching Jimmy Swaggart, making his secret recipe Datil Pepper sauce, and spending time with all of his babies.

John is preceded in death by his wife Shirley Ann Merritt; his parents; sons John Arthur Merritt and Michael Allen Merritt; daughter Kimberly Marie Merritt; and granddaughter Valeri Kip Shepherd.

John is survived by 10 children, his daughters Deborah (Lee) Hunt, Amber (Craig) Christmas, Debra (Silas) Carter, Connie Harrell, Crystal Merritt and Ashley Merritt; sons Timothy (Kacey) Merritt, William Merritt, Charles Woodward, Jr. and Donald Woodward; 27 grandchildren; 13 great-grandchildren; and five great-great-grandchildren.

The family will receive friends Thursday, August 16 in the Nassau Funeral Home Chapel from 6-8 p.m. A celebration of life service will be held Friday, August 17 at 11 a.m. also at the funeral home with Pastor Ken Barney officiating. Interment will follow in the Arlington Park Cemetery beside his wife of 35 years.

Condolences may be expressed at [www.nassaufh.com](http://www.nassaufh.com).

Arrangements under the direction of Nassau Funeral Home, Callahan, 904-879-1770.