

NATHANIEL JOHN HARDGE, JR.



Nathaniel John Hardge, Jr., also known as “Poppa,” departed this life Thursday, November 30, 2023, to take his eternal rest. Poppa was born June 30, 1959 to the late Amy Oliver Hardge and Nathaniel

John Hardge, Sr. After attending William M Raines High School, he obtained his CDL driver’s license which included hazmat certification. He was a truck driver by trade but was also a gifted auto mechanic. Nate loved all genres of music; jazz was his favorite. He would spend hours listening to artists such as Marion Meadows, Kenny G, Kirk Whalum, and others. Every year he looked forward to the Jacksonville Jazz Festival coming to town and would often attend. With his love for music Nate was able to turn his hobby into a side job. He would often DJ at cookouts, weddings, and parties for family and friends. Nate was an easy-going person and always had a good conversation. After his marriage to the former Karen Jones, he moved to Callahan where he joined the Greater Mount Pleasant Missionary Baptist Church under the leadership of Rev. C.J. Brown. Nate oversaw the Audio Ministry. On Sundays, he would record the service and provide the copies to the Senior Saints who were homebound. After moving back to Jacksonville, he joined Grace Missionary Baptist Church. He was preceded in death by his parents; aunt Louise Johnson; niece Chenita Robinson; sister-in-law Patricia Hardge; brother-in-law Lewis Stokes; son Tyree Stephens; and father-in-law Theodore R. Jones, Sr. Nathaniel will be missed by all who knew him.

He is survived by his siblings Willie Hardge, Sr., Leroy (Lorraine) Robinson, Dallas Robinson, Judy Stokes, Shelia (Booker) Bailey and Hope Meadows; former spouse Karen Hardge; children Chartavia (Akay Ohimor) Stephens, Octavia (Shan) Sansanong and Corporal Jon’vonte Jones; grandchildren Aria Ohimor and Shan Sansanong, Jr.; godchildren LaShonda “Pretty Girl” Thomas and Aliyana “Skinny” Scott; in-laws Deloris Jones, Natachia Jones, Theodore R. Jones, Jr. and Marilyn Watkins; special relative Hazel Baker; grandmother Alice Jones; aunts Missouri Williams, Willie Eva (Oliver) Strickland, Ruby (Carl) Atwater, Theresa (Sammy, Jr.) Brown, Marie (Terry, Sr.) Jacobs, Maxine Simmons and Veronica Horne; uncles Ivory Melton, Sr., Louis (Angela) Williams, Joseph (Michelle) Nelson, Sr.; nieces and nephews Willie Hardge, Jr., Rosa Hardge-Howell, Rosalyn Hardge, Milton (Deidra) Johnson, Rodney Robinson, Monique (Zavier) Curtis, Shonda (Michael) Thomas, Sammatha Robinson, Marquis Thorpe, Leroy “Rob” (Nasha) Robinson, Patrick Meadows, Laroyal Robinson, Andre Jenkins, Afeyohn Miller, Leilah Jones and Malachi “Player” Jones; special relative Hazel Baker; and a host of other relatives and friends.

The homegoing service will be held Saturday, December 16 at 10 a.m. at Greater Mount Pleasant Missionary Baptist Church, 45031 Historical Lane Callahan.

Arrangements by Sarah L. Carter’s Funeral Home, Jacksonville.