

WILLIAM 'BILL' HASKINS



William 'Bill' Middlebrooks Haskins, 95, passed away Sunday, April 14 at Community Hospice, Earl B. Hadlow Center for Caring. He had been suffering from complications of old age. He was born October 14, 1923 in Athens, Georgia to parents, William Monroe Haskins and Ethel May Parker.

Bill joined the US Navy in October 1945 one month before the end of World War II. He served on a battleship as an Aviation Machinist Mate Second Class during his brief sea service. He was Honorably Discharged months later with an injury to his left ear. It was blown out by a blast from a nearby cannon, rendering him deaf in that ear. Soon after being discharged, he married Lolita Lott of Withlacoochee, Georgia. They were married from 1947 to 1989. During this period, they would raise a family of nine children.

Bill proudly served the City of Jacksonville as a Police Officer dedicating 20 years of his life to the City and the community before retiring. He was well known by his fellow officers and an adoring public as he affectionately earned the nickname "Smiley." He was always smiling to others while on the job and in public while in uniform.

One of Bill's passions outside of the family was playing music. He was a semi-professional musician performing in the local area around Jacksonville, for most of his adult life. His interest was playing and promoting other musicians in country music. Ultimately, he would branch out and try promoting his songwriting skills and at writing a periodical called "Country Music World."

Bill was loved by his family, his friends and anyone who ever would meet him and experience his kind and giving soul. He was born to make a difference in this world and that he did abundantly. His example of caring for others more than himself was genuine and was born from the Christian nature inherently in him. Bill will reap the reward of the kind giver and will be missed by all!

He is preceded in death by both parents; his brother James Haskins; sisters Barbara Haskins Webster, Marcella Haskins Peterson, Virginia Dare Haskins Spooner, Jean Haskins, Doratha Haskins and Willie Mae Haskins Collins; his ex-wife Loleta Lott Haskins; daughter Mary Susan Stone; and three grandchildren Michael Rewis, Rebecca Muse and Joshua Tucker; and one great-grandchild Josephina Anne Deuel.

He is survived by his children William Roy Haskins, Lolita Rewis, Linda Tucker, David Haskins, Charlotte Haskins Partridge, Elizabeth Muse, Donna Haskins and Jesse Haskins; 44 grandchildren; 59 great-grandchildren; 17 great-great-grandchildren; and a sister Anne White.

The Military Funeral will be held Thursday, April 18 at 11 a.m. at the Jacksonville National Cemetery, 4083 Lannie Road. A memorial service will follow at The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, 1679 Dunn Ave, Jacksonville.

Condolences may be expressed at www.callahanfh.com.