

### WYLLIE BRYANT HODGES, JR.



Wyllie Bryant Hodges, Jr., 76, a lifelong resident and public servant of Jacksonville, was called home to be with the Lord on August 26, 2023. Wyllie was born December 20, 1946 to the late Reverend W. Bryant Hodges, Sr. and Ruby Petty Hodges. He was also preceded in death by his beloved father-in-law, George R. Grosse; and his sisters Helen Hodges Mays and Carolyn Hodges Martin.

Wyllie graduated from Andrew Jackson High School in 1964. Upon graduation, he joined the Marine Corp. Reserves, where he served for 6 years. He was also a graduate of the National FBI Academy in Quantico, VA. Wyllie had a distinguished 52 year career in public service. He joined the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office in 1970, where he excelled achieving every rank in the department and ultimately retiring as Jacksonville's Undersheriff in 2005 after 35 years.

Retirement was short lived and Lynn's honey-do list was put on the back burner when he answered the call to serve yet again. A short time later, Wyllie accepted the position of Executive Director of First Coast Crime Stoppers. A role he held for 17 years where his annual golf tournaments and sporting clay shoots were legendary and very much appreciated by everyone. He took great pride in their success.

Wyllie was a principled leader who earned a reputation of unwavering integrity. He was highly respected, beloved and admired by many. He was a role model and mentor to many and a hero to others. He loved his large JSO family and his legend will live on in the hearts of his brother and sisters in blue.

Above all, Wyllie cherished his Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, his family, his church and Sunday school family at Trinity Baptist Church. His life was dedicated to serving others and his legacy lives on in the lives of those he touched.

Wyllie is survived by the devoted love of his life, Lynn, to whom he was married for 47 years; his children Renae (Jeff) Lewin, Darren (Heather) Hodges, Justin (Rebekah) Hodges and Shawna Hodges; grandchildren Chelsea (Marty) Amos, Jessica (Austin) Anderson, Bryson Hodges, Jared Lewin, Blake Hodges, Ben (Reauna) Lewin, Kayli Hodges and Mason Hodges; four great-grandchildren; his sister Sandra Hodges (Lester) Friar; and brothers by heart George Lueders, Roy Henderson, Rusty Rodgers, Bill Anthony and Bland Cologne.

His family will receive friends Friday, September 1 from 5 - 7 p.m. at Trinity Baptist Church, 800 Hammond Blvd., Jacksonville. A celebration of life service will be held on Saturday, September 2 at 11 a.m., also at the church, with Pastor Tom Messer officiating. Interment will follow at Riverside Memorial Park. JSO Honor Guard will render honors.

Peebles Family Funeral Home is serving the Hodges Family.