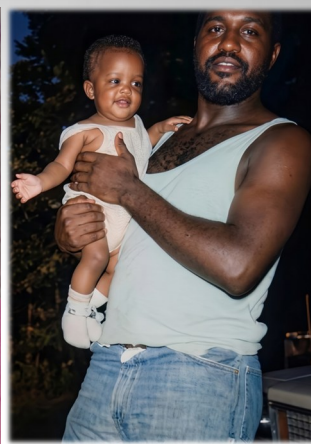




Pallbearers

Cousins

With Grateful Appreciation

We gratefully acknowledge every prayer and expression of sympathy shared with us during this bereavement. You have been the hands of comfort and the voice of strength for our family. Just as you have poured out your spirit to sustain us, we pray that God restores your own strength in equal measure. Your kindness remains a cherished memory in our lives.

The Kenneth Ray Lester Family

J.W. Williams Funeral Home

Since 1918

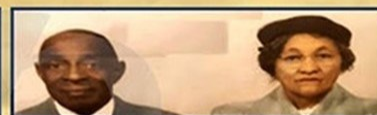
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J.W. Williams Funeral Home
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The Parker Family
Calandra Wilkerson Parker
Corporate Secretary/Treasurer

Jai' Wilkerson Parker
Junior-Crisp County High School



Sandre K. Johnson



Rev. Isaac H. Owens
Cordele City Commissioner



Donald K. Hamilton, Jr.



Dr. Frankie Harmon



Fredrick Johnson



IN LOVING MEMORY KENNETH RAY LESTER "Man"

UNITED STATES NAVY VETERAN



BORN: August 13, 1956 DIED: July 23, 2026

In recognition of a life of service and duty.

The Obituary

Kenneth Ray Lester, a devoted father, cherished grandfather, honorable veteran, and faithful community leader, transitioned peacefully to his heavenly home on the morning of Thursday, July 23, 2026.

Affectionately known as "Man," "Ken-Ken," "Lester," or "Kenny Ray," to know him was to know a man who was always ready with an open heart, a warm meal, and a helping hand.

Kenneth was born on August 13, 1956, in Byromville, Georgia, to his beloved mother, Lizzie Lester. Growing up in Dooly County, he received his early education in the public schools of Dooly County. He went on to pursue higher education at Fort Valley State College, building a foundation of leadership, discipline, and commitment to service.

Answering the call of duty, Kenneth enlisted in the United States Navy, where he served his country with distinction and honor. A man of exceptional intellect and technical aptitude, he earned one of the highest scores on the submarine missile qualifications during his naval career.

Kenneth dedicated much of his professional life to uplifting others. As a Director at the West Central Georgia Community Action Council, he worked tirelessly to serve local communities—coordinating commodity distributions and providing vital utility assistance to the elderly and homebound.

Beyond his formal role, Kenneth was affectionately known throughout the community as "the tax man," selflessly assisting countless individuals and families over the years with preparing and filing their income taxes.

Driven by a deep love for his hometown, Kenneth was elected Mayor of Byromville. During his tenure as Mayor, he was instrumental in driving community growth, advocating for local resources, and fostering unity across the town.

Over the years, Kenneth’s walk with God grew ever stronger. As an adult, he united with Mount Calvary Missionary Baptist Church, where he faithfully and willingly served wherever he was needed.

Man was a master in the kitchen and at the grill, renowned for his exceptional cooking skills. He found immense joy in feeding his family and neighbors, using food as a bridge to bring people together. He cherished family deeply and loved nothing more than welcoming relatives back to their "Byromville roots" to relax in the yard, share stories, and reminisce over family history. He especially looked forward to grand celebrations, including the 4th of July and annual celebrations for his mother’s birthday—a tradition he passionately carried on even after her passing.

Kenneth’s vibrant spirit, loving heart, and legacy of service will forever be remembered and cherished by: his beloved son, Jakorri Lester and his wife, Tia; his adored granddaughters, Jamia Lester and Jakorri Harper; a devoted cousin, Rick Henry; his beloved friend, Rutine McWilliams; a loving host of cousins, extended family members, former colleagues, and a multitude of friends throughout the community.

A Life
Well-Lived,

A Heart
Well-Loved



A steady hand, a welcome smile,
A man who’d walk the extra mile.
To family, he was simply "**Man**"—
The heart on which a household stands.
To lifelong friends, both old and new,
He was "**Ken-Ken**," devoted, true.
In Byromville, he made his mark,
A willing light in moments dark.
If help was needed, large or small,
He answered every neighbor’s call.
As years rolled on like quiet streams,
He anchored all his hopes and dreams
In faith above, placing God first—
A steady truth to guide the worst.
He loved the laughter, loved the cheer,
With those he held so close and dear.
Whether gathered in the yard outside,
Or at the Legion, side by side,
He knew the joy of simple grace:
Good times, good friends, a warm embrace.
Father, Grandfather, Cousin, Friend—
A legacy that does not end.
Rest easy now, your work is done,
A life well-lived, a victory won.

The Order of Service

Friday | July 31, 2026 | 11:00 AM

Mount Calvary Baptist Church

108 Joe Wright Drive | Cordele, Georgia

Reverend Isaac H. Owens | Pastor

Musical Prelude

Brother Dexter Davis

Processional | “Jesus Keep Me Near the Cross”

Led by Clergy

The Final Viewing

The Final Sealing of the Casket

The Draping of the American Flag

Selection | Mount Calvary Gospel Ensemble

Prayer of Comfort

Evangelist Cynthia McWilliams

Old and New Testament Scriptures

Reverend Roosevelt McWilliams

Musical Selection

Brother Dexter Davis

Reflections

“My Father” | Mr. Jakorri Lester

Mr. Norman Jordan

Deacon William O. Durham

Selection | Mount Calvary Gospel Ensemble

Eulogy

Reverend Isaac H. Owens

Acknowledgements, Heirloom Bible and Memorial Blanket Presentation

J. W. Williams Funeral Home Staff

Recessional & Postlude

The Committal Service

(With Military Honors)

Pleasant Hill Church Cemetery

Byromville, Georgia

The service may be viewed on the
J. W. Williams Funeral Home Facebook Page
or the
J. W. Williams Funeral Home Youtube Channel.