

Celebrating
THE LIFE AND LEGACY
of
JOHN DAVID
HAWTHORNE, JR.

LIEUTENANT COLONEL, UNITED STATES ARMY (RETIRED)

A MAN OF FAITH • A DISTINGUISHED SOLDIER • A SERVANT-LEADER • A DEVOTED FAMILY MAN

"His Lord said unto him, Well done, thou good and faithful servant... enter thou into the joy of thy Lord."

— Matthew 25:23 (KJV)

COMMISSIONED TO LEAD

November 14, 1948

CONSECRATED TO SERVE

-

CALLED HOME TO REST

September 12, 2026

J.P. Moore Mortuary, Directing

1948 JOHN DAVID HAWTHORNE, JR. 2026

JOHN DAVID HAWTHORNE, JR., a distinguished scholar, soldier, educator, businessman, community leader, devoted family man, and faithful servant of God, entered eternal rest on Saturday, September 12, 2026, leaving behind a legacy that will continue to inspire generations to come.

Born on November 14, 1948, John was the eldest of six children born to the late Rosa Lee McGahee Hawthorne and John David Hawthorne, Sr. From his earliest years, he was destined to walk a path of courage, excellence, and purpose.

John grew up in Highlands County, Florida, during a defining and difficult period in American history. At a time when segregation created barriers for so many, John became a pioneer. In 1966, he made history as the first and only African American graduate in his class at Lake Placid High School. His accomplishment was not simply a personal victory; it was a door opened for those who would follow.

Following high school, *John* pursued higher education at Florida A&M University and Tuskegee Institute before ultimately returning to Florida A&M University, where he graduated cum laude with a Bachelor of Science degree in Physics in 1971. He was also a Distinguished Military Graduate and received his commission in the United States Army as a Second Lieutenant. Later, he earned a Master of Business Administration from Albany State University in 1984.

John, affectionately known as “JD” by the Brothers, was a member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., having been initiated into the Beta Nu Chapter at Florida A&M University in 1969.

John's professional life reflected the extraordinary breadth of his gifts and talents. His career included work with NASA's Apollo Saturn Space Program as an Engineer Trainee, Ford Motor Company's Lincoln-Mercury Division as a Zone Manager, and Procter & Gamble, where he served in management roles involving Pampers, Material Handling, and Human Resources.

He was also an entrepreneur, establishing businesses that included the Outer Limits Teen Center, Fallon's Hot Dog & Ice Cream Parlor, and a BP Convenience Store. His entrepreneurial spirit was rooted not merely in business, but in creating opportunities and contributing to the communities he served.

John's commitment to community and economic development led him to serve the City of Albany, Georgia, as Deputy Director of the Department of Community and Economic Development and Business Incubator Manager. He also served as Deputy Commandant of the 3294th United States Army Reserve Forces School and as an adjunct professor in the Business Department at Albany State University.

His professional journey later took him to Florida, where he served the City of Sarasota as Deputy Director of Planning and Redevelopment. He went on to serve Highlands County Habitat for Humanity as Chief Operating Officer and later as its Chief Executive Officer and Executive Director for five years. He also served the Sarasota Housing Authority as Construction Project Manager and Director of Asset Management.

His commitment to affordable housing, economic development, and community advancement continued through AHED Consulting Services, Inc., where he served as President and owner. His leadership also extended to the Florida Housing & Finance Corporation, where he served as a gubernatorial appointee to its Board of Directors.

A Distinguished Military Servant

Among the many chapters of *John's* remarkable life, his military career stands as a testament to his courage, discipline, intelligence, and commitment to country.

Commissioned through ROTC as a Distinguished Military Graduate on July 29, 1971, *John* served a total of 26 years in the United States Army, including both active and reserve service. He attained the rank of Lieutenant Colonel in the Field Artillery and permanently retired from military service on November 14, 2008.

SOLDIER | SERVANT-LEADER | FAMILY MAN

He did not merely wear the uniform; he carried with him a commitment to excellence, leadership, and service that would define the rest of his life.

A Man of Faith

Beyond the titles, degrees, accomplishments, and honors was a man whose greatest foundation was his faith in God.

John was a devoted member of New Salem Missionary Baptist Church in Baconton, Georgia, where he served as Chairman of the Deacons' Ministry and as Special Assistant to the Pastor. His faith was not simply something he professed—it was something he lived through service, compassion, leadership, and his commitment to others.

He also served on the Board of the Mitchell County House of Hope in Camilla, Georgia, continuing his lifelong dedication to strengthening his community and helping others find hope and opportunity.

A Beloved Husband, Father, Grandfather & Great-Grandfather

While **John's** professional accomplishments touched communities and his military service touched a nation, his greatest earthly treasures were found within his family.

He was the beloved husband of Iris Allison Hawthorne, his cherished wife and companion. Together, they shared a life built upon love, faith, family, perseverance, and commitment.

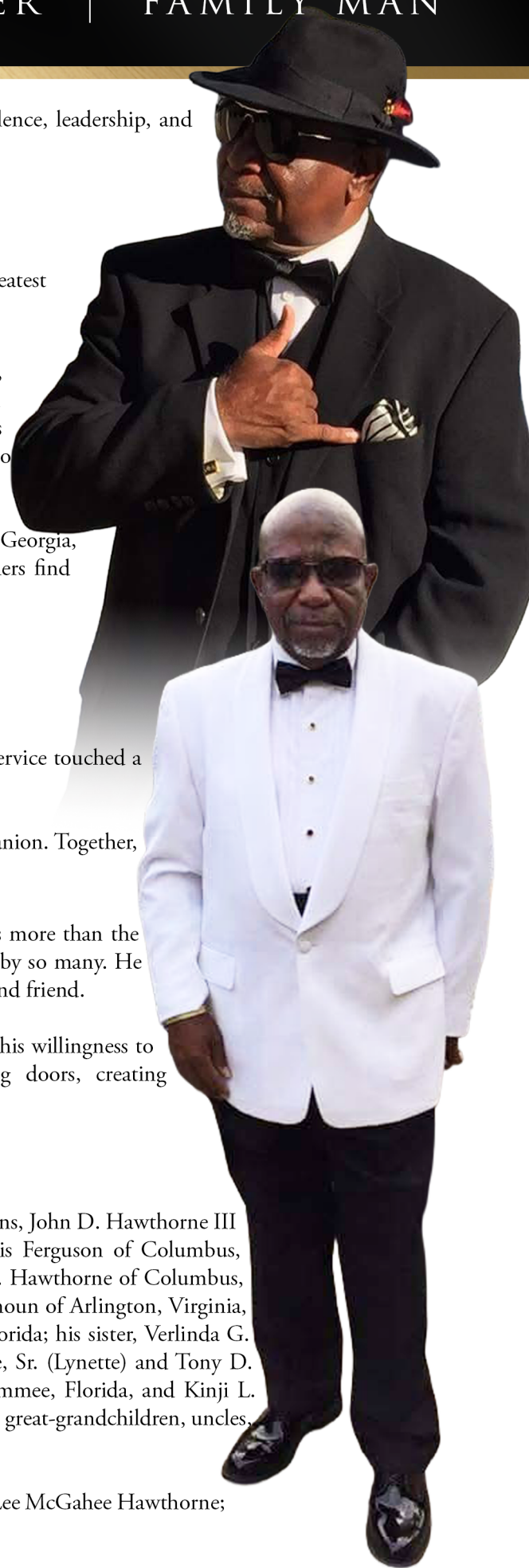
John was a devoted father, grandfather, and great-grandfather. To his family, he was more than the distinguished officer, executive, educator, entrepreneur, or community leader known by so many. He was a husband, Dad, Granddad, great-grandfather, counselor, protector, encourager, and friend.

He possessed a wealth of knowledge and experience, but one of his greatest gifts was his willingness to share that knowledge with others. He understood the importance of opening doors, creating opportunities, and leaving people better than he found them.

John David Hawthorne, Jr. lived a life of purpose.

He leaves to cherish his memory his loving and devoted wife, Iris A. Hawthorne; his sons, John D. Hawthorne III of Phenix, Alabama, and Marcus D. Allison of Albany, Georgia; his daughters, Iris Ferguson of Columbus, Georgia, Kendra Hawthorne-Whitlock (Kenneth) of Jacksonville, Florida, Jeanine D. Hawthorne of Columbus, Georgia, Adoria Minor and Fallon Stubbs, both of Albany, Georgia, Melanie D. Calhoun of Arlington, Virginia, Tracie Laster (Reginal) of Albany, Georgia, and Frantasia Williams of Tallahassee, Florida; his sister, Verlinda G. Hawthorne (Jerry White) of Dothan, Alabama; his brothers, Thomas L. Hawthorne, Sr. (Lynette) and Tony D. Hawthorne, Sr. (Joyce), both of Dothan, Alabama, Stanley D. Hawthorne of Kissimmee, Florida, and Kinji L. Hawthorne (Dennis) of Cathedral City, California; along with a host of grandchildren, great-grandchildren, uncles, aunts, nieces, nephews, cousins, and other loving relatives and friends.

He was preceded in death by his father, John David Hawthorne, Sr.; his mother, Rosa Lee McGahee Hawthorne; and his granddaughter, Ariel Thrower.



THE ORDER OF *Divine Service*

Thursday, September 24, 2026 • 1:00 Post Meridiem
SAINT MARY MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH
6829 St. Marys Road | Baconton, Georgia 31716
Pastor Ananias Hopkins III, Gracious Host

Pastor Craig E. Moore, Eulogist
New Salem Missionary Baptist Church | Baconton, Georgia

Reverend Dr. Donny D. Green, Sr., Officiant
Bible Way Missionary Baptist Church | Albany, Georgia

Prelude The *J.P. Moore* Gospel Chorale & Band

ProcessionalEulogist, Clergy, Mortician & Family

The Parting Glance & Seating of the Family.....The *J.P. Moore* Staff

Sealing of the Pier

The Prayer of Consolation Dr. JoAnne Lewis

The Holy Scriptures

The Old TestamentPastor James R. Edwards

The New Testament Pastor Gladis Lee

Selection The *J.P. Moore* Gospel Chorale

Tributes to a Life of Faith, Service & Distinction

Two minutes each, please

As a Father Sister Kendra Hawthorne-Whitlock

As a Brother Brother Thomas L. Hawthorne, Sr.

In Brotherhood, Mentorship & FriendshipBrother Orson Burton, Jr.

In Fellowship & Friendship — Seniors on the Runway...Dr. Carrie Hamilton

In Service to the City of Albany Mr. Terrell Jacobs, City Manager

As a Husband Sister Iris A. Hawthorne

Acknowledgements & Resolutions The *J.P. Moore* Staff

SelectionThe *J.P. Moore* Gospel Chorale

The Eulogy.....Pastor Craig E. Moore

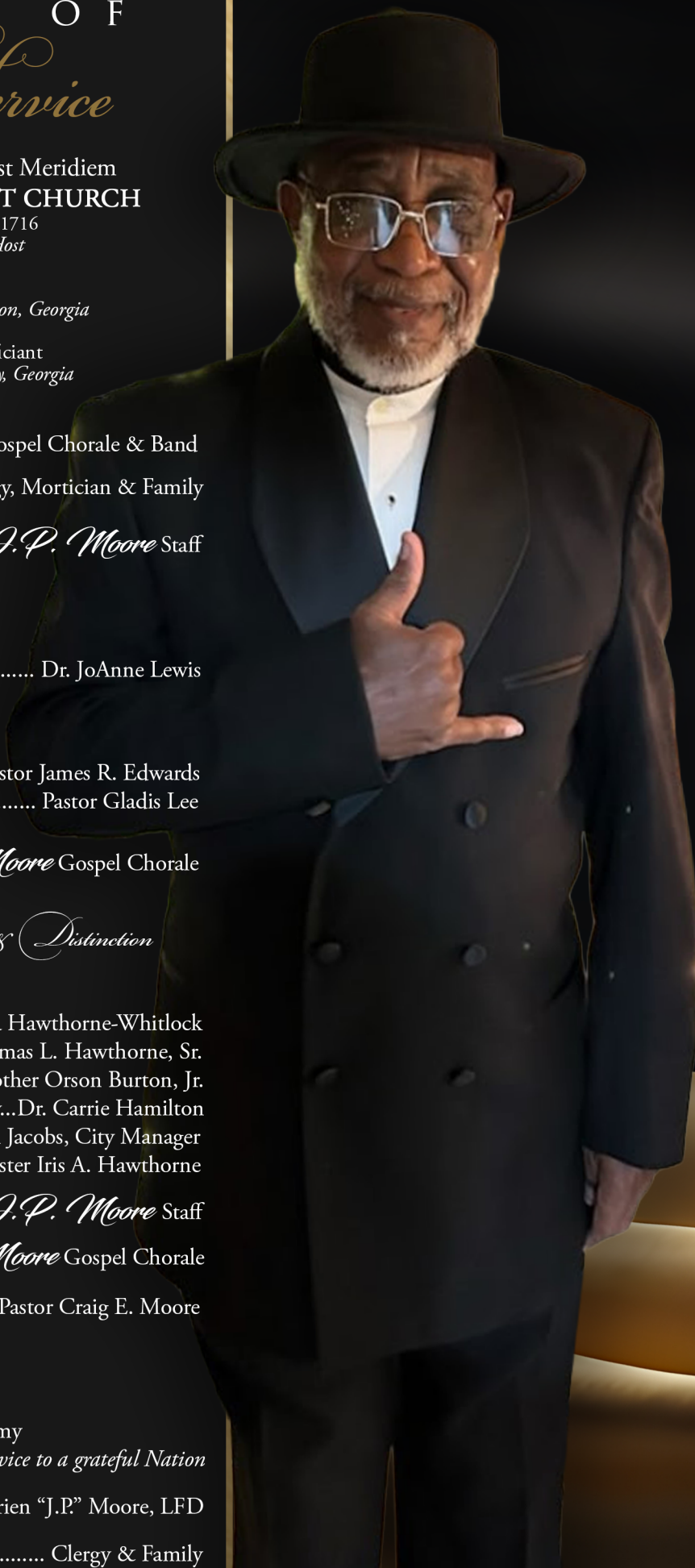
Military Honors

Rendered by the United States Army

In grateful recognition of twenty-six years of honorable service to a grateful Nation

The Mortician's BriefMr. Jamarion "J.P." Moore, LFD

Recessional Clergy & Family



To MY HUSBAND, MY LOVE, MY BEST FRIEND

*How do I say goodbye to the man who was my husband, my best friend,
and one of God's greatest gifts to me?*

*For almost 21 years, I had the privilege of calling John my husband. We built a life together filled
with love, laughter, prayer, challenges, victories, and countless memories. Twenty-one years sounds like
a long time until you lose the person you wanted to spend forever with. Then you realize no amount
of time would ever have been enough.*

*John loved me in a way I will never forget. When I faced breast cancer, he stood beside me with
patience, tenderness, courage, and unwavering faith. When I was afraid, he comforted me.*

When I was weak, he helped carry me.

He showed me what it truly meant to honor the vows we made before God.

*John was a scholar, a military officer, a business leader, and, most importantly, a man of God. His
faith was not simply something he spoke about; it was something he lived. His wisdom, integrity,
compassion, and love touched so many lives.*

Today, my heart is broken, but my faith remains.

*Scripture reminds us that "to be absent from the body [is]
to be present with the Lord."*

*I believe John is resting
peacefully in the presence of the Savior he loved and served.*

John, thank you for almost 21 beautiful years.

*Thank you for loving me, caring for me, praying with me,
and walking beside me.*

*Being your wife was one of God's
greatest blessings in my life.*

*I will not say goodbye, because through Christ,
I believe we will meet again.*

So rest, my love. Rest in the arms of Jesus.

Until we meet again, I love you.

With all my love,

Iris A. Hawthorne

LOVING TRIBUTES

*First, we want to thank God for placing you in our lives and blessing us with the privilege of calling you our Big Brother.
And a big brother you truly were.*

*Whenever we called for advice, guidance, or simply needed a helping hand, you came. You never made us feel like we
were a burden. You simply showed up. That was who you were—a brother who loved his family not only through words,
but through his actions. The love and care you showed Mom and Dad will forever remain in our hearts. You understood
the importance of family, and you demonstrated that love faithfully. When any of us found ourselves going through
difficult times, you were there. In moments of despair, uncertainty, and struggle, you offered wisdom, encouragement, and
a lending hand. And you didn't just give advice and walk away—you would walk step by step with us until victory
showed up. That's the kind of brother you were.*

*You were the kind of brother a family couldn't help but love. Your presence brought strength. Your words brought
reassurance. And knowing that you were there somehow made life's difficult moments a little easier to bear.
Today, there is an emptiness because you are no longer here with us physically. We miss you more than words can express,
but you will never be forgotten. The love you gave us, the lessons you taught us, the laughter we shared, and the memories
we made will remain a part of us for the rest of our lives.*

*And Big Brother, we never did get the chance to enjoy that smothered chicken together. But one day, if the Lord allows us
to eat like that in Heaven, we're going to have ourselves a feast. We'll sit together again, laugh together again, and enjoy
that meal we didn't get the chance to share here.*

*Until then, we find comfort in knowing that you are with the Lord. Your earthly journey is complete. You have fought
your fight, you have finished your course, and you have kept the faith.*

So this isn't goodbye forever. It's simply until we meet again.

Rest well, Big Brother.

Well done, John David Hawthorne Jr.

You were deeply loved.

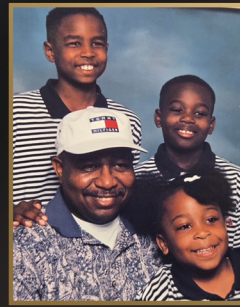
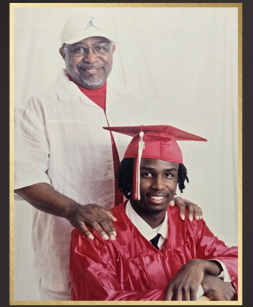
You are greatly missed.

And you will never, ever be forgotten.

Well done, my Big Brother.







HONORARY PALLBEARERS

Brothers of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.

ACTIVE PALLBEARERS

Thomas L. Hawthorne, Sr. | Kinji L. Hawthorne | Kelvin "Bre" Williams | Mayor Wayne M. Messam
Kani N. Laster | Reginal N. Laster, Jr. | Jaelyn Williams | David Jonas

ACTIVE FLORAL BEARERS

Family & Friends

REPAST

Immediately following the Celebration of Life, the Family invites you to join them for a Repast at
New Salem Baptist Church— 9925 Stage Coach Road, Baconton, GA 31716

EARTHLY BED OF SLUMBER

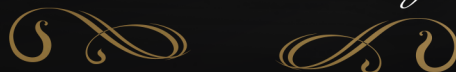
Friday, September 25, 2026 | 1000 Hours
Andersonville National Cemetery
496 Cemetery Road * Andersonville, Georgia 31711

THE FAMILY'S MESSAGE OF GRATITUDE

The family of **John David Hawthorne, Jr.** extends our heartfelt gratitude for every prayer, expression of love, and act of kindness shown during this time of bereavement. As we celebrate his remarkable life, we are comforted by knowing that his legacy of faith, family, service, and leadership lives on in the many lives he touched. Your presence and thoughtfulness have strengthened our hearts and reminded us that we do not walk this journey alone. May God richly bless each of you for helping us honor a life so purposefully lived.

With Love and Heartfelt Appreciation,

The Hawthorne Family



We would like to take this opportunity to express our gratitude for the trust you have placed upon us during the Homegoing Service of your loved one. Our fervent hope is that all measures of assistance rendered to your family have been completed in detail. For all your confidence placed in our staff and me, we will be forever grateful.

SERVICES ENTRUSTED TO



J.P. MOORE
MORTUARY & CREMATION SERVICES

Jamarien "JP" Moore, MBA, CFSP, CFSGM, CCO, CCA
President & Mortician

379 West Base Street 2555 North Monroe Street
Madison, FL 32340 Tallahassee, FL 32303
850-973-6677 850-669-6673

www.jpmooremortuary.com

"Spreading Sunshine at the Sunset of Life"