



## Samuel Lawrence Jr.

June 25, 1944 - February 13, 2025

Samuel Lawrence Jr., a devoted soldier, beloved husband, cherished father, and pillar of his community, entered eternal rest at his home in Columbia, SC. Thursday, February 13, at the age of 80.

Born on June 25, 1944, in Charleston, South Carolina, to the late Samuel Lawrence Sr. and Lillian Reid-Lawrence.

Samuel was a man of deep integrity, unwavering commitment, and boundless generosity. His

early years were shaped by a strong sense of duty and perseverance, values that carried him

through a life of remarkable achievement and service.

A proud graduate of the historic Burke High School, Samuel excelled both academically and

athletically as a member of the Burke Football team. He briefly attended Shaw College before

answering the call of his nation, enlisting in the U.S. Army in 1963. He would later graduate

with Bachelor's and Master's degree from Troy State University. Over the course of nearly

thirty years, he served with honor and distinction, rising to the esteemed rank of Command

Sergeant Major before his retirement in 1992 at Fort Benning, Georgia. He

served in numerous positions including as a US Advisor in several countries and ROTC instructor at Morgan State University. His service reflected not only his dedication to country but also a deep respect for the legacy of his ancestors who had served before him.

In 1973, Samuel found his lifelong partner in Margaret L. Barnes Suber, whom he married August 4, 1973 at Second Nazareth Baptist Church in Columbia. Their union spanned over fifty-one years, a testament to their enduring love and partnership.

Following his military career, Samuel embarked on a second act of service and leadership,

becoming a regional manager for R.L. Jordan Oil Company. Over two decades, he garnered numerous awards for excellence, particularly for his management of the Farrow Rd. Hot Spot location. His dedication to excellence was not confined to his career; it was evident in every aspect of his life.

A man of many passions, Samuel was a true modern Renaissance man. He found joy in reading, the nurturing of gardening, the thrill of hunting, and the creativity of pottery. His hands, which once held the weight of military command, also molded clay with precision and care—an expression of his multifaceted spirit.

Beyond his personal interests, Samuel dedicated himself to uplifting others. He was a lifelong member of Mother Emanuel AME Church in Charleston, actively involved in mentoring and youth development through organizations such as Big Brothers Big Sisters

and the Boys and  
Girls Club. A proud member of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., and an ardent  
supporter of South  
Carolina State University Boosters, he embodied the principles of leadership,  
service, and  
brotherhood.

Samuel's legacy lives on in those he leaves behind: his devoted wife,  
Margaret; his beloved son,  
Patwin Lawrence; his brother, Arthur Lawrence; his sister, Barbara Lawrence;  
Sister-in-law, Francis  
Allen; Brother-in-Law, Marvin Barnes; his cherished aunt, Verlene Meekins;  
his nephews Arthur  
and Pedro Jerome; his niece Lesley; and a multitude of grand-nephews,  
grand-nieces, cousins,  
relatives, and dear friends. He is reunited in eternity with his parents, Samuel  
and Lillian, and his  
sisters, Lorraine and Joyce Lawrence.

In lieu of flowers, the family kindly requests that memorial donations be made  
in Samuel's honor  
to Big Brothers Big Sisters or the Boys and Girls Club—organizations that  
reflect his lifelong  
commitment to mentorship and community enrichment.

Samuel Lawrence Jr. was a man who led with strength, lived with passion,  
and loved with an  
open heart. His memory will be carried forward by all who were fortunate  
enough to know him,  
and his legacy of service and kindness will endure for generations to come.  
Rest in power, Command Sergeant Major. Your watch is complete.

# Cemetery Details

## Fort Jackson National Cemetery

4170 Percival Road  
Columbia, SC 29223

# Previous Events

## Visitation

FEB 20. 1:00 PM - 5:00 PM (ET)

Palmer Memorial Chapel - Columbia  
1200 Fontaine Place  
Columbia, SC 29223  
(803) 786-6300  
palmermemorialchapel@gmail.com  
<https://www.palmermemorialchapel.com>

## Service

FEB 21. 11:00 AM (ET)

Palmer Memorial Chapel - Columbia  
1200 Fontaine Place  
Columbia, SC 29223  
(803) 786-6300  
palmermemorialchapel@gmail.com  
<https://www.palmermemorialchapel.com>

# Tribute Wall

FM

“ I learned belatedly of the passing of Mr. Lawrence and wish to convey my deepest condolences to the Lawrence family, especially Patwin, through whom I learned about the wonderful life and military career he had. Patwin is so much a reflection of his father's integrity, patriotism, devotion, sense of duty and determination, and that is no doubt Mr. Lawrence's greatest achievement and legacy. May your memory be a blessing.

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**Fo Niemi, Montreal** - January 10 at 07:10 PM

LL

“ Mr. Sam,

*I will truly miss seeing you at the Richland County Recreation Commission. I'll miss spotting your pick-up truck at the Adult Activity Center and making sure I caught you before you left. Thank you for your kindness, wisdom, and for always checking in to make sure I was okay.*

*To the family, I extend my sincerest condolences and prayers during this difficult time.*

*Job well done, Mr. Sam.*

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**Lisa Lewis** - February 20, 2025 at 06:30 PM

LR

“ *Lisa Lewis-Richland County Recreation purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Samuel Lawrence Jr..*



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**Lisa Lewis-Richland County Recreation** - February 20, 2025  
at 06:13 PM

FF

“ *Frank Loyd and Family purchased the Strength & Solace Spray for the family of Samuel Lawrence Jr..*



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**Frank Loyd and Family** - February 20, 2025 at 02:50 PM

FF

“ *Frank Loyd and Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Samuel Lawrence Jr..*

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**Frank Loyd and Family** - February 20, 2025 at 02:50 PM

WB

“ *To the family of Samuel Lawrence,  
Wayne and I wish to extend our condolences to you. Knowing him  
as a man of integrity and kindness, we will miss his smile and wit.  
May God continue to comfort you during this time. Wayne and Pam  
Braswell*

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**Wayne Braswell** - February 20, 2025 at 12:04 PM

RW

“ My Deepest Condolences To Mr. Sammy's Family and Friends. I am So Very Sad to hear of his passing. Mr. Sammy has such a kind heart and was so giving to us all at Wells Fargo. He will Truly Be Missed 😞 May God Bless, Heal and Comfort each one of You 💕💕

Roberta Watson - February 20, 2025 at 10:18 AM

SM

“ Sam.  
I just had to say something in behalf of my dear sweet cousin, even though we're in the time of sorrow we'll always have something to remember you by when we're smiling one day tomorrow. Your smile; your touch, meant so very much. And now that you're gone, somehow, we'll have to carry on remembering how you taught us to love, because we know you're happy now; You're with the One above.

Love your cousin

Shirley L.M.

Shirley Mconnell - February 20, 2025 at 06:57 AM

SW

We extend our deepest condolences to Sam's family. He visited us at Ft. Jackson main Px. He had a warm and giving spirit. He would bless us often with fresh fruits and vegetables from his farm. He would share words of wisdom and laughter. He was modest about his military and other achievements. He will certainly be missed. Shirley, Nikki, Kimberly, Priscilla, Kwon and others.

Shirley Washington - February 20, 2025 at 08:14 PM

DS

“ I am sorry sorry for your loss. He will truly be missed. I had the pleasure of meeting CSM Lawrence when he was stationed at Fort Benning, Georgia many many years ago. He also ways had words of encouragement. He told me "No matter how overwhelming the future may seem, all you have to do is get through today." Those words are embedded in my heart. I wish I could be there to celebrate his truly amazing life. He was a father figure to so many people. I am going to miss my friend.  
Sincerely, Darlene Long Sandlin



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**Darlene Sandlin** - February 19, 2025 at 03:56 PM

DS

“ Sam was one of the nicest, kindest people. He was what is needed in this lost world especially in these times.

*He was the best neighbor you could hope for. Sam shared whatever bounty God blessed him with. When he had, he gave to everyone.*

*He understood take care of your neighbor, take care of one another. His kindness will be missed. He left the blueprints to follow. May his gift of giving be passed on. A true blessings that touched so many lives.*

*Thank you Sam. Rest in Power...you leave a wonderful legacy.  
Smiley Family*



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**Delainia Smiley** - February 19, 2025 at 01:53 PM

EW

“ Mr. Lawrence was truly a supporter, one who constantly uplifted and was always putting a smile on your face. One who was a giver and a mentor. Will miss the laughs, the jokes, the stories you told. An historian and one who loved his family. Especially the nieces, nephews and godkids whom he spoke about. Will miss the fruits and vegetables you always shared. Especially during Thanksgiving and Christmas. The Benedict College group will truly miss you. We love you, and will always have a special place in our hearts.

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Erica Wade - February 18, 2025 at 09:45 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Samuel Lawrence Jr..



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February 18, 2025 at 06:57 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Samuel Lawrence Jr..

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February 18, 2025 at 06:57 PM

FA

“ Sending condolences to the family. He was my friend, my neighbor who gave nothing but love and advice daily. it was a pleasure to meet a wonderful soul. we had so many good laughs and good times. i still can see him now in the yard blowing leaves and giving a big smile every time i saw him. you will truly be missed my friend. your favorite neighbor Farrah. i love u Mr. Sam rest in piece. sending hugs to family and friends. love

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Farrah I askew - February 18, 2025 at 06:51 PM

EB

“ *Sending my sincerest condolences to you and your family. From Ethel Barr.*

**Ethel Barr** - February 18, 2025 at 03:44 PM

LH

“ *I am deeply saddened by the loss of a cherished family member. Your presence in our lives brought joy through engaging conversations on various topics, from politics to sports and beyond. You were not just a great uncle; you embodied love as a father, brother, and husband. The annual gift of pecans and your insistence on mastering the art of cooking cornbread from scratch will always be cherished memories. Your absence is deeply felt, and your love will forever remain in our hearts. As you journey into God's embrace, may He provide solace and fortitude to Margaret, Patwin, and the entire family during this challenging time. Your legacy of love and wisdom will continue to inspire us. With Love, Lesley Hart*



**Lesley Hart** - February 18, 2025 at 12:43 PM

BM

“ My condolences to the family during this sad time and in the days to come. Sam was a big brother to me and a mentor to my son. We met years ago at Ft Jackson when he departed the Army and I worked at ACAP assisting soldiers separating from the Army. He was and will always be an inspiration to me. We had many conversations about life, the world today and how to help others. He was a dedicated individual to his job the community and was always helping others. The Hot Spot was a place dear to his heart to help those in need. Sam was a dedicated SC State BULLDOGS even though I'm a diehard A&T Aggie. We had lots of laughs which will never be forgotten and neither will he. My heart goes out to the family and may God comfort us all during this time and in the days to come. He will truly be missed. My brother for life. Words cannot express the pain. Rest in peace Sam u will never be forgotten..

Beverly Malone - February 17, 2025 at 07:12 PM

MC

“ My Sincere Condolences to my dearest and special Cousin in whom I Love ❤️ Very Dearly And i will cherish our closeness that we shared throughout these many years.so from Henry Lawrence children that is Living Lula, Annie,Eddie,And Shirley your Cousin Bid you farewell,you have earned your wings And Aplaced in Gods kingdom, and one day when our life is completed here on Earth 🌍 we shall see you again somewhere Around the Throne of God and to be Absent from the body,is to be present with the Lord, so Sleep on Samuel Lawrence JR and take your Long deserved Rest We All Love ❤️ you but God Love ❤️ you The Best,your mother,Father,Sisters,Grandparents,uncles,Aunts,And the Family Members Are there to celebrate ☐ 🙏

Mrs Lula Lawrence Tillett Cousin - February 16, 2025 at 10:43 PM