



## Thomas Lavender, Sr.

November 2, 1927 - June 13, 2020

Thomas Lavender, Sr., age 92, of Milledgeville, passed away Saturday, June 13, 2020.

Funeral Services for Thomas Lavender, Sr. will be conducted Wednesday, June 17, 2020, recognizing Covid regulations and social distancing, at 2:00pm in the Chapel of Williams Funeral Home with Rev. Randall Thomas officiating. Interment will be privately held in the Georgia Veterans Memorial Cemetery.

Mr. Lavender was born in Toombsboro on November 2, 1927 to the late William Henry Lavender and the late Orion Walters Lavender. Along with his parents, he was also preceded in death by his wife, Freddie Ann Shiflet Lavender. Mr. Lavender lived in Milledgeville most of his adult life.

Mr. Lavender served in the U.S. Army Air Corps, where he was a corporal in Guam during WWII. He served as an MP following the war. Upon returning from service, Thomas went to work at the Milledgeville State Hospital as a medical attendant, later becoming an LPN. He also joined the National Guard, becoming a Master Sergeant and a Sharpshooter.

He left MSH to run the old Sinclair Auto Service Station on South Wayne Street, where he worked as a certified auto mechanic. After selling the station, he went to work for Orkin Pest Control in 1964. He moved with Orkin to Clairmore, Oklahoma, and later to Ozark, Alabama in 1965, where he bought

another auto service station. It was here that he bought a 1957 Chevrolet, and raced it on the local dirt track race courses. He later sold the service station in Ozark, and he, along with his family, moved with Orkin to Pine Bluff, Arkansas for 1 year before returning to Milledgeville. Upon his return, he went back to MSH, where he worked as an admissions officer.

Thomas later took a position at the Youth Development Center in Milledgeville as a Lieutenant, later becoming the Director of Security. He was instrumental in getting the lieutenants and director POST certified, as well as implementing uniforms for security staff, proper CB radios for the security cars, proper security cages in the cars, and the control fence around the campus. He also served as the YDC Fire Marshal. He retired from YDC and the State of Georgia in 1981, but remained a member of the Georgia Peace Officers Association for the rest of his life, and a Deputy Sheriff for several years into his retirement.

Mr. Lavender is survived by his son, Thomas Lavender, Jr. (& Janet) of Milledgeville ; his grandchild, Karla Lavender Milikin (& Monty) ; and his great grandchildren, Presley Windham Milikin and Avery Leigh Milikin.

Condolences may be expressed online at: [www.williamsfuneral.net](http://www.williamsfuneral.net)

In lieu of flowers, Memorial Contributions may be made to Hospice Care Options, 163 Roberson Mill Road, Milledgeville, GA 31061.

# Cemetery Details

## Georgia Veterans Memorial Cemetery

2617 Vinson Hwy.  
Milledgeville, GA 31061

# Previous Events

## Service

JUN 17. 2:00 PM (ET)

Williams Funeral Home & Crematory - Milledgeville  
1670 N. Jefferson St.  
Milledgeville, GA 31061  
(478) 452-2148  
[staff@williamsfuneralhome.net](mailto:staff@williamsfuneralhome.net)  
<https://www.williamsfuneralhome.net>

# Tribute Wall



“ Lamar & Floyetta Franks lit a candle in memory of Thomas Lavender Sr.



Lamar & Floyetta Franks - June 17, 2020 at 08:42 PM

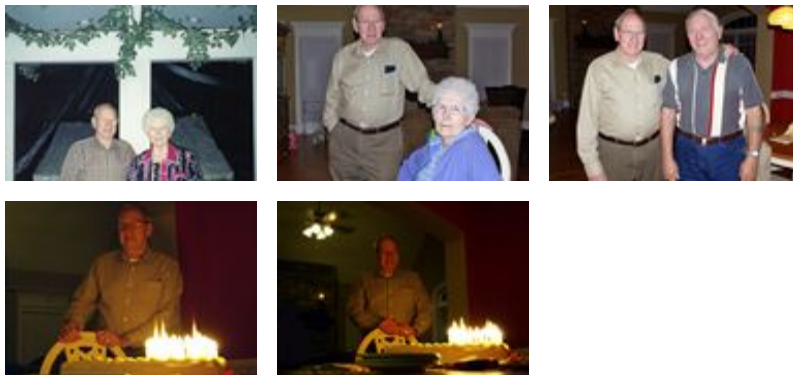


“ Thinking of you and praying for all your family

Mullis Faye - June 16, 2020 at 01:23 PM



“ 61 files added to the album Life Tributes



Williams Funeral Homes and Crematory - June 16, 2020 at 12:45 PM

GC

“ *Butch and Family,  
Our thought an prayers are with you during  
this difficult time.*



**Gary and Wanda Chambers** - June 16, 2020 at 07:54 AM

LM

“ *Our thoughts and prayers are with you.  
Friends at Johnnie McDade Grocery.*



**Luther Minor** - June 16, 2020 at 07:49 AM

KT

“ *I am disheartened to hear of Mr. Lavender’s passing. He was one of  
my favorite customers to wait on. We celebrated his last birthday at  
our restaurant with a cake another server had provided for him. He  
was pleasantly surprised And greatly appreciative. He always had a  
smile for everyone and had a great personality. My sincere  
sympathy to his family and other friends. He will be missed.....*

**KT** - June 15, 2020 at 09:54 PM

This service is temporarily unavailable  
We're fixing some issues. Please try again later.

“ *My heart is broken. I will miss him and his Wonderful stories. And  
his precious personality. His smile could change my bad day and  
make it better. Prayers for the family..*

**Dorothy Ryder** - June 15, 2020 at 09:31 PM

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“ *Dorothy Ryder lit a candle in memory of Thomas Lavender, Sr.* ”



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**Dorothy Ryder** - June 15, 2020 at 09:28 PM

EB

“ *Ed, Donna And Kayla Bloodworth lit a candle in memory of Thomas Lavender, Sr.* ”



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**Ed, Donna and Kayla Bloodworth** - June 15, 2020 at 07:52 PM