

## DEATH NOTICES



### Willie "Bill" Ferguson

HILTON HEAD ISLAND, SC—Willie "Bill" Ferguson 68, beloved husband of Linda Ann Hornbeak Ferguson, was born on Hilton Head Island, SC, a son of Daniel Ferguson, Jr. and the late Daisy Bell Ferguson.

His early childhood was spent in Savannah, GA, where he attended elementary school. When the family returned to Hilton Head Island, he attended Michael C. Riley Schools in Bluffton, SC, during the time when the schools were segregated. Following graduation, he was drafted into the military and served in

the United States Army (1967-1970) during which time, he served in the Republic of Viet Nam for more than two years. While in the Army, he received numerous awards, medals and commendations to include the National Defense Service Medal, the Viet Nam Campaign Medal, Viet Nam TET 69 Service Medal, Viet Nam Counteroffensive PH IV, V, VI and TET Counteroffensive Award as well as the Expert Rifle Award.

Willie moved to California in 1973. While in California, he worked in the food and beverage industry and attended San Jose City College and San Francisco State University. After returning to Hilton Head Island in 1984, in pursuit of his goals, he developed the Original Islander, Inc, established The Island Gardner landscaping company and later the Ferguson Community Development Corporation.

Willie was elected to represent Ward 1 on the Hilton Head Town Council in 1993 and served for 19 years until 2012. He was the longest serving member of Town Council. His

number one concern for the citizens of the Island was the lack of water and sewer services in Ward 1 and unpaved roads across the Island. Protecting and preserving Native Islander property was also of utmost importance to him. While on Town Council, he proposed and voted for changes in town zoning, land management laws and permitting processes that allowed property owners to develop their property.

Willie was an avid gardener who also enjoyed the game of golf and has played in local charitable tournaments. He was a loving and devoted husband, father and grandfather, a warrior and activist, with an endless untiring passion for the Island.

In addition to his mother, he was preceded in death by a sister.

His Legacy will forever be cherished by his beloved wife, Linda; his children, Roger (Karmen) Ferguson of Columbia, SC, Jamila S. Griffey and Willie "BJ" Ferguson of Hilton Head Island, SC and Kesi A. Ferguson of Columbia, SC. Eight

grandchildren: Cameron and Alexis Frazier, Ayanna and Zada Griffey, Anne and Jacob Ferguson and James and Lidia Frazier. His beloved father, Deacon Daniel Ferguson, Jr. of Hilton Head Island, SC; and five siblings.

Wake Services: 6 to 8 PM Thursday at Central Oak Grove Baptist Church, 161 Matthews Drive, Hilton Head.

The Body will lie in Repose on Friday, August 30, 2013 from 10:00 AM until the hour of services at First Presbyterian Church, 540 William Hilton Parkway. Services: 11:00 AM Friday at First Presbyterian Church. Burial will follow in Drayton Cemetery, Fish Haul Road, Hilton Head Island with military honors. There will be no viewing after the eulogy.

Contributions in his memory may be made to the Boys and Girls of Bluffton Club, Children's Golfing. 843-757-2845.

Marshels Wright-Donaldson Home For Funerals is in charge of the arrangements.

You may sign the guest book at [www.marshelswrightdonaldson.com](http://www.marshelswrightdonaldson.com)

ISLAND PACKET AUG 29, 2013