



## **Phillip Gray, Jr.,**

**(June 9, 1942 – March 2, 2023) Florence, SC**

**Phillip Gray, Jr. (Major, Retired, U.S. Army), passed away in peace at home on March 2, 2023 at the age of 80. He is survived by his sister Alberta (Susie) Osgood, former wife, Willia Frances Gray, their children, Dr. Camille Gray, Michael Gray, and Colonel (Retired, U.S. Army) Dolly Gray. He was preceded in death by his parents, Phillip and Mary (Bell) Gray, brothers Frank and William (Bo) Gray, sister Rosalee (Sam) Plair, and son, Matthew Gray (Command Sergeant Major, Retired, U.S. Army). Phillip was the proud grandfather of eight; Patrick Gray (Chief Master Sergeant, U.S. Air Force), Ariel Gray, Matthew Gray, Jr., Olivia Gray, Jackson Gray, Liam Livingston, Lily Livingston, and Lucy Livingston, and one great grandchild, Calliope Gray. He is also survived by his special and loving close friend Maggie Mack, many other friends, nieces, nephews, and cousins.**

**One of five children, Phillip grew up in Waynesboro, GA. He enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1961, completing basic training at Fort Jackson, SC and**

**Infantry Advanced Individual Training at Fort Benning, GA. After attaining the rank of Staff Sergeant, he commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in June, 1969. After commissioning, he earned two Military Occupational Specialties – Infantry Officer and Supply Management Officer. Phillip served in many places in the United States and abroad to include Fort Gordon, GA, Fort Knox, KY, Wildflecken Germany, Fort Riley, KS, 2nd Infantry Division, Camp Casey, Korea, Presidio Monterey, CA, and Vietnam. His military awards include the Bronze Star Medal, Vietnam Service Medal with 4 Bronze Service Stars, Vietnam Cross of Gallantry, Meritorious Service Medal, and the Expert Infantry Badge. In addition to his honorable service, he earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Criminal Justice Management from La Salle University in 1997.**

**After retiring, Phillip worked for the South Carolina Department of Corrections, where he rose to the position of Warden of the Palmer Pre-Release Center (Florence, SC) and Watkins Pre-Release Center (Columbia, SC). He also served four years as the President of the Usher Ministry for New Ebenezer Baptist Church and volunteered in the Florence District One School District helping special needs children. In his spare time, Phillip enjoyed fishing, watching University of South Carolina football, and reminiscing about his Army service.**

**A viewing will be held at the Dimery and Rogers Funeral Home, Florence, SC on March 9, 2023 from 5:00 -7:00 pm. A homegoing service will be held at New Ebenezer Baptist Church, Florence, SC on March 10, 2023 at 10:00 am. After the service, Phillip will be buried at Fort Jackson National Cemetery in Columbia, SC at 2:00 pm. In lieu of flowers, the family asks that donations be made to the Fisher House Foundation.**