



## Lester Eugene Norton Jr.

August 10, 1947 - June 20, 2015

Lester Eugene Norton, Jr., age 67 of Chickamauga, went home to be with his Lord on Saturday, June 20, 2015. He was a lifelong resident of North Georgia and a member of Ringgold Church of God, serving as a Sunday School Teacher for many years. Lester served his country in The U.S.M.C. during the Vietnam War, where he received a purple heart. Lester was a member of the American Legion Post 95 for 20 yrs, serving as the past post commander, past honor guard commander, vice commander, and 3rd district commander. He was also the past master of the Tompkins Lodge #466, Ft. Oglethorpe, past chairman of the Chattanooga Area Veterans Council, received the Veteran of the Year award from the council and volunteered at Chattanooga Hospice for the Vet for Vet Program.

Lester was preceded in death by his parents, Lester Eugene and Margaret Bates Norton and brother, John Emory "Jay Bird" Norton.

He is survived by his loving wife, of 31yrs., Mary Lee Norton; children, Lester E. (Cherron) Norton, III, of Ft. Oglethorpe, Susan (Stacey) Powell of East Ridge and James Robert (Emilee) Norton of Chickamauga; brothers, Bill Norton and Jerry Wayne Norton both of Ringgold; grandchildren, Courtney, Reece, Jady "Jay Bird", Isaac, Seanna, Hailie, Christina and Sophie; 5 loving canine companions; and several nieces and nephews.

The funeral service will be held at 11:00 am on Tuesday, June 23, 2015 in the funeral home chapel, with Pastor Carroll Allen officiating. Interment will follow in the Chattanooga National Cemetery with full military honors. The family will receive friends from 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm on Monday and prior to the service on Tuesday. Arrangements by W. L. Wilson & Sons Funeral Home-Ft. Oglethorpe.

# Cemetery Details

## Chattanooga National Cemetery

Holtzclaw Ave.  
Chattanooga, TN

# Previous Events

## Visitation

**JUN 22.** 6:00 PM - 9:00 PM (ET)

W. L. Wilson & Sons Funeral Home-Ft. Oglethorpe Chapel  
555 West Cloud Springs Road  
Ft. Oglethorpe, GA 30742  
(706) 866-5555  
info@wilsonfuneralhome.com  
<https://www.wilsonfuneralhome.com/>

## Funeral Service

**JUN 23.** 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

W. L. Wilson & Sons Funeral Home-Ft. Oglethorpe Chapel  
555 West Cloud Springs Road  
Ft. Oglethorpe, GA 30742  
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info@wilsonfuneralhome.com  
<https://www.wilsonfuneralhome.com/>

## Interment with Military Honors

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JUN **23**. 12:30 PM - 1:00 PM (ET)

Chattanooga National Cemetery  
Holtzclaw Ave.  
Chattanooga, TN

# Tribute Wall

DA

“ Lester was around me several years visiting YDC. One day, we hurriedly entered the facility and realized he had locked his keys in the truck. Mary got my husband the key, and he came to Dalton to allow us to get home.

Lester shared salvation's plan with young people in the youth class and in Royal Rangers. If the teen didn't chose Christ, it wasn't because Lester didn't share the way.

Lester would sing, "Wilt Thou Be Made Whole?". and the choir would back him up on the chorus. Lester officiated the Pastor Appreciation Service. It was videoed 2015.

Lester prayed for the disadvantaged, and wanted aged acquaintances to choose Christ. Lester rejoiced when JR's son, Isaac was healed in his esophagus. Lester shared his experiences in Vietnam in Dade County and Catoosa County where I was teaching. He said, "I prayed for those who said bad comments about me serving in Vietnam. It wasn't until recently that we were appreciated." --Donna R. Allen, Ringgold Church of God.

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**Donna R. Allen** - June 26, 2015 at 04:04 PM

LI

“ Loomis IT purchased the America the Beautiful for the family of Lester Eugene Norton Jr..



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**Loomis IT** - June 24, 2015 at 05:01 PM

PM

“ *Worked with Lester at the Post Office for many years. Lester always had a smile on his face and a good attitude. I enjoyed knowing him and I will always remember him fondly. As a fellow Viet Nam vet we shared memories. As a Christian I know where Lester is. My heart goes out to his family. God bless.*

*Paul Matthews  
Cleveland, TN*

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**Paul Matthews** - June 23, 2015 at 11:18 AM

MH

“ *Our thoughts and prayers go out to the Norton family at the loss of one so dear. Lester will indeed be missed by all.*

*Melinda Hackney,  
Secretary/Treasurer  
American Legion Auxiliary  
Department of Tennessee*

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**Melinda Hackney** - June 23, 2015 at 10:25 AM

JW

“ Although I couldn't attend the funeral for Lester, my condolences go to the Norton Family and the American Legion Post 95 Family.....Lester was a wonderful man....when my husband passed away four years ago, Lester was a big help to me...Bob had told me that if anything happened to him, he wanted Lester to preach his funeral and that he did!! Post 95 of East Ridge were so supportive and the Honor Guard, lead by Lester were wonderful! There is not enough adjectives to describe Lester Norton! His death broke my heart as I'm sure it did to so many! To the Family of Lester, when God calls one of our loved ones Home, He leaves an abundance of memories to be shared, hold ALL of those precious memories of Lester close to your hearts and let them sustain you all during this sad time and may God give you all the peace and strength needed in the coming days.



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**Judy Weir** - June 23, 2015 at 08:56 AM

CB

“ Carlotta m B. purchased the America the Beautiful for the family of Lester Eugene Norton Jr..



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**Carlotta m B.** - June 22, 2015 at 10:02 PM

RB

“ Lester was a fine christian man, He did a lot to help his fellow man, and all Veterans!!  
He love to talk, laugh, and lift people up in prayer. He was always kind, and gave out information when he visted Post 148 in St. Elmo , Chattanooga. Our Prayers are with his family..--Ronnie Born  
Commander Post 148

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**Ronald Born** - June 22, 2015 at 07:52 PM

CM

“ commander Len Gray and Post 107 members purchased the Sweet Liberty for the family of Lester Eugene Norton Jr..



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**commander Len Gray and Post 107 members** - June 22, 2015 at 05:05 PM

MH

“ Lester was a true and caring gentleman, as well as an outstanding husband and family member and leader of The American Legion. His love of “Family, God and Country” is a superb standard for others to emulate. I deeply appreciate his service to his country and all fellow veterans. While serving as The American Legion Department Commander and earlier as the Department Adjutant, Lester made my job easier and I will never forget. His “can do attitude” made achieving goals easier and always placed a smile on the faces of those in need. Lester set an example that few can achieve. I will miss him dearly! As a fellow marine, I salute you “Lester” and look forward to serving with you again. May God bless your soul and give peace to your family.

*Mike Hammer*

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**Mike Hammer** - June 22, 2015 at 04:06 PM

DC

“ *Darlene C. purchased the Country Basket Blooms for the family of Lester Eugene Norton Jr..*



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**Darlene C.** - June 22, 2015 at 02:20 PM

SM

“ *Words may not ease your pain or even comfort you at this time however, please know you and yours are in my prayers and thoughts. This is not just for today or tomorrow but for a long time because Lester was a kind man and people like that are remembered. I started to work for the Department of the American Legion 2 years ago and from the beginning he was helpful, made me laugh and always spoke to me at events. He helped veterans not because he needed to or to impress anyone but because he cared and wanted to make a difference. I know you and your family are very proud of him.*

*Sherri Mayberry, Department Staff*

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**SHerri Mayberry** - June 22, 2015 at 12:31 PM

AT

“ *American Legion Post 96, Copper Hill, TN. purchased the Sacred Duty Spray for the family of Lester Eugene Norton Jr..*



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**American Legion Post 96, Copper Hill, TN.** - June 22, 2015 at 11:18 AM



“ *Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Lester Eugene Norton Jr..*



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June 22, 2015 at 10:05 AM



“ *Lester was a great friend, he was there when ever we needed help with questions about the Legion. Last year and this year Lester installed the officers of Jim King Post 107for us. We just had him to our Post last Tuesday and really enjoyed having him there. Lester will be greatly missed. My husband and I send our thoughts and prayers to Lester's family. Also to Bill and Jerry and their family's. He along with others always enjoyed picking on me because of my shortness,. I will miss our friendly (I guess it's called banter) back and forth When he would say men at a meeting I would remind him that there are women veterans too and we would all get a laugh.*

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**gloria and len gray Post 107** - June 22, 2015 at 09:49 AM



“ *Sorry for your loss Lester was a outstanding legionaire and vetran.He will surley be missed by Dept. of Tenn. American Legion.*

*Bronce Cleveland*

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**Bronce Cleveland** - June 22, 2015 at 08:55 AM

BJ

“ *mary and children what a wonderful angel heaven now has, I have know lester several years and he has uplifted my spirits many times. OLD SOUTH RESTRUANT will truly miss his smiling face and his kind words and always a good sense of humer. may GOD bless and comfort you at this time and all the days ahead. what a wonderful day when you will see him again. if there is anything I can do or you just want to talk , im here for you. GOD bless always. Barbara Jones*

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**barbara jones** - June 22, 2015 at 08:19 AM

JP

“ *Mary I am so sorry for your loss. I have known Lester for many years. He will be missed in his work for the veterans. I was looking forward to working with him in the next year. Jerry and Bill you have lost a wonderful brother and my love goes out to you. His work and his memory will be with me in the next year.*

*James Patterson*

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**James Patterson** - June 22, 2015 at 06:06 AM

SW

“ *My husband and I have worked with Lester the last 10 years performing military funeral honors. We are deeply saddened to hear the news of Lester passing. Sending prayers for his family during this time of grief.*

*Fly high Lester, fly high.*

*Respectfully,*

*SFC Danny & SSG Missy Woods*

*Tennessee Army National Guard*

*Military Funeral Honors Program*

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**SSG Missy Woods** - June 21, 2015 at 03:37 PM

BB

“ I will miss Lester very much. He was always a big cut up at church and always going on at me and I was always going on at him. He was a lucky man to have the love of an amazing lady Ms Mary. Lester has touched so many lives and it saddens me to hear of his passing. Lester was like family to all those he knew. You will be truly missed by all that knew you especially your wife Mary. I love you Lester but I know right now that you are present with the Lord which is where we all would like to be. I love you and miss you my precious friend.

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**barbara bean** - June 21, 2015 at 03:04 PM

RW

I have known Brother Lester for at least 18 years. have preached with him sang with him ,had visitation with him, Prayed with him. Lester really was a great help to me as a young Christian years ago. I know he loved our Lord with all his heart. love sister Mary, and his whole family. He is with our Lord Jesus Christ, and he will be missed greatly, enjoy Heaven my brother Lester!!!!

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**Rev. John Watson** - June 21, 2015 at 05:09 PM

LG

Did not know Lester well only through the American Legion. He will be very much missed for his leadership and his work with and for the veterans in his district. Rest in Peace, your work on earth is done my good and faithful servant saith the Lord.  
Leonard Gant  
Commander, 7th District

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**LEONARD GANT** - June 21, 2015 at 08:16 PM

JP

Im going to Miss Lester is was alway good friend. Once I came to cburch all upset cause Id left My Bible on top of car and it fell off somewhere. He has just bought a new Thompson Chain Ref Bible and He being the man he was gave it to me. Im still using it today. We love you Lester and Mary.

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**johnny plemons** - June 21, 2015 at 08:23 PM