

# SFC (Ret) Lloyd Earl Crathers

September 17, 1939 - March 23, 2005



Funeral for Sgt. 1st Class Lloyd Earl Crathers, 65, Lawton, will be at 11 a.m. Wednesday, March 30th at Church of the Living God, P.G.T., 1529 SW N.H. Jones Drive, with Bishop Collis Allen, pastor, officiating. Sgt. Crathers died Wednesday, March 23, 2005, of a heart attack, at the VA Hospital in Oklahoma City. Burial with military honors will be at Fort Sill National Cemetery, Elgin, under direction of Howard-Harris Funeral Services, Lawton.

He was born September 17, 1939, in Bartlett, Texas, to Lola Mae and Soloman P. Crathers. He graduated as the salutatorian from Booker T. Washington High School, where he had also played football. He attended Cameron University, where he majored in physical education and learned to teach sign language. He joined the Army and served in Vietnam from 1967-68. He retired April 30, 1979, at Fort Sill. His awards include the Good Conduct Medal (5th award), Bronze Star, Army Commendation Medal (with Oak Leaf Cluster and 'V' device), Vietnam Campaign Medal, National Defense Service Medal, the Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross Unit Citation with palm, the Expert Rifle Badge and the Expert Hand Grenade Badge. He married Sharon K. Stevenson on May 22, 1970. He was a member of Church of the Living God, P.G.T., where he served as head deacon for 27 years, treasurer and Sunday school superintendent and teacher. He was employed as a supervisor at ITT Services and Northrop, was head custodian at Geronimo Road School, and taught upholstery at Goodwill Industries. He was a member of Vietnam Veterans of America Lawton Chapter 751.

Survivors include his mother; his wife, of the home; eight children: Marilyn Mack, Killeen, Texas; CaSundra Pinkney, Lawton; Deanna Blackstock, Clarksville, Tenn.; Lloyd E. Crathers Jr., Lawton; Aaron L. Crathers, Vinita; Tenesha Johnson, Lawton; Lachanda Lovell, Oklahoma City; and Latasha McNeil, Lawton; five sons-in-law; 19 grandchildren; four sisters: Alice Jean Smith and Louise Williams, both of Bartlett; Ethyl Barrs, Austin; and Ruthie Scott, Bartlett; two brothers: Frankie Crathers, Temple, Texas; and James Crathers, Bartlett; and other relatives and friends. He was preceded in death by his father; a brother, Solomon P. Crathers Jr.; a grandfather and grandparents: Francis and Eugene Crathers.