



## SFC James Larry Tilby, Jr. U.S. Army

February 26, 1967 - May 3, 2011

SFC James Larry Tilby, Jr.

Hampton, GA—Graveside Services for SFC James Larry Tilby, Jr., U.S. Army, 44, who entered into rest May 3, 2011, will be conducted Saturday morning at 11 o'clock in the Sunset Memory Gardens with Full Military Honors. Pastor James K. Glander officiating.

SFC Tilby was a native of Aiken County, having made Hampton, GA his home for the past 4 years. He was currently serving in the U.S. Army with the Army Ground Forces Band, Ft. McPherson, GA, with 22 years of service. SFC Tilby was an accomplished musician who had performed with Army Bands in 34 countries. He was a loving husband and father who enjoyed cooking and planned to become a chef upon retirement from the Army. SFC Tilby was of the Lutheran Faith and was a member of the Henry A. Green Lodge #250 F&AM, Lakewood, WA.

Survivors include his wife of nine years, Rose G. Tilby; four sons, James A. Tilby, Edisto Beach, SC, Christian E. Tilby, Florence, SC, Kharl D. Tilby, and, James L. "Trey" Tilby, III, both of Hampton, GA; a daughter, Aria K. Tilby, Hampton, GA; his parents, Larry and Linda Tilby, Sr., Edisto Beach, SC; a brother and sister-in-law, Jeff and Victoria Tilby, North Augusta.

Honorary Pallbearers will be members of the Army Ground Forces Band, Ft. McPherson, GA.

The family will receive friends at the funeral home this Friday evening from 6 until 8.

Memorials may be made to Army Emergency Relief, Attn: Donations, 200 Stovall Street, Room 5-N-13, Alexandria, VA 22332-0600 or to Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, 1002 Carolina Ave, North Augusta, SC 29841.

Posey Funeral Directors of North Augusta in charge of arrangements (803-278-1181). Visit the registry online at [www.poseyfuneraldirectors.com](http://www.poseyfuneraldirectors.com)

# Cemetery Details

## Sunset Memorial Gardens

2648 Jefferson Davis Highway  
Graniteville, SC

# Previous Events

## Visitation

MAY 6. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Posey Funeral Directors  
1307 Georgia Avenue  
North Augusta, SC

## Service

MAY 7. 11:00 AM.

Graveside

# Tribute Wall



“ Posey Funeral Directors created a Tribute Video in memory of SFC James Larry Tilby, Jr. U.S. Army



---

**Posey Funeral Directors** - May 03, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ SFC James Larry Tilby, Jr. U.S. Army

---

October 06, 2023 at 06:29 AM



“ SFC James Larry Tilby, Jr. U.S. Army

---

September 24, 2022 at 12:12 PM



“ Prayers to the Tilby family. God's peace be with you all. Larry and I played music together in the band "Double Take" and for that I am so blessed! I will miss ya bro! I will hold fast to the wonderful times, your bright smile, and so many fun memories.

*Ronald Creech  
San Antonio, Texas*

---

**Ronald Creech** - May 12, 2011 at 12:00 PM

KW

“ 2 files added to the album *Tilby's extended family and memories*



---

**Kelly Hardee Wheeler** - May 11, 2011 at 08:44 PM

DW

“ *Larry Tilby was a wonderful musician and a wonderful person! I remember how he made a lot of us laugh, when we really needed it! He was taken way too soon. Our thoughts and prayers will be with his family! Larry, you are greatly missed!*



*Don and Darla*

---

**Darla Hathcock Wilmot** - May 08, 2011 at 09:13 PM

VM

“ *God Bless you Larry, and your wonderful family. I havent seen you in many years, but was looking forward to catching up with you on facebook. My deepest sympathies to your family. Larry was a kind man and I enjoyed serving with him at Ft. Jackson.*

---

**Vic Merrill** - May 08, 2011 at 08:20 PM

PP

“ I first met Larry in high school. We recently reconnected through Facebook where we chatted about work, mutual friends, life and more importantly, family. He was exceptionally proud of his family and their accomplishments and was excited to see what the future had in store. My thoughts have been full of our time together since hearing of his untimely passing. The many band practices, performances and bus trips. A few months after we graduated high school, Larry and I spent an amazing Saturday with our equally amazing friend Troy, just catching up with each other. I cherish those memories. Larry was a 'forever' friend to me as well as countless others. To his wife, parents, children, extended family and friends, thank you for sharing the light that was Larry. He touched and inspired many. My thoughts and prayers are with you all during this time.

*Penney Anderson Powell*

---

**Penney Anderson Powell** - May 07, 2011 at 12:55 PM

SH

“ Larry, you will always be in my heart and mind a person who had the best intentions and good heart towards everyone. Rose, you will always be in my prayers. I want to cry tonight and every time I think of you losing your love. He adored you, talked about you in every complimentary way. He loved you so much, as he always will. Larry, we'll see you soon. God bless your soul and your beautiful family. Sorry I couldn't be there to say goodbye. You know I am with you in spirit.

*Sarah*

---

**Sarah Hebert** - May 06, 2011 at 11:00 PM

SB

“ I met and served with Larry "Bubba" in Germany. He was a great friend, musician, and example of how to live life! Pretty much everytime he spoke he made me laugh. His southern accent and great pride in being a true "redneck" were always a source of fun and many, many jokes. Larry wasn't only a source of laughter for me, but was a great leader who genuinely cared for everyone. I will never forget a lunch we shared at the little german restaurant on post. He encouraged me to never give up on my dreams, keep working hard, and believe in myself. Larry was a great man, who will be deeply missed by all who knew him. Thanks, Bubba for being such a positive influence in my life! Rest in Peace...

---

**Sarah Botez** - May 06, 2011 at 08:02 PM

WP

“ There are far too many memories for just one page. Many of them wouldn't be appropriate anyway! What can you say about 26 years of friendship?! After college, there were often years we didn't see each other. That didn't matter. We'd take one look at each other, he'd have that goofy grin on his face...and we'd give each other the...ahem..."secret greeting" that had long since become our custom. The last time I saw him we stayed up half the night talking about the usual...music, politics, music, religion, music, family....you get the picture! Larry had a visceral passion for music and his instrument. When his band played for my church in Sumter, he was the one player the people remembered afterward! He was an unforgettable person and a true friend in the purest sense. To say I will miss him just falls too short of the mark. His friendship enriched my life in ways that words simply can't describe. He was my friend, my brother, my "partner in crime" in many exploits. I'm proud to have been a part of his life and he mine. I loved him...simple as that...and I always will. Rest in Peace Larry...it was an honor knowing you!

---

**Wes Poole** - May 06, 2011 at 03:39 PM

TL

“ Tony Licata lit a candle in memory of SFC James Larry Tilby, Jr. U.S. Army



---

**Tony Licata** - May 06, 2011 at 12:38 PM

MH

“ Mark Hays lit a candle in memory of SFC James Larry Tilby, Jr. U.S. Army



---

**Mark Hays** - May 06, 2011 at 11:07 AM

WJ

“ Walter Johnston lit a candle in memory of SFC James Larry Tilby, Jr. U.S. Army



---

**Walter Johnston** - May 06, 2011 at 09:38 AM

CC

“ I only remember that 10 year old boy across the street that wanted to play guitar so badly. I wish I had kept up. He was certainly a man to be proud of. My heart goes out to my friends Larry Sr and Linda. May God give you strength. C. Wayne Cooper

---

**C. Wayne Cooper** - May 06, 2011 at 09:18 AM

DB

“ *Dave And Denise- Edisto Beach lit a candle in memory of SFC James Larry Tilby, Jr. U.S. Army*



---

**Dave and Denise- Edisto Beach** - May 06, 2011 at 08:51 AM

BS

“ *I met Larry in high school through our good friend Troy. What I remember most about Larry was his love of music and his ability to find humor in almost every situation. He could always make me laugh even if I was having a bad day. We lost touch over the years and only recently reconnected through facebook. We were able to chat a few times and I'm grateful for that. Larry was a loyal friend, a loving husband, a proud father and an all-around great guy that I feel privileged to have known.*

*I pray that his family and friends will feel comfort and strength in the days to come.*

---

**Beth Salters** - May 06, 2011 at 07:16 AM

ZC

“ *I remember being stationed with Tilby and one of his favorite sayings was, "Bubba!" Every now and then I'm using this word in a lot of my writings and everytime I do, I think about my friend Tilby! May you rest in peace.*

*Chico*

---

**Zachary Collier** - May 06, 2011 at 06:18 AM

SK

“ I served at Ft Monroe and in Korea with Larry and sang in both rock and country bands with him on bass. I have to say that he is the only bass player I know that could play so well yet move completely out of sync with what he was playing. I never knew how he could do that. I will always remember his goofy laugh, his bobbing head, and that ever-present bucket of coffee. He was a real, live redneck from the word go, and proud of it. Larry, this is tragic, and you are sorely missed. You have no idea how many people you have touched and connected in your loss. Rest in peace, my friend.

---

**SFC (ret) Deby Kidney** - May 05, 2011 at 11:22 PM

SN

“ SSG Laura Neal lit a candle in memory of SFC James Larry Tilby, Jr. U.S. Army



---

**SSG Laura Neal** - May 05, 2011 at 10:43 PM

HL

“ I met Larry at Ft Jackson, after a brief conversation we discovered we were both members of the same music Fraternity, though having attendant different colleges, we were in different chapters. I enjoyed the time we served together, he always had a good outlook on life. I was a novice self-taught bass player, Larry was always willing to show me a trick or two to help me get through a tough passage. It feels like the world is a little colder place now. Rose though we have never met, I will keep you and your family in my prayers.

Tracy Lewis

---

**Harold W Lewis** - May 05, 2011 at 09:13 PM

RF

“ Robin Felkner lit a candle in memory of SFC James Larry Tilby, Jr. U.S. Army



---

**Robin Felkner** - May 05, 2011 at 08:46 PM

MG

“ MSG Santos Godineaux lit a candle in memory of SFC James Larry Tilby, Jr. U.S. Army



---

**MSG Santos Godineaux** - May 05, 2011 at 08:26 PM

JM

“ 1 file added to the album New Album Name



---

**Jason McElveen** - May 05, 2011 at 08:22 PM

JV

“ It's hard to know what to say except that we're deeply saddened. Our hearts and prayers go out to all of you: Rose, the children, Larry's parents and other family members.... May God be with you all at this difficult time. Love, Jeanie Verner

---

**Jeanie Verner** - May 05, 2011 at 07:57 PM

JV

“ Rose,

*I'm sitting here thinking of the right words to write, nothing. Trying to remember the funniest memory I have of Larry, too many to mention. The only thing that stands out is the night Karl peed all over my couch, in Germany. Remember that? Larry laughed and as "Bubba" would say, "That's my boy". Those were fun times, we're going to miss him.*

*I want you to hold on to this scripture, Ephesians 6:10..... Rose, be strong in the Lord and in the power of his might. Put on the whole armor of the Lord, so you will be able to withstand all the devils wickedness. Keep reading and read it everyday.*

*Be strong Rose!*

*We love you,  
Jeff and Joanne.*

---

**Joanne Vasquez-Wieck** - May 05, 2011 at 05:58 PM

SS

“ To the family,

*Larry just contacted me not too long ago and I was thrilled to hear from him. I wanted to hear him play and even jam with him because he was one of the best. Now, I am in shock and saddened because he was an outstanding soldier to serve with and a great musician to play with. I will always treasure the time that we served together and the world will be a lesser place without him. My prayers are with the family and Larry will always be remembered.*

*Stan Skinner, Retired Army Musician*

---

**Stan Skinner** - May 05, 2011 at 05:56 PM

JM

“ You should me so much love my dear Brother, no matter anyones color, race, or creed you always treated folks great. Germany was such a blast with you, and even after years apart you thought enough of me and my musical talents to invite me to Miami with your band, wow we had a blast, and you opened your home to me and treated me like royalty. You Butt Dialed me just a week or so ago, and we laughed for a brief moment, If had only knew that was to be the last time I'd ever talk to you, My heart is heavy dear friend, rest easy, and let God know he has a killer Bass player for the Angelic Rock Band. Love you TillBilly!!! Rest In Peace Bubba!!!



---

**Jason R McElveen** - May 05, 2011 at 05:20 PM

AG

“ Alison Gilmore lit a candle in memory of SFC James Larry Tilby, Jr. U.S. Army



---

**Alison Gilmore** - May 05, 2011 at 03:37 PM

AG

*Our prayers and thoughts are with you.  
Love, The Gilmore Family*

---

**Alison Gilmore** - May 05, 2011 at 03:37 PM

SB

“ I will never forget when we picked you up at the airport in Seoul Korea, that was the first day of the infamous name "TillBilly" That name and all the fun we had in Korea will never be forgotten. You are in a great place now and my family and I have prayed since receiving the news of your far too early departure Home. God Bless you and you are already being sorely missed by many!!

Sergeant First Class Thomas Babbit - May 05, 2011 at 03:04 PM

LH

“ Larry, Linda, and Family,  
This is so sad.....there just aren't words. Please know that our thoughts and prayers are with you.  
Blessings,  
Louisa  
THS Class of '60

Louisa Hickman - May 05, 2011 at 03:04 PM

SB

“ Sergeant First Class Thomas Babbit lit a candle in memory of SFC James Larry Tilby, Jr. U.S. Army



Sergeant First Class Thomas Babbit - May 05, 2011 at 03:00 PM

BJ

“ Bevin & Estera John lit a candle in memory of SFC James Larry Tilby, Jr. U.S. Army



Bevin & Estera John - May 05, 2011 at 02:51 PM

BJ

*Our thoughts and prayers are with you Rose and the kids...*

**Bevin & Estera John** - May 05, 2011 at 02:52 PM

CD

“ *To Rose and family~You are in our prayers.*



**Candice and Chad Doswell** - May 05, 2011 at 01:46 PM

T6

“ *The Watson Family, BSA Pack 60 lit a candle in memory of SFC James Larry Tilby, Jr. U.S. Army*



**The Watson Family, BSA Pack 60** - May 05, 2011 at 11:57 AM

T6

*Our thoughts and prayers are with Rose and kids. We loved chatting with Larry during cub scout meetings. Charlie, Kendra, Hunter and Walker Watson*

**The Watson Family, BSA Pack 60** - May 05, 2011 at 11:58 AM

BD

“ *Bill And Dominic lit a candle in memory of SFC James Larry Tilby, Jr. U.S. Army*



**Bill and Dominic** - May 05, 2011 at 11:47 AM

BD

*Rose, I cried yesterday and again today. God bless you and your family. You are in my prayers. I am so so sorry.*

---

**Bill and Dominic** - May 05, 2011 at 11:49 AM

MD

“ *Matthew And Tonia Day lit a candle in memory of SFC James Larry Tilby, Jr. U.S. Army*



---

**Matthew and Tonia Day** - May 05, 2011 at 11:32 AM

SB

“ *Sarah Botez lit a candle in memory of SFC James Larry Tilby, Jr. U.S. Army*



---

**Sarah Botez** - May 05, 2011 at 11:23 AM

DC

“ I remember Larry looking at me like I was from Mars when we first met 30 years ago. He had a jean jacket with a "Def Leppard" pin, and I asked who they were. We spent the rest of that afternoon listening to the "On Through The Night" album, and were fast friends after that. We lost touch after high school, as people often do, but managed to reconnect through Facebook. He grew up to be a great guy, beloved by SO many people, and had a family that gave him an immense amount of pride and joy. He was creative, passionate, and super funny. I think back to those early days back in Clearwater - riding bikes with our little group of friends, trying to figure out who we were, what life meant, and how to fit in somehow.

*His passing is far, far too soon. Today is a very sad day. Rest in Peace, Larry.*

---

**David Caddell** - May 05, 2011 at 10:46 AM

CC

“ Rose, our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family.



---

**Charles, Wendy and William Carpenter** - May 05, 2011 at 10:28 AM

WC

*Rose I just wanted to let you know that Charles and I are thinking about you and your family.*

---

**Wendy Carpenter** - May 05, 2011 at 01:46 PM

MP

“ Michelle Opalewski Pardue lit a candle in memory of SFC James Larry Tilby, Jr. U.S. Army



Michelle Opalewski Pardue - May 05, 2011 at 09:56 AM

KE

“ With a heavy heart I say goodybye old friend. I'll never forget that wild curly hair sticking out from under your band hat! You were one of a kind....

Kim Couch Estep - May 05, 2011 at 08:51 AM

RJ

“ I am so deeply shocked and saddened to have learned of this. Larry, you were one of the best bass players I served with. I'm sorry we didn't get together while you and the family were in Hampton. Rest in peace and may God watch over you, my prayers go out to your family.

RAMON YEPEZ, JR. - May 05, 2011 at 08:12 AM

KG

“ Kara Godineaux lit a candle in memory of SFC James Larry Tilby, Jr. U.S. Army



Kara Godineaux - May 05, 2011 at 05:29 AM

KG

*Larry you will be truly missed. It was a privilege to have been stationed with you and Rose in Heidelberg. Rose, I am so sorry for your loss....you and your family are in our thoughts and prayers.*

Kara Godineaux - May 05, 2011 at 05:30 AM

EW

*“ I remember so many hours of guard duty with SFC Larry Tilby in Germany. He and I walked and walked and talked! I learned then what a great man and NCO he was and developed a deep respect for him. We have truly lost an honest and "good people" man. Larry, you will be missed by all. Rose, I am thinking of you and praying for you and Larry's whole family.*



Elizabeth Woolfolk - May 05, 2011 at 04:55 AM

AR

*“ SFC Larry Tilby was one of the people that made my job that much more enjoyable. He was always saying something to make you laugh his care for his Soldiers was something all NCOs should strive to emulate. He will be sorely missed by his Army family and my thoughts and prayers go out to Rose and the family. Miss you Bubba!!!*

Aaron Richardson - May 05, 2011 at 04:47 AM

JS

*“ SFC Tilby was the very first and one of the best bass players that I have ever had the pleasure to work with in the band field. From day one he encouraged me as an OJT to work hard to achieve my goals as a musician. He was always full of energy (on and off stage) and taught me what entertaining a crowd was all about. My thoughts are with his family.*

jeff sheldon - May 05, 2011 at 04:40 AM

SS

“ *Simone Simpson lit a candle in memory of SFC James Larry Tilby, Jr. U.S. Army*



---

**Simone Simpson** - May 05, 2011 at 02:34 AM

SS

*My thoughts and prayers are with you Rose and the rest of the Tilby Family*

*Simone and Hailey*

---

**Simone Simpson** - May 05, 2011 at 02:35 AM

MS

“ *In honor of a great musician, Soldier and father. James, you will be deeply missed by so many whose lives you had touched. Our prayers are with the entire Tilby family through this time of loss and sadness. God bless you all.*



*With respect and love,*

*Gary, Michele, Kurt, Dylan and Garret Smith*

---

**MSG Gary F. Smith** - May 05, 2011 at 12:12 AM

DH

“ *Sergeant Tilby! "Tilbilly". You were an awesome NCO and friend. I enjoyed our missions together, especially to forward areas like Kosovo, and our shows in Germany. It was great to work with you. You were always no non-sense, but fun at the same time. You will be greatly missed! The Lord bless and keep you and yours.*

*Haake*

---

**David O. Haake** - May 05, 2011 at 12:09 AM

TC

“ *To say that he was my best friend is an huge understatement. Many is the day that he was my only friend, the Beavis to my Butthead. We were the "two lost souls swimming in a fish bowl" that Pink Floyd sings about, except that we listened to nothing but Rush at that time. We survived being complete creative outcasts in a non-creative setting, bands both sublime and ridiculous, marching DCI, various jobs to help fund our musical gear purchases (cleaning a textile mill in S.C. every weekend is a personal favorite) and the safety pin/awful hairstyles of the 1980's. I was his (1st wedding) best man, his night before christmas drinking buddy/bicycle assembler and I helped teach Larry what a quarter note is. I now proudly wear the same uniform that he did and hope to do right by his belief in me and a friendship that endured more than three decades. I was hoping to hear "Hey man, wanna jam?" at least one more time. "Wish you were here".*

---

**Troy Campbell** - May 04, 2011 at 10:32 PM

TH

*Troy, that was an awesome tribute to your best friend. It brought tears to my eyes. My thoughts and prayers are with his family, parents, wife, children, and also his extended family of friends that will have a huge void in their lives with this loss. I'm sure he is extremely proud of you. Everyone needs a friend like that, and you can say that the two of you were truly lifetime friends! My condolences to you my friend!*

---

**Tami Miller Hager** - May 05, 2011 at 08:47 AM

TC

*Likewise, Tami. And any friend of Larry's is a friend of mine.*

**Troy Campbell** - May 05, 2011 at 09:49 AM



Jennifer Duerkoop

“ *Jennifer Duerkoop lit a candle in memory of SFC James Larry Tilby, Jr. U.S. Army*



**Jennifer Duerkoop** - May 04, 2011 at 10:15 PM



Jennifer Duerkoop

*Bubba, Tilbilly, Larry, you are one of the best musicians, people, NCO's and chefs I have ever met! This is probably one of the hardest losses that the band field has had! I will miss your fun antics, your overwhelming nature to take the best care of people, your giving, and your zest for life. You'd better have some gumbo waiting for us all when we get there ourselves.*

*To the Tilby family...and my dearest Rose, you are in our thoughts and prayers. We love you! Love, Greg, Jenn and Zander!*

**Jennifer Duerkoop** - May 04, 2011 at 10:22 PM

AB

*Larry was one of the few Army NCO who always gave it to you straight, he said what was on his mind plain and simple. That quality is very rare in people today and is the reason so many of us got along with him so good. I will miss his playing, his humor and his love for life and food. Larry we'll miss you.*

**Antonio Bortone** - May 04, 2011 at 10:56 PM



“ *Miriam and I will always remember Larry as a great friend. He helped us more than anyone could in our time of need. We love you and will miss you greatly. Our prayers are with his family. The world has lost a great man and the Kingdom of God has gained a great soul.*

Chris Eschenfelder - May 04, 2011 at 09:23 PM



“ *I am sorry to hear of Larry's passing. He was always a good friend and always seemed to have a smile on his face. My thoughts and prayers go out to his family.*

Trey Keenan - May 04, 2011 at 09:08 PM



“ *James was always looking for fun. He was an incredible musician, great husband and wonderful father. He will be missed.*

Sonja McGiboney - May 04, 2011 at 05:13 PM



*Larry..... Thank you for the time that you spent with us here on this earth. We will continue to pray for you and your family. You were supposed to be TACET on this tune bubba!*

SFC Paul H. Baker II - May 05, 2011 at 04:46 AM