



## Jackie Lester Williams

November 20, 1946 - May 26, 2026

Jackie Lester Williams, 79, of Huntsville, Alabama passed away on Tuesday, May 26, 2026, in Huntsville, Alabama.

He was born November 20, 1946, to Oliver Williams and Bernice Hall Williams in Mobile, Alabama.

Jackie was a proud veteran, a brilliant global researcher, and a man who possessed a lifelong passion for nurturing growth in all its forms. He served his country with distinction in the United States Army, where disciplined mind and curiosity led him into a distinguished career in scientific research. He dedicated years of his life to combating global health crises, most notably serving as a co-author of four foundational patents for the development of a malaria vaccine.

His research led him to deep and meaningful collaborations with prestigious institutions worldwide, including colleagues in Thailand, Keele University in England and Imperial College in London. He was widely respected by his international peers for his intellect, his collaborative spirit, and his relentless drive to solve complex medical mysteries.

Yet, for all his achievements on the global stage, Jackie remained grounded in the simple joys of life. He loved to grow things. Whether he was nurturing a vibrant backyard garden or tending to delicate plants, he found peace and immense satisfaction in working with the soil and watching life thrive under his care.

Jackie is preceded in death by both of his parents.

He is survived by his wife of 58 years, Cynthia Brown Williams, one daughter; Charlotte (Brian) Artese, one son; Jason Williams, two brothers: Oliver (Gloria) Williams, Joel Williams, two sisters: RoseMarie Smith, Margaret Burcham, one grandson; Leo Artese, as well as a host of nieces and nephews.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the general fund of 1st Presbyterian Church PO BOX 472, Fayetteville, Tennessee 37334, where Jack served as an elder.

The family will be having a private graveside service.

Ardmore Chapel Funeral Home is assisting the family with services.