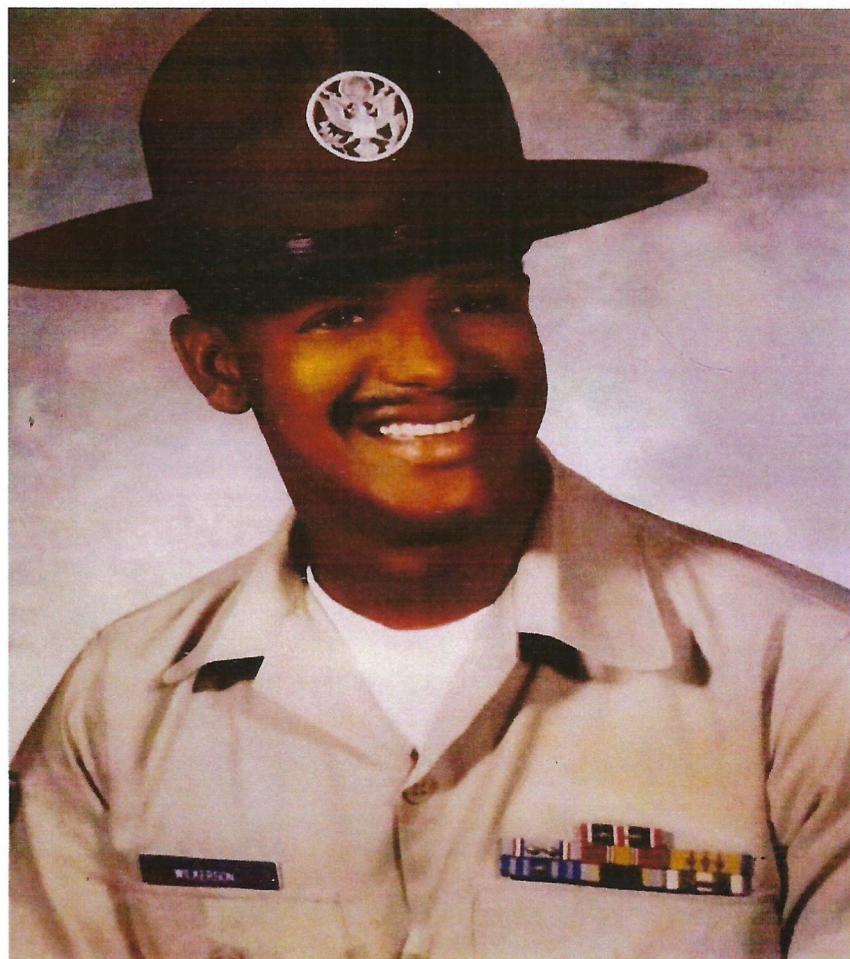


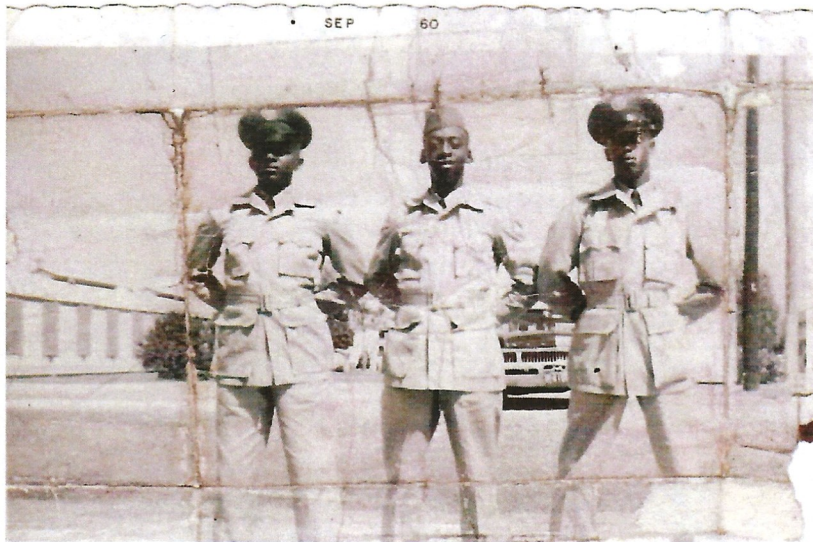
IN HONOR AND MEMORY
OF
LEONARD "BLUE" WILKERSON



SUNRISE 18 SEPTEMBER 1939 SUNSET 8 APRIL 2022

Born in Miami Florida's Dade County on 18 September 1939, to Bessie B. Wilkerson, and Raymond Jackson Carlis. Lenny was raised by his step-father and mother, with much of his childhood taking place in New York after his step-father, who in the U.S. Navy was ordered to Floyd Bennett Field in Brooklyn N.Y. His admiration for his step-father was the primary reason for him selecting a military career.

JOINING THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE



On 6 September 1960, Lenny joined the United States Air Force, and celebrated his twenty-first birthday in Basic Training. After Basic Training, his first duty station was Lowery Air Force Base, in Denver Colorado, where he worked as an Administrative Specialist. On 18 March 1965, Lenny married his wife, Elizabeth. Other places he served were:

1. Headquarters USAF Recruiting Service, Wright Patterson Air Force Base, Dayton, Ohio
2. Randolph Air Force Base, San Antonio, Texas
3. Tan Sonut, Air Base in Saigon, Viet Nam
4. Phang Rang Air Base, in Viet Nam
5. Sembach Air Base, Germany
6. Whiteman Air Force Base, Knob Noster, Missouri
7. Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio, Texas
8. The island of Sardinia, Italy Mount Lombarda
9. Berstrom Air Force Base, Austin, Texas
10. Brooks Air Force Base, San Antonio

On 30 September 1980, Lenny was retired from the U.S. Air Force, and remained in San Antonio for the rest of his life.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

Lenny later was to be known as "Blue", by those who knew or met him. He stated the 9th Calvary San Antonio Soldiers, which included Honorary Member Red McCombs, owner of the Minnesota Vikings football team. Lenny also owned two horses of which his favorite seemed to be "Bad Medicine". The San Antonio Buffalo Soldiers Group started by Lenny was featured in an ABC Mini Series, "Heaven and Hell North and South". In this series were also, Billy D. Williams, and Peter O'Toole. The second series included Goodie Hawn and Patrick Swayze.

EMBRACING THE JOURNEY OF LIFE



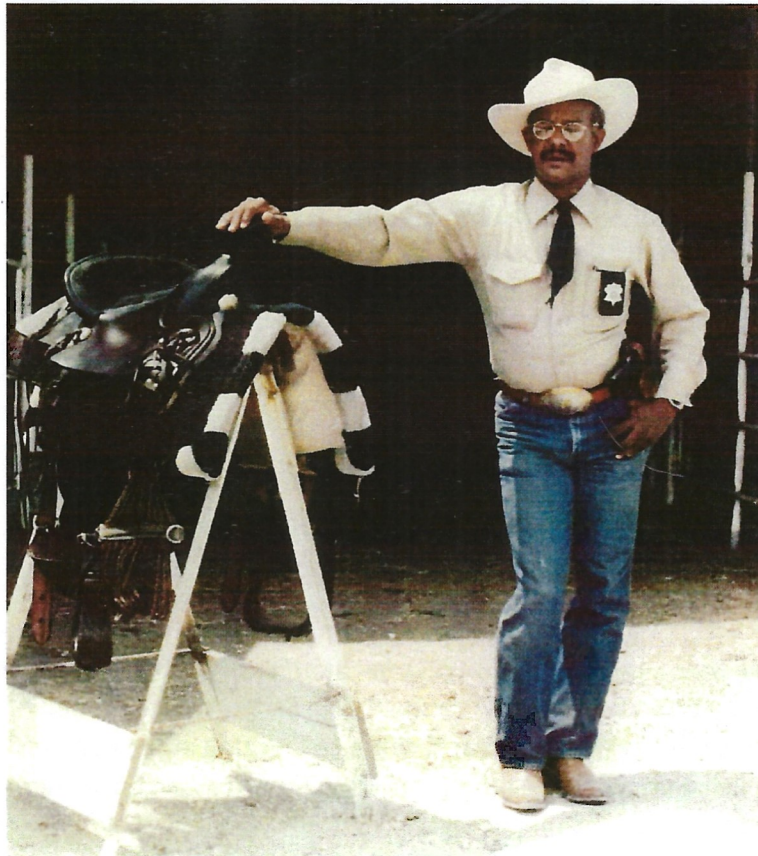
As a young man Lenny had many friends and shared many good times. He was always well dressed and worked always repairing shoes. His friends always called him, "Little Lenny Shoemaker" As a student while living in Atlanta, Ga. Lenny attended Carver Vocational High School where he studied shoe-repairing, and participated in competition and winning awards that are still located at the Carver High School in Atlanta. He was so good at this skill, that when the family moved to New York, an Italian family who owned a shoe-repairing business hired him, allowing him to make significant amounts of money.

HIGH SCHOOL IN NEW YORK

Lenny attended Thomas Jefferson High School and made many friends. One of his high school friends, Allen Cooke, years later worked on body-guard details for Muhammad Ali, and also spent time in the presence of the late Malcolm X. When working for the Italian family repairing shoes another family noticed Lenny's skills and decided that they wanted Lenny to work for them, but Lenny stayed with the Italian family.

With the amount of money, he made in those days, Lenny would attend concerts, and jazz venues of choice. This was during the Beat-Nik era when jazz was very popular. Piano bars in Greenwich Village were the main choice of hangouts, as well as Opera.

Lenny worked as a Constable, and Peace Officer in San Antonio. Aside from his horse "Bad Medicine" he participated in Kennel Club events, was a marksman, and enjoyed spending time with many; especially fellow Viet Nam veterans.



He was always a Cowboy. He was always loved.

He was preceded in death by his mother Bessie Smith, step-father Clarence Smith, Sister Ellis Wilkerson, and Brother Narrin Smith. His wife Elizabeth Wilkerson died in 2020, the day before Thanksgiving.

He is survived by siblings: Roosevelt Davis, Alice Thompson, Philjay Alston, Leander Smith, Avis J. Smith, and Donna Smith.

The Visitation Will Be At
Carter-Taylor-William Mortuary,
601 N. Center St.,
San Antonio, Texas on April 27 at 5 – 7 PM.

Graveside Service: will take place at Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery on April 28 at 9:00 AM.