



Leon Dillard

September 17, 1945 - December 4, 2025

Leon was born on September 17, 1945, to Alice McCollum and George Dillard. He was the bonus son of John Thompson and Ina 'Tobie' Dillard. Leon was predeceased by his parents, John and Alice Thompson, George and Ina Dillard, his sisters Rebecca and Lillie Thompson, a great-niece, Kiara Poole, and a great-nephew, LeFrance Vaughn.

Leon was baptized in the Woodman Hill Missionary Baptist Church, where he served as a junior usher in his teenage years. Leon graduated from East Flora High School, where he excelled at basketball and helped his team win the Gold Ball Championship. Immediately following graduation in 1965, Leon joined the United States Army. During his career in the Army, Leon was stationed in Okinawa, South Korea, Germany, and various US Bases. He earned his Associate's Degree while he was in the military. Leon's primary specialties were petroleum storage, transportation, and construction supervisor. His last assignment was in Niagara Falls, New York. Leon retired in 1986 after an honorable 21-year career. After retirement, Leon worked at the US Postal Service, the Army Corps of Engineers, and the Buffalo VA Hospital.

In 1991, Leon married Maria Puglia. They lived in Niagara Falls and Amherst, New York, before moving in 2003 to the warmer climate of Pembroke Pines, Florida. His favorite pastime was golf, and in Florida, he found the T&T club, a

large group of like-minded men who enjoyed golfing twice a week at the many golf courses in the area.

Leon is survived by his wife Maria, stepdaughter Ariana, seven sisters, Cora Thompson (Madison, MS), Alice Lyle, Loistine (Raymond) Worthy, Annie (Richard) Grantham, Addie Green (Jackson, MS), Dessie Scott, and Mariea Thompson (Madison, MS)—and four brothers, Phillip (Leola) Thompson of Jackson, MS. Frank (Regina) Thompson, Canton, MS; Roy (Annie) Thompson and Wesley (Earnestine) Thompson, Jackson, MS. A host of nieces, nephews, great nieces and nephews, and great, great nieces and nephews, plus cousins, friends, and in-laws.

Cemetery Details

South Florida National Cemetery

6501 South State Road 7
Lake Worth, FL 33449
(561) 649-6489
<http://www.cem.va.gov/cems/nchp/southflorida.asp>

Previous Events

Viewing

DEC 9. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

Abundant Life Deliverance Ministries Center
100 S. Douglas Road
Pembroke Pines, FL 33025

Service

DEC 9. 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM (ET)

Abundant Life Deliverance Ministries Center
100 S. Douglas Road
Pembroke Pines, FL 33025

Interment

DEC **16**. 12:30 PM - 1:30 PM (ET)

South Florida National Cemetery

6501 South State Road 7

Lake Worth, FL 33449

(561) 649-6489

<http://www.cem.va.gov/cems/nchp/southflorida.asp>

Lane1

Tribute Wall



“ *Wilcox Family Funeral Home created a Leon Dillard Webcasting in memory of Leon Dillard* ”



Wilcox Family Funeral Home - December 14, 2025 at 10:43 AM

RL

Can't hear. It's chopping up video and audio

Ree Lyle - December 16, 2025 at 12:55 PM

RL

Thank you for updating the link with a better audio and video.

Ree Lyle - December 16, 2025 at 09:23 PM



Great job

Roy Thompson - December 16, 2025 at 10:40 PM

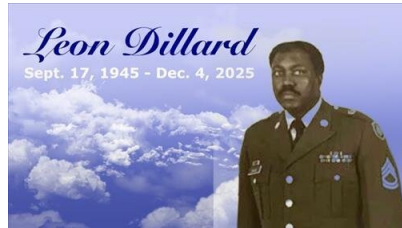
MT

Thanks you for updating this video. Beautifully done! RIP my big brother...

Mariea A Thompson - December 16, 2025 at 11:15 PM



“ *Wilcox Family Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Leon Dillard*



Wilcox Family Funeral Home - December 08, 2025 at 12:36 PM

DT

Uncle Leon I want to thank God for blessing me to have in my life I am missing our conversations even now I love you and thank you for listening while I cried. I LOVE YOU

Demetrice Thompson - December 08, 2025 at 11:36 PM

DT

I am going to miss our conversations about life your encouragement the laughing God I thank you for blessing us with uncle Leon

Demetrice Thompson - December 08, 2025 at 11:42 PM



“ *Uncle Leon, you will truly be missed. You are resting now. You fought a long fight. I will miss the talks we had. Love you always!*

Candice Grantham - December 16, 2025 at 11:22 PM

SD

“ *I have so many fond memories with Uncle Leon it's hard to pick just one ! He had the best humor and kindest heart. He made the best BBQ (His ribs were the best I had!). My kids absolutely adored him too and looked forward to every visit to "Mimi and Leon's" Florida*

stephani dutcher - December 16, 2025 at 07:19 PM

LP

“ Leon was such a kind-hearted person and an amazing adopted grandpa. He had a great sense of humor and endless patience. Our condolences go out to Maria, Ariana, and the rest of Leon's family. We'll miss you, Leon!



Lisa, Jeff & Pierce - December 10, 2025 at 11:22 AM

LD

“ Lisa D. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Leon Dillard.

Lisa D. - December 10, 2025 at 10:32 AM

JM

“ I have so many fond memories of spending time with Uncle Leon. As a kid, I was always excited for his visits—probably so I could tag along wherever he went. As an adult, he continued to welcome me and my family with open arms. I'll miss our birthday texts, and I'll always smile thinking about the strange looks we'd get from people trying to figure out if he was my bodyguard because of our small height difference.

Most of all, I'll miss his kindness, and the way he made everyone feel cared for. Uncle Leon was truly one of a kind, and his memory will stay with me always.

Jackie

jaclyn di meglio - December 10, 2025 at 08:06 AM

MT

“ My heart is sadden, but I do know God doesn't makes mistakes. I really don't have words to express how I feel. I'm just grateful to God giving me a brother that was King to this family. You brought us so much joy! The times you stopped in Huntsville, AL for your resting destination before moving on to MS are the time I cherish most because I had you to myself and I didn't have to share you with my other siblings. We stay up all night although I had to go to work. Really those times I really got to know you as a big brother because you were basically gone when I was born. Nevertheless we bonded. I will cherish those memories forever. Rest my big brother in peace. Love never dies. You will be missed but you will always be in my heart. You always called me baby sister and I correct you and say youngest sister. Your baby sister, Mariea.

Mariea Thompson - December 09, 2025 at 01:25 PM

RM

“ I stayed with uncle Leon, my aunt Maria, and my cousin Ariana the summer I graduated from Highschool when they still lived in Buffalo, NY. They were all so gracious and warm, never once made me feel unwelcome. Aunt Maria and Ariana I knew all my life, but uncle Leon I had just met, and he had every reason to not want some random teenager living with him for two months. But he couldn't have been kinder. I met a lot of Leon's family that summer, all of them were so friendly and fun. Leon cooked me up my first plate of Buffalo wings and they're still the best wings I've ever had. RIP Leon.

Love

Richie Mancino

Richard Mancino - December 09, 2025 at 12:17 PM

CG

“ My condolences go out to the Thompson family. I never met Leon, but heard great things about him and could see he had a big heart just like the Thompson family. I am praying for strength and comfort as you endure this hour.

Carolyn Gates - December 09, 2025 at 11:25 AM

SF

“ Mr. Leon- you were loved by so many and have left such wonderful memories for the ones you left behind. Praying for your family during this difficult time.

Shelley Brown Floyd - December 09, 2025 at 10:14 AM

AG

“ You shall forever live in my heart and never be forgotten for being our big Brother and the oldest of all of your siblings. You were there when we needed you and I'm so grateful. Rest in peace.



Addie Velma Green - December 08, 2025 at 10:18 PM

AG

Leon you may have been taken from us too soon, your spirit will forever live on in the memories we cherish and the love we shared. Growing up with you was an adventure filled with laughter, mischief, and unconditional love.

Annie Grantham - December 08, 2025 at 10:52 PM

MT

My heart is sadden, but I do know God doesn't makes mistakes. I really don't have words to express how I feel. I'm just grateful to God giving me a bother that were a King to this family. You brought us so much joy! The times you stopped in Huntsville, AL for your resting destination before moving on to MS are the time I cherish most because I had you to myself and I didn't have to share you with my other siblings. We stay up all night although I had to go to work. Really those times I really got to know you as a big brother because you were basically gone when I was born. Nevertheless we bonded. I will cherish those memories forever. Rest my big brother in peace. Love never dies. You will be missed but you will always be in my heart. You always called me baby sister and I correct you and say youngest sister. You baby sister, Mariea.

Mariea Thompson - December 09, 2025 at 10:27 AM

JC

“*Uncle Leon, there are no instructions for missing 🥹 someone. Some days you walk through it. Some days you crawl and some days, you simply sit with silence. Love ❤️ and memories don't go away. Thank God for lending you to us for 80 years. Love ❤️ Julie*

Julie Renee Thompson Chapman - December 08, 2025 at 10:10 PM

WT

“*I could remember big bro was always there for his little brother and he will surely will be miss by every one rest well big brother*

Wesley Thompson - December 08, 2025 at 09:58 PM

SO

“*Uncle Leon, I'm going to miss your bright smile, encouraging words and most of all your warm hugs. Love you always and forever.*

Sophee - December 08, 2025 at 09:31 PM

GC

“ *Maria and Ariana, we were very saddened to hear the passing of Leon. He was a very gentle and kind man. Although we live far away from each other, we always looked forward getting together when visiting Florida. He will be very much missed.*

Gina and Bill from Canada

Gina and Bill Caprio - December 08, 2025 at 09:30 PM

WT

“ *I will always remember being a lil boy growing up and you would come over to visit momma(Rebecca) when you came home from the military. You inspired me to choose the same career path as you! Thank you Big Unc....Love your nephew William*

William Thompson - December 08, 2025 at 08:59 PM

BG

“ *Bill, Shelley and Brown Bottling Group purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Leon Dillard.*



Bill, Shelley and Brown Bottling Group - December 08, 2025 at 06:48 PM

LW

“ *If prayers and wishes could have kept you alive and healthy, you would be on the golf course playing golf. God gives a us a begin date and an end date. He knows what is best for us. We love you and will be missing your link in the chain. Sister Loistine & brother-in-law Raymond Worthy*

Loistine Worthy - December 08, 2025 at 06:27 PM

DS

“ My oldest brother, Leon Dillard, out of 14 children, was such a nice and joyful person. He always wanted to keep us laughing. We would always await his coming home from various places he lived being in the United State Army. He walked me down the aisle because our father had passed. We visited him and Maria on our honeymoon. He cooked us the best smothered pork chops that I have ever tasted in my life. Of course, I didn't tell him that because his head would have gotten even bigger. 😊😊💙💙

Dessie Scott - December 08, 2025 at 06:09 PM

DS

Love your sister, Dessie

Dessie Scott - December 09, 2025 at 01:19 PM

TG

“ Dear Family,
I am absolutely heartbroken to hear about the passing of Leon. I know there are no words that can truly ease your pain right now, but please know that I am thinking of you all and sending my deepest love and sympathy.
Uncle's Leon was truly a good man, and his kindness and integrity left a lasting impression on everyone who knew him. We will always remember his dedication, not only to his family but also to his country. His service in the military was a profound example of his commitment and courage a legacy of patriotism and duty we will never forget.
He lived a life of honor, and he will be terribly missed.
If there is anything at all whether it's running errands, bringing over a meal, or just lending an ear please do not hesitate to reach out. We are here for you now and in the difficult days ahead.
With deepest sympathy and love,

Tiffany G - December 08, 2025 at 06:04 PM

WS

“ *Walterine Thomas Payne(Annie's sister) purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Leon Dillard.*



Walterine Thomas Payne(Annie's sister) - December 08, 2025 at 01:21 PM



“ *One of my earliest memories of uncle Leon is when he and my Aunt were visiting my parents a while back and I had just gotten from my grandfather his 77 Olds Cutlass Supreme. I was having some trouble with it and was working on it in the driveway with the hood open and unprompted, he came out and looked over it with me and was explaining what everything was and what could be wrong with it, something with the carburetor I don't quite remember. But it was nice of him to come out and spend that time with me and try to help me even though I wasn't asking. I think that is how I will remember him that he was cheerful and giving and just a sweet man. RIP Love, your nephew Michael.*

Michael Mancino - December 08, 2025 at 12:55 PM

CC

“ *Community Theological Seminary Church purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Leon Dillard.*



Community Theological Seminary Church - December 08, 2025 at 11:05 AM

NR

“ Nancy R. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Leon Dillard.

Nancy R. - December 08, 2025 at 08:49 AM

MB

“ A short blip in time , around 96-99, a family dinner was so enjoyable! Thank you Maria and Leon ! Michael Bailey(MF). Bless God thee .

Michael Bailey - December 08, 2025 at 08:25 AM

JM

“ We will always remember visiting with Uncle Leon and Aunt Maria. He would get a kick out of the kids and the funny things they did and said. When Gavin was very little he remarked how Leon didn't have any hair and he just "had a head". A two year old's way of noticing someone is bald! But Uncle Leon took it in stride and let out his big laugh! We'll miss his laughter and his kindness. May he rest in peace.
Love, Joy, Tom, Gavin, Emma and Sarah

Joy McPartland - December 07, 2025 at 11:23 PM

LC

“ Love, Lettie Mancino and Children purchased the Sacred Duty Spray for the family of Leon Dillard.



Love, Lettie Mancino and Children - December 07, 2025 at 07:48 PM

LC

“ Love, Lettie Mancino and Children planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Leon Dillard.

Love, Lettie Mancino and Children - December 07, 2025 at 07:48 PM

LM

“ The best and most “valuable” memory I have of Leon is being taught how to make his famous spare ribs. I’ve made them many times since then, but I have to admit that they’re never quite as good.
I’ll miss your easy way about dealing with everything. I’m sorry that you had go through some bad times at the end of your life. I hope that you’re finally in peace. That’s all we can all hope for. Love Lettie
💔

Lettie Mancino - December 07, 2025 at 05:39 PM

MU

“ To the dillard family, sorry for your loss, you are in my prayers. Mary Underwood, Canton, MS.



Mary Underwood - December 07, 2025 at 05:05 PM



“ Ocean Breeze Spray was purchased for the family of Leon Dillard.



December 06, 2025 at 04:53 PM

TF

“ The Torres Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Leon Dillard.

The Torres Family - December 06, 2025 at 04:53 PM

ZT

“ Leon was a kind and good-hearted man. We recently celebrated his 80th birthday with his wonderful brothers, and it was clear he came from a loving family. I'll always remember his humor, how warmly he welcomed my family, and his great ribs. We all loved spending time with him, and we will remember him with so much affection. We will miss him deeply. May he rest in peace.

With love,
Zana and the Torres Family

Zana Torres - December 06, 2025 at 04:42 PM

WW

May the Lord Bless and Keep the Family of Leon Dillard. 🙏🙏

Winfred Walker - December 08, 2025 at 06:22 PM