

### **FLOWER BEARERS**

Mothers of First Baptist Church  
Deborah Chapter #629 O. E. S.  
William H. Council Temple #1127  
Zeta Phi Beta Sorority  
Good Neighbors Club  
Charitable Society #1



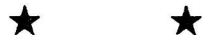
### **HONORARY PALLBEARERS**

Deacons of First Baptist Church  
William H. Council Elks Lodge #977  
Past Exalted Ruler Council  
Alabama Funeral Directors and Morticians Association  
Good Neighbors Club  
Fraternal Club of Huntsville, Inc.  
Black Business Improvement Association  
Huntsville Athletic Booster Club



### **ACTIVE PALLBEARERS**

The Staff of Welch and Harris Funeral Home



### **GRAVESIDE CEREMONY**

Elks



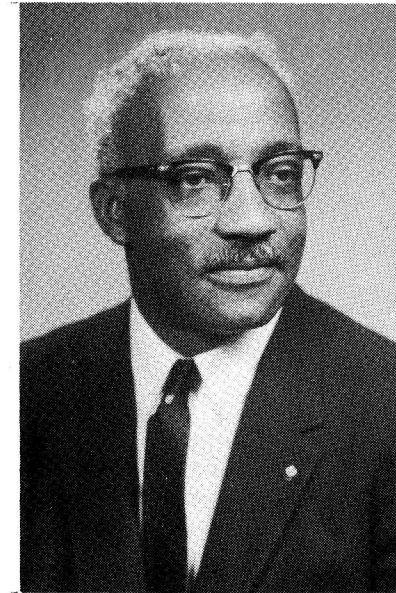
### **INTERMENT**

Northside Cemetery

## **OBSEQUIES**

FOR

# **MR. R. E. NELMS**



MONDAY, JANUARY 14, 1974

TWELVE NOON

## **FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH**

236 Church Street NW

Huntsville, Alabama

REV. E. E. CLEAVER, *Pastor*

# OBITUARY



Life, death and eternity are three of the most powerful words in the English language. Life is given to man in infancy, and he is to care for it and preserve it as far as he is able until death. During the course of this life, he has the opportunity to prepare himself for eternity, at the coming of death, man loses only the earthly body but the eternal soul of a christian lives on. Death is namely a gateway from this world to the beautiful city of God. Christ died that we might live and death to a christian is a way to be a more abundant life.

This busy, useful life came to a close on Tuesday, January 8, 1974, when God called to rest R. E. Nelms.

He was born in Birmingham, Alabama. His early life was spent in Opelika, Alabama where he attended public schools. He also attended Miles College and Welch School of Embalming. His professional work began in Scottsboro, Alabama where he established Nelms Funeral Home. Later, he moved to Huntsville to direct Welch and Harris Funeral Home of which he later became owner, a position held until his passing.

He confessed Christ at an early age and joined the church in his home Community. During his adult life his membership was in Saint Elizabeth Missionary Baptist Church of Scottsboro and First Baptist Church of Huntsville, Alabama, where he served as Chairman of the Trustee Board, position held until his passing.

He was an active, participating member of many civic organizations. He was a leader in the local Civil Rights movement during the 1960's.

He leaves to cherish his memory his family and a host of friends.

## THANATOPSIS

*So live that when thy summons comes to join  
The innumerable caravan that moves  
That mysterious realm, where each shall take  
His chamber in the silent halls of death,  
Thou go not, like a quarry-slave at night,  
Scourged to his dungeon, but, sustained and soothed  
By an unfaltering trust, approach thy grave  
Like one who wraps the drapery of his couch  
About him, and lies down to pleasant dreams.*

—William Cullen Bryant

## AFFILIATIONS and/or ACCOMPLISHMENTS

of

MR. R. E. NELMS

Because of his dependability, resourcefulness, enthusiasm, initiative, versatility, loyalty, willingness, sincereness, and leadership ability his wise counseling was sought by many on the local, state and national level.

One of his favorite quotation was, "*Service is the Price You Pay for the Space You Occupy.*" He believed this sincerely as is shown by his record of service.

Fraternal Club's choice of Huntsville Man of the Year — 1963

Owner of Welch-Harris Funeral Home

Founder and President of Good Neighbor's Club

A member of the United Supreme Council — 32nd Degree

Member Imperial Council Shriner Khedive Temple No. 16

Patron of Deborah Chapter No. 629 Order of Eastern Star

Secretary-Treasurer of Independent Order of Immaculates of Alabama

Member of Frontiers International

Member of City of Huntsville Bi-Racial Committee

Member of Advisory Board of Huntsville Contractor Committee

Chairman of Trustee Board of First Baptist Church

Member of Trustee Board of Church Street Community Center

Member and Past President of Alabama Funeral Directors

and Morticians Association, Inc.

Member of Charitable Society No. 1

Exalted Ruler William Hooper Council Elks Lodge No. 977

Deacon of First Baptist Church

Boy Scouts of America

Past First Vice-President of the Alabama Association of Elks

Member of the Army and NASA Advisory Committee

Member of Black Business Improvement Association

Member of Chamber of Commerce

Member of Advisory Committee of Huntsville State Vocational Technical School

Member of Fearn-Oliver Temple Free and Accepted Masons of Alabama, P.H.A.

Member of Past Exalted Ruler Council

Member of The Fraternal Club of Huntsville, Inc.

Ex-Official Member at large of the local branch of the NAACP

Member of Huntsville Athletic Booster Club

Member of the Mayor's Advisory Council, City of Huntsville

# PROGRAMME



PROCESSIONAL ..... Selected Music

SELECTION ..... First Baptist Church Choir

SCRIPTURE ..... Rev. A. B. Walker

PRAYER ..... Rev. O. R. Flournoy

SELECTION ..... Choir

TRIBUTES (Three Minutes)

City of Huntsville

U. S. Army Missile Command

Improved Benevolent Protective Order of Elks of The World

National and State Funeral Directors Associations

First Baptist Church

SOLO ..... *"If I Can Help Somebody"* ..... Brother Charles Briggins

EULOGY ..... *"Three Measurements of a Man"* ..... Dr. Henry Bradford, Jr.  
Pastor, Second Cumberland  
Presbyterian Church

SOLO ..... *"God Shall Wipe All Tears Away"* ..... Mrs. Evelyn R. Hildreth

MASONIC CEREMONY

MORTICIAN ..... Welch and Harris Funeral Home

RECESSIONAL

## EXPRESSION OF APPRECIATION

*The family and staff of Mr. R. E. Nelms wishes to thank their many friends and neighbors for every act of kindness shown them during the passing of our loved one.*

# RESOLUTION



WILLIAM HOOPER COUNCILL ELKS LODGE NO. 977

and

TEMPLE NO. 1127

WHEREAS, Romeo Earnest Nelms having given over three (3) decades of service to Elkdom and all of these years having been devoted to building Elkdom into a permanent Institution in the Huntsville Community, with an image that is untarnished and respected .....

BE IT RESOLVED as of this date and henceforth, the name of this order of Elkdom and the accompanying facility be named The R. E. Nelms Elks Lodge No. 977.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the memberships of both The R. E. Nelms Elks Lodge No. 977 and The R. E. Nelms Temple No. 1127 shall perpetuate the good works of our beloved Exalted Ruler and expand upon his accomplishment.

Submitted this 14th day of January in the year of our Lord 1974.

Eva G. Burns  
Daughter Ruler

James Kirkpatrick  
Exalted Ruler

# RESOLUTION



**WHEREAS**, Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ in his infinite wisdom saw fit to call Brother R. E. Nelms, a member of the Fraternal Club of Huntsville, Inc. from labor to reward on Tuesday, January 8, 1974: and

**WHEREAS**, this quiet, mild-mannered, soft spoken man with the heart of a lion and an indomitable spirit made so many worthwhile contributions to his fellowman both as a businessman and a citizen: and

**WHEREAS**, for nearly twenty-five years he was a loyal dedicated member of the Fraternal Club of Huntsville, Inc. serving in the capacity of business manager for eighteen of those years: and

**WHEREAS**, the members of the Fraternal Club of Huntsville, Inc. in recognition of his dedication toward the betterment of all mankind and his community did so select him as their choice of Man-Of-The-Year in 1963: and

**WHEREAS**, the members of the Fraternal Club of Huntsville, Inc. desire the public, the citizens of Madison County and the members of the family of Brother R. E. Nelms to know that they fully realize the tremendous void that his death creates in the Fraternal Club of Huntsville, Inc. and this community.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Fraternal Club of Huntsville, Inc. does hereby designate that the name of Brother R. E. Nelms shall remain on our roll just as long as this organization shall so exist in memory of a Brother who passed our way and a man whose courage, kindness and unselfishness shall forever be an inspiration to all.

The Fraternal Club of Huntsville, Inc. does hereby formally express its great loss in the death of Brother Nelms and does hereby record in the official minutes of the Club the passing from this life of a Brother and a fellow citizen.

**RESOLVED FURTHER**, that a copy of this resolution be tendered to his family as an expression of the Club's deepest most profound sympathy in its bereavement.

Isaac W. Rooks, President

Perry O. Ward, Secretary

# RESOLUTION



## SAINT BARTLEY PRIMITIVE BAPTIST CHURCH

**WHEREAS**, in recognition of a life spent for others in Huntsville and vicinity, and especially mindful of the intervention, assistance, and guidance given to our church during its most crucial period;

**WHEREAS**, realizing that words are inadequate to express the esteem held for this personage, Brother Romeo Earnest Nelms, the pastor, official family and church submit these words of appreciation to a great, illustrious life.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that we add our words of thanks for a life worthy of emulation and offer comforting thoughts for those touched most by this visitation of God's divine will.

May memory stamp our consciousnesses with his spirit and we attempt to follow his sense of concern for others.

Done by the order of the St. Bartley Primitive Baptist Church this date, January 11, 1974.

Dea. Dinsimore Robinson, Secretary

Dea. John W. Laughinghouse, Sr.  
Chairman of Board

Rev. V. Castle Stewart, Pastor