

Service of Worship
Celebrating the Life
of
Sherman Allen, Jr.
February 3, 1925 - May 7, 2010



Macedonia Cumberland Presbyterian Church
1820 Old Moulton Road
Decatur, Alabama 35601

Eleven O'Clock, A. M.
May 12, 2010

Sherman (Preston) Allen, Jr.

A consummate family man with an undeniable sense of duty, devoted friend and an industrious individual, Sherman Allen, Jr. entered this life on February 3, 1925 and for the next 85 years he became a source of influence and inspiration to many until his death on May 7, 2010.

He was the third son born to Sherman Allen, Sr., and Lottie Moore Allen in Limestone County, Alabama. His pursuit for the American dream moved him to leave the farm at age 19, to serve his country in the United States Navy as a cook on the USS Rawkins. Military Service was an integral part of the Allen family and is documented beginning with Deacon Allen's great-grandfather, George Allen who served as a Union Soldier in the American Civil War. His own tour of duty placed him on the front lines during World War II. He performed duties on the US Naval Air Base at Kwajalein Island and in February 1945 he and his shipmates joined Special Forces training near Guadal Canal for the invasion of Okinawa. They arrived off the island of Okinawa on D-Day. Five days after the battle at Okinawa, the ship retired to Saipan, Mariana Island. His service, which spanned from the western Pacific to Pearl Harbor, was from June 23, 1944-December 16, 1947. His gallantry made him the proud recipient of the Asiatic Pacific (1 star), American Area, Good Conduct and Victory WWII awards.

Shortly after the military, Sherman was employed as a welder at Ingalls Shipyard and later at Worthington Manufacturing Co. He joined the staff as a boiler-maker and master carpenter at Tennessee Valley Authority where he retired in 1987. He was a 3rd degree Master Mason with George W. Braxdall, Lodge No. 28. His retirement allowed him daily visits with his brother George and frequent gatherings with his friends at the Turner-Surles Community Center. His pecan pies, pineapple upside down cakes, and canned confectionaries were a "must have" at all family gatherings.

Deacon Allen was committed to the Lord and always prepared to discuss the blessings of God in his life. He began his Christian journey on August 6, 1966, joining David Temple Primitive Baptist Church, when Elder W. E. Owes was pastor. He was ordained Deacon, May 22, 1971, taught Sunday School and served as Sunday School Superintendent, Chairman, of the Deacons Board, and Church Treasurer. He treasured the Word of God and was known for his ability to "quote" scripture. It was this gift that comforted family and strengthened him.

Sherman married Ella Mae Lyle on March 27, 1946 in Morgan County, Alabama, and from this union, six children were born: Frank, George "Bunny" (who preceded him in death), Brinda, Donnie, Billy and Tommy. Following Ella's untimely death, Sherman vowed to keep his family together. This would change in 1966 when he met and married the former Hattie Mae Swoopes, who created a loving nurturing home for Sherman and his family for 43 years.

Sherman, also known as "Preston" and "Press" to his family and friends touched the lives of many. His great sense of humor coupled with a quick-witted tongue; would serve him well during his darkest days. No matter how great the pain, he kept a smile on his face and an easy joke on his lips. He leaves to mourn: his wife, Hattie Mae; five children, Frank (Judy) Allen, Brinda (Edward) Greene, Donnie (Clarence) Jones, Billy (Erica) Allen, all of Decatur, Alabama and Tommy Allen, New York, New York; daughter in-law, Brenda Allen; fourteen grand children, twenty-four great-grand children; two great great-grand children; three brothers, George W. Allen, Decatur, Alabama; Worley T. Allen, Stevenson, Alabama; and Michael (Sandra) Allen; one sister, Rosie Thompson, Decatur, Alabama; four sisters in-law, Winnie Matthews; Judy Jones; Lucille Swoopes, all of Decatur, Alabama and Zelma Lipscomb, Indianapolis, Indiana; devoted nieces and nephews, other family and friends.

Order of Worship
Sherman "Preston" Allen, Jr.
Elder Robert Brown, Officiating

PRELUDE

James Reginald Jackson, Organist

PROCESSIONAL

PRAYER

The Reverend Dr. Wylheme Ragland

HYMN

"Blessed Assurance"

Choir and Congregation

SCRIPTURES

Old Testament, Psalm 121
New Testament, John 14:1-6

The Reverend Dr. Gloria Herring

MUSICAL SELECTION

Petrina Allen

TRIBUTES (2 minute limit)

Friends and Family
The Reverend Dr. Wylheme Ragland
Earline Gray
George Allen, Jr
Billy Allen

SOLO

Tommy Allen

SERMON

Elder Robert Brown
Pastor, David Temple Primitive Baptist Church

MASONIC RITES

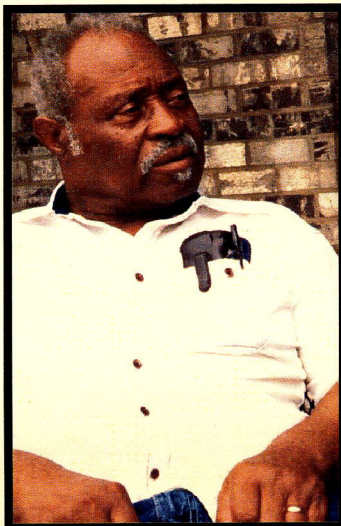
George W. Braxdall, Lodge No. 28

CLOSING PRAYER

The Reverend Worley Allen

RECESSIONAL

James Reginald Jackson, Organist



Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me.

In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you.

And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.

And whither I go ye know, and the way ye know.

Thomas saith unto him, Lord, we know not whither thou goest; and how can we know the way?

Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me. *John 14:1-6*

PALL BEARERS

George W. Braxdall, Lodge No. 28

FLOWER BEARERS

Nieces & Friends

Funeral Arrangements Entrusted to:
REYNOLDS FUNERAL HOME

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

The family of Sherman Allen, Jr. will always remember with deep gratitude all acts of kindness shown during our time of sorrow. A special thanks to staff of Parkway Medical Center, Caregiver, Rickey L. Phillips, Hospice of the Valley and the many friends who visited and comforted us during his illness and passing.

INTERMENT

Bell Cemetery, Decatur, Alabama

REPAST

All Occasions, Decatur, Alabama