

**Honorary Pall Bearers**

*Deacons of Sweet Home Missionary Baptist Church*

**Honorary Flower Bearers**

*Mothers of Sweet Home Missionary Baptist Church*

**Active Pall Bearers**

*Grandsons and Nephews*

**Active Flower Bearers**

*Granddaughters and Nieces*

**Appreciation**

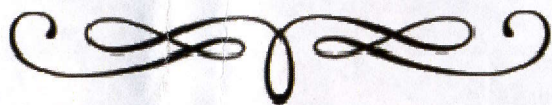
*The family of Deacon Robert Nichols acknowledges all expressions of kindness shown during our hour of need. We are eternally grateful for the many acts of genuine love and care extended to us and our dear loved one. Your fervent prayers, comforting visits, phone calls and compassionate service exemplify the Love of the Master and warm our hearts. Please continue to keep us lifted in prayer. May God bless each of you richly.*

**Interment**

*Thatch-Mann Cemetery*

**Final Arrangements Entrusted To:**

*People's Funeral Home of North Alabama  
12060 Highway 31 South  
Athens, Alabama 35611  
Phone: (256) 232-1600*



**A Celebration of Life  
for  
Deacon Robert Nichols, Sr.**

**Sunrise: January 17, 1923**



**Sunset: March 28, 2013**

**Wednesday, April 3, 2013  
1:00 p.m.**

**Sweet Home Missionary Baptist Church  
803 Westmoreland Avenue  
Athens, Alabama 35611  
Rev. Jeffery Moseley, Officiant**



## OBITUARY

*"Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them: for this is the law and the prophets." Matthew 7:12*

Deacon Robert Nichols, Sr. was born on January, 17, 1923 in Rutledge, AL and departed this life on March 28, 2013 at his home in Tanner, AL. He was the oldest of six children born to the late Odesser Harris Nichols & Joe Nathan Nichols.

Mr. Nichols was stationed in Hawaii while serving his country as an artillery loader in the U.S. Army during World War II. Following his discharge from the Army, Mr. Nichols earned a certificate in Brick Masonry from Winona Trade School in Bessemer, AL, and was employed by Thaggard Construction Company, traveling throughout the state to work on various building contracts with the company.

At an early age, he joined his beloved Roxanna Baptist Church in Rutledge, AL, and as an adult, he served dutifully as an usher, a bible study teacher, and as Chairman of the Deacon Board. Deacon Nichols eagerly looked forward to the annual Roxanna Family & Friends Day. He was consistently the top fundraiser for the observance, and it was not uncommon for him to single-handedly out-raise all of the other family groups combined. As a civic volunteer, he often worked at the polls and provided transportation for individuals who needed rides during elections in Crenshaw County.

In 1956, Mr. Nichols met and fell in love with Georgia Cosby in Luverne, AL, and on April 5, 1958 they were wed at Shiloh M.B. Church in Decatur, AL. They had 4 children together, and would have celebrated their 55<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary this year. Deacon Nichols was often on the road while working in the construction business, however, after his retirement, he embarked upon a new career – to become the most loving Grandpa he could be. He was actively involved in rearing and babysitting his grandchildren, and as they grew older, he always supported whatever activities they participated in. Mr. Nichols didn't hesitate to advise his family

on how he thought things should be done. He often offered "constructive critiques" of his wife's cooking, although his confidence in her culinary skills was evidenced by how frequently he volunteered her to cook cakes & pies for family & friends! In 2000, he joined Sweet Home M.B. Church and became a member of the Deacon Board, where he shared the benefit of his wisdom and insight into conducting the business of the church. Deacon Nichols exemplified the character of the Apostle Barnabas. It was his desire to see everyone live up to their potential, and he always provided words of encouragement and support to whomever he encountered, especially when it involved service for the Lord.

Mr. Nichols served as the patriarch of his siblings' children, and was affectionately known as "Uncle" to many of them. He cherished them all deeply, and made it a point to stay in contact with them regularly to keep in touch with how everyone was doing and to maintain strong family ties.

Robert was preceded in death by his parents; brothers, Hosea, Jefferson, and Earnest; his sister, Earsie V and his eldest son Howard.

Cherishing his memory are: his loving & devoted wife, Georgia; one brother, Earlie B. Nichols of Detroit MI; one sister-in-law, Catherine of Detroit, MI; five children, Joe of Detroit, MI, Debora of Notasulga, AL, Cynthia (Marcus) Webb of Madison, AL, Robert (Keanna) of Harvest, AL, and Jonathan (Tammy) of Tanner, AL. Robert has 11 grandchildren: Keith (Adrienne), Nicholas, Gerald, Robin, Adrienne, Matthew, Robert, Aaliyah, Summer, Aaron, Brooklyn, 3 great-grandchildren, Aaron, Kaiah, and Briley, and a host of loving nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends.



## *Hard Fighting Soldier*

(A Tribute to Daddy)

This life is just a battlefield

Of the spirit and mind in this world.

Whatever your post— wherever you are

When called by your God—you serve!

NAME: CPL. ROBERT NICHOLS

FILE NO. 100-100000-100000

The hard fighting soldier stands strong in his test,

Even when he must stand alone.

By faith he prevails—his foundation secure

Built stronger than mortar and stone.

The hard fighting soldier—a trooper for life,

Taught to tend to each brother's need

Lending strength to the weak, support to the strong

He won't waver in what he believes.

When his tour down here has ended,

Unbuckled sword left deep in the sand

Trading earth for his walk around heaven

"Job well done," God has spoken—Amen.

- Debora A. Nichols

## *Order of Service*

Prelude

Processional

Selection .....Sweet Home Church Choir

Scripture ..... Rev. Johnnie Woods  
Old and New Testament

Prayer .....Rev. Marcus Moore

Selection .....Sweet Home Church Choir

Words of Comfort ..... Rev. Marvin Winston

Reflections:

( Church Affiliation .....Dea. Edward Gilbert

( Resolution..... Minister Joann Watson

Family Tribute ..... Debora A. Nichols

Acknowledgements..... Sis. Barbara Scales

Solo ..... Dea. Arthur Jordan

Eulogy..... Rev. Jeffery Moseley

Memorial Medley of Deacon Nichols' favorite songs

Recessional



