



Be Strong and of a good courage... Joshua 1:9

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URAL SMITH, JR.

July 16, 1939 - May 10, 2019

Obituary

URAL SMITH JR., was born on July 16, 1939, in Limestone County in the home of his great grandparents, George and Jennie Bridgeforth. The grandson of Bascom Bridgeforth and Rassie Townsend Bridgeforth, he was born in the family home which is located on the Tennessee River in Tanner, Alabama, in the area called Beulah Land.

His great grandparents, George and Jennie were born into slavery and became prosperous landowners and farmers. They are the beginning of the Limestone County Bridgeforth lineage. Ural was the first child born to Vivian and Ural Smith. He was one of two children. He was recently residing in Atherton Senior Living in Marietta, GA and then in Canterfield Senior Living, Kennesaw, GA. He was graciously welcomed by the residents and staff and recognized for his kind manner.

Ural was President of Dimension Four Office Products, a commercial office supply company that he started in 1976.

His first employment was with the State of Indiana as a computer programmer. Ural then went to work for Indiana Gas as a systems analyst and after a few years moved on to Citizens Gas, initially as a systems analyst and then as the EEOC coordinator.

Ural had been a member of several boards over the years. He served as a board member of the Indiana United Methodist Children's Home from 1995 to 2011. In that period he was chair of the building committee and worked closely with the staff in the development of several buildings on that campus. Ural served for many years as a volunteer with the Senator Richard G. Lugar Fund for Hoosier Excellence which provides scholarships to high achieving minority students. He also held for several years a mayoralty appointment as a director of EmployIndy, Marion County's workforce development board. He recounted as his most rewarding experience his trusteeship on the Ivy Tech Central Indiana Board, including his role as chair from 2007 to 2011. In 2014 he was awarded the title of Trustee Emeritus. He remained totally committed to the mission of the College and "sold" it wherever he went. He and his wife of 58 years have been committed to family and faith holding membership in North United Methodist Church, Indianapolis. He gratefully celebrated his mother's 100th birthday in 2016. While operating the business and managing his mother's care in Alabama, Ural also oversaw his farm in Alabama, which was the property of his great-grandfather. He was very proud to be a member of the Bridgeforth family, which has resided in Limestone County, Alabama since the late 1800s. He made a commitment 26 years ago upon the birth of his first grandchild, Zachary, to visit their daughter and her family once a month. The Turner family resides in Marietta, Georgia. True to his promise, Ural made the monthly visits with few exceptions-passing along the wisdom of his grandfather, Bascom Bridgeforth.

He is preceded in death by many members of the George Bridgeforth family including his mother, Vivian Bridgeforth Smith and father, Ural Smith, Sr. He is survived by his wife, Lelia Powell Smith, their daughter, Melissa Smith Turner (Timothy), his sister, Shirley Smith Lynch (Jesse) and grandchildren Dr. Zachary Bridgeforth Turner, Alexis Bridgeforth Turner, Joshua Bridgeforth Turner, and Aaron Bridgeforth Turner and numerous cousins, nieces, and nephews.

Order of Service

TWELVE NOON

SATURDAY, MAY 18, 2019

Lakeview United Methodist Church

9130 Lucas Ferry Road ♦ Tanner, Alabama 35671

REVEREND DENNIS JONES, SENIOR PASTOR

REVEREND WILLIE BYRD, EULOGIST



****CONGREGATION PLEASE STAND****

PROCESSIONAL Ministers and Family

SELECTION NEARER MY GOD TO THEE

WELCOME AND PRAYER Reverend Dennis Jones

SCRIPTURE READING

OLD TESTAMENT..... Mrs. Barbara Bridgeforth Long

NEW TESTAMENTMrs. Vickie Peoples Bass

SOLO Ms. Denise Williams

IF I CAN HELP SOMEBODY... MY LIVING SHALL NOT BE IN VAIN

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS..... Ms. Celesta Bridgeforth

OBITUARY Read Silently

EULOGY.....Reverend Willie Byrd

PASTOR, GRACE M.B. CHURCH

SELECTION THE LAST MILE OF THE ROAD

CLOSING PRAYER.....Melissa Smith Turner and Timothy Turner

MORTICIAN Royal Funeral Home, Inc. - Mason Chapel

RECESSIONAL..... Ministers and Family

Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart as working for the Lord...

-COLOSSIANS 3:23

Palbearers

Greg Clark ♦ Chrys Grubbs ♦ Joshua Bridgeforth Turner ♦ Lance Ray
Leon Rewan ♦ Philip Ray ♦ Theodore Bridgeforth

Flower Bearers

Avis Bridgeforth ♦ Doris Bridgeforth Jones ♦ Gloria Worley Ruberry
Gloria Sloss ♦ Jackie Lacy



Interment

Beulah Land Cemetery

LAKEVIEW UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
Beulah Land, Alabama

Grateful Appreciation

The family of Ural Smith, Jr. acknowledges all expressions of sympathy shown during this difficult time in our lives. We are grateful for the cards, flowers, visits and all of the many acts of kindness, especially your prayers, shown during our time of mourning. Special appreciation to our relatives and friends from Indianapolis. We appreciate Theodore Bridgeforth's and Brenda Bridgeforth's help in arranging the audio. Your thoughtfulness is appreciated and will never be forgotten.

PROGRAM: ALEXIS BRIDGEFORTH TURNER



FUNERAL ARRANGEMENTS ENTRUSTED TO:

Royal Funeral Home, Inc. - Mason Chapel

718 Brownsferry Street ♦ Athens, Alabama 35611
(256) 232-4822 www.royalfh.com

"When only memories remain, let them be beautiful." ®