

Funeral Services



Deacon Bennett Edward Higgins

Thursday December 16, 2010

Homer L. Moses Memorial Chapel,

Peoples Funeral Home

Athens, Alabama

"But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint."

Isaiah 40:31

Obituary

Bennett Edward Higgins was born May 5th 1931 in Athens, Alabama to the late Joseph and Bertha Bishop Higgins. He was the seventh of eight siblings and the first son. His parents and three sisters, Addie Ruth (Dicey) Fletcher, Frances Ricks, Estella Woodard and an infant daughter, Sylvia Bennetta, preceded him in death.

At an early age, his love for God led him to become a member of Trinity Congregational Church, U.C.C. of Athens where he was a faithful Deacon and served as Moderator for over 30 years. At the time of his death he was Moderator Emeritus. While his health permitted, he was the planner and organizer of many church programs and activities. He served the ALA-TENN Association of the church as a member of the Church and Ministry Committee.

Because of his love for education, instilled in him by his family, Bennett graduated from Trinity High School in Athens, one of the few high schools in the south founded by the American Missionary Association. He continued his education by obtaining a Bachelor's Degree at Alabama A&M University (then College) in Huntsville, Alabama. He completed further study at Temple University in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. In 1952 while at Alabama A&M he became a member of the Gamma Phi Chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc. He later continued the bonds of brotherhood by becoming a charter member of the Huntsville Alumni Chapter.

Because of his love for country, he joined the United States Army and served during the Korean Conflict.

Because of his lifelong love of learning, Bennett chose teaching as his career path. He taught Science and Social Studies at Trinity High School and later at Clements High School, retiring after 34 years of service to the Limestone County School System.

His love of community led him to become one of the founding members of the Limestone County Branch of the NAACP. He held the office of chapter president for many years. He was active on the state level of the NAACP as treasurer. He attended many state and national conferences. He was also a charter member of the Limestone County Branch of the Alabama Democratic Conference (ADC) and chairman for many years. He served on the Limestone Democratic Executive Committee and served on the Planning Commission for eight years. He was also on the committee that was instrumental in forming the Clean Community Committee of Athens. He was a candidate for Athens City Council, as well.

Because of the spirit of entrepreneurship passed down from his father and grandfather, he became involved in the business world as co-founder/co-owner of Peoples Funeral Home, Inc. of Athens, founded in 1965. While his health permitted he served as Secretary/Treasurer and held the position of Funeral Director.

He was a proud member of the Masonic Lodge, Athelstine Chapter of Athens and he also served as Patron of the W.C. Morton Chapter 320 of the Order of the Eastern Star. He was the Sentinel of the Grand Lodge of the Order of the Eastern Star of Alabama. He was a charter member of the Kiwanis Club of Athens and a member of the Willie D. Griffis Post of the American Legion.

In 1957 he married Shirley Webb of Moulton, Alabama. They are the proud parents of two children; a son Bennett Dion (Charlene) and a daughter Melessa. They are the proud grandparents of seven; Latrez, Jordan, Mytasia, Mykus, Stecoria, Tucker and Mariah.

He is survived by his devoted wife Shirley, his loving children and grand children, loving sisters, Celestine Bridgeforth, Josephine Woodson, Kathryn Robinson, loving brother, Marvin (Betty) Higgins, devoted caretaker and friend, Kate Cannon and many loving nieces, nephews other relatives and friends.

Order of Service

Processional

Prayer.....Rev. William Robinson, St. James Cumberland Presbyterian Church of America

Scripture.....Rev. Eugene English, Little Elk Missionary Baptist Church
Rev. Robert Rice, Antioch Cumberland Presbyterian Church of America

“Amazing Grace”.....Congregation

Amazing grace! How sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me!

I once was lost, but now am found; was blind, but now I see.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and grace my fears relieved;
How precious did that grace appear the hour I first believed!

When we've been there ten thousand years, bright shining as the sun,
We've no less days to sing God's praise than when we first begun.

Words of Comfort.....Rev. Waymond Smith, Lowes Chapel United Methodist Church,
Huntsville, Alabama

Remarks

Church Member – Mr. Dana Harris, Moderator, Trinity Congregational Church, U.C.C.

Friend - Mr. Charles Durham

Community Leader - Rev. Barbara Clemons

Friend in Faith - Rev. Endia Scruggs

Son – Mr. Bennett Dion Higgins

Mr. Jerome Gray – Deputy Commissioner of Agriculture, State of Alabama

Resolution - NAACP

Solo.....Ms. Katherine Green Cosby

Sermon.....Rev. Gary Luther Myers, Pastor Trinity Congregational Church, U.C.C.

“Pass Me Not, O Gentle Savior”.....Congregation

Pass me not, O gentle Savior, hear my humble cry;

While on others Thou art calling, do not pass me by.

Refrain

Savior, Savior, hear my humble cry;

While on others Thou art calling, do not pass me by.

Let me at Thy throne of mercy find a sweet relief,
Kneeling there in deep contrition; Help my unbelief.

Thou the Spring of all my comfort, more than life to me,
Whom have I on earth beside Thee? Whom in Heav'n but Thee?

Closing Prayer.....Deacon Leo Turner, First Baptist Church, Huntsville, Al

“Battle Hymn of the Republic”.....Congregation

Mine eyes have seen the glory of the coming of the Lord;
He is trampling out the vintage where the grapes of wrath are stored;
He hath loosed the fateful lightning of His terrible swift sword;
His truth is marching on.
Glory! Glory! Hallelujah! Glory! Glory! Hallelujah!
Glory! Glory! Hallelujah! His truth is marching on.

He is coming like the glory of the morning on the wave,
He is wisdom to the mighty, He is honor to the brave;
So the world shall be His footstool, and the soul of wrong His slave,
Our God is marching on.
Glory! Glory! Hallelujah! Glory! Glory! Hallelujah!
Glory! Glory! Hallelujah! Our God is marching on.

Recessional.....”I’ll Fly Away”

Active Flower Bearers

Deaconesses, Members of Mary E. Perkins Missionary Society - Trinity Congregational Church
Mrs. Martha Witt

Honorary Flower Bearers

Trinity High School Class of 1949 - Mrs. Vernell Horton Cannon and Ms. Maggie Malone

Active Pall Bearers

Deacons, Members of Durham E. Bracey Men’s Fellowship - Trinity Congregational Church
Mr. Ronnie Witt Mr. Mike Bailey

Honorary Pall Bearer

Trinity High School Class of 1949 - Mr. Raymond Phelps

Ushers

Ms. Charlet Jones	Ms. Elaine Mahaley
Mrs. Lula Howell	Mrs. Bertha Fraser
Mrs. Doris Rogers	Mrs. Alyce Hines
Ms. Beverly Malone	

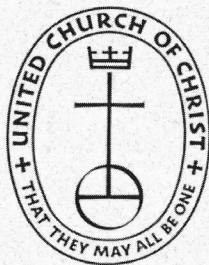
Turn in the River

Once I sat in Tyron Park in the city of New York, high above the Hudson River. I was watching a boat go up the river. Along many miles the boat was seen and with joy as the waves of its journey were watched. Finally the boat disappeared around a bend in the river, and I could not see it.

Yet the picture of its beauty remains in my mind. The thought came to me that life and death are much like that.

Each of us has a journey to make; part of it is made in the presence of others who journey in our way. And then a day comes when a part of it takes a turn around a bend. Yet all of us go in the same general direction – up the river.

So, if we remember the boat, each in his own time continuing his journey up the river, finds again those who journeyed ahead.



Acknowledgements

The family of Bennett E. Higgins thanks you for celebrating the life of our loved one with us this day. To relatives, friends, neighbors, former students, co-workers and all of our brothers and sisters in Christ, we thank you for all of the kindness, courtesies and most of all the prayers that have been extended to us during this difficult time.

To the entire staff of Peoples Funeral Home; you are our extended family and words simply cannot express the gratitude we feel at this moment and over our many years of affiliation. We love you.

We will miss him but let us strive to carry his legacy on to the future.

Peoples Funeral Home of North Alabama, Inc.

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"Service within the means of every Family"