



Willie J. Tyson

November 14, 1935 - March 17, 2020

Willie Jehu Tyson, 84, surrounded by family, peacefully left this world to enter his heavenly home on March 17, 2020. He was a resident of Perry, Georgia, since 1957. Due to issues associated with the current state of emergency, the family has chosen to conduct a small family funeral with only members of the immediate family in attendance. At a date to be announced later, there will be a memorial service where all friends and family will be invited to attend and honor the life well-lived of Willie Jehu Tyson. In lieu of flowers, the family respectfully requests contributions to Fellowship Primitive Baptist Church, c/o Brett Hardy, 302 Old Windmill Rd., Perry, GA 31069 or UGA CAES Eterna Fund at <https://t.uga.edu/5Lp>.

Willie was born of humble beginnings in a log house on an 80-acre farm in Tifton, Georgia, in 1935, in the middle of the Great Depression. He graduated from Tift County High School, attended Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College, and in 1957, graduated from the University of Georgia with a degree in Agricultural Engineering. Despite the difficult times of his early years, he was the first of his extended family to attend college. Following his lead, all three of his children and 8 of his grandchildren attended the University of Georgia.

After graduating from the University of Georgia, he moved to Perry, Georgia, and began working at Robins Air Force Base where he worked his entire career. He retired in 1992 as Director of Civilian Personnel Management. Even though his career took him away from his agricultural roots, he always maintained that connection as a part-time farmer raising beef cattle, hay, soybeans, and wheat on his farm in Houston County. He was a founding member and president of the Perry Saddle Club in the 1970's. He also maintained his connection to the University of Georgia College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences serving as a tireless volunteer for the Alumni Association, and as president of the Association in 1991-92. He was inducted as an honorary member of AGHON, an Agricultural Honorary Society in 2017. He was also a long-time member of the Houston County Farm Bureau and the Perry Kiwanis Club and was serving on the board of directors of both at the time of his death. Mr. Tyson was a member of the Primitive Baptist faith and was a long-time member and deacon at Fellowship Primitive Baptist Church in

Fort Valley. Mr. Tyson was preceded in death by his parents, Jehu Tyson and Nora Mason Tyson, of Tifton; his daughter-in-law, Mona Behrends Tyson; and two brothers, Carlton James Tyson and Floyd Hugh Tyson.

Mr. Tyson is survived by the love of his life, his wife of 64 years, Barbara Pitzer Tyson of Perry; a son and daughter-in-law, Anthony W. and Greta Tyson of Colbert, Georgia; his daughters and sons-in-law, Betsy and Reuben Flanders of Waycross, and Jody and Edmond Strickland of Perry; and one sister, Irene Tyson Self of Haynesville. At the time of his death, he had 9 grandchildren; 18 great-grandchildren, expecting two more; and numerous nieces and nephews. He was a family man who was immensely proud of all his children and grandchildren.

All who knew and loved Willie Tyson would agree with the words of our Lord from Matthew 25:21, "Well done, good and faithful servant."

Condolences for the family may be left in the online guestbook at www.watsonhunt.com. Watson-Hunt Funeral Home has been entrusted with the arrangements.

Comments



“ Stoney Pitzer lit a candle in memory of Willie J. Tyson



Stoney Pitzer - March 20, 2020 at 11:08 PM



“ Theresa Sledge lit a candle in memory of Willie J. Tyson



Theresa Sledge - March 20, 2020 at 09:29 PM



“ I did not know until yesterday Willie passed away. I worked with Willie in Personnel. He was always such a nice man. So sorry for the family.

Millie Smith - April 02, 2020 at 08:55 AM



“ Paula Weekley Speir lit a candle in memory of Willie J. Tyson



Paula Weekley Speir - March 20, 2020 at 07:40 PM



“ Jody, I just heard of your dad's passing. I am sorry for your loss. I will pray for healing for your family. Ray Stapleton, MADISON, Ga.

Ray Stapleton - April 12, 2020 at 06:05 PM



“ Sis. Barbara, we are so sorry for your great loss. We feel privileged to have known him and you. Hugs and prayers for you and all the family. Love, Edna & Daniel Strickland

Edna A Strickland - March 20, 2020 at 03:24 PM



“ We'll pray that God's peace and comfort will be with the family during this time.

Our families worshiped together within the Primitive Baptist Denomination during my younger years. I had the privilege of singing at one of his daughter's and son-in-law's wedding. Mr. Willie and my Dad would take on special construction projects together at their beloved Fellowship Church.

A persistent memory was of Mr. Willie's (and Ms. Barbara's) upbeat and positive personality. Even when seeing him in latter years, he would always ask genuinely and warmly about my family and I. I am thankful to have known him, and praise our Lord that he is now in a perfect place and with a perfect body!

James Clark

James Clark - March 19, 2020 at 09:55 AM



“ A great member of our community. I loved spending time with Mr. Willie at Kiwanis. Thoughts and prayers to the family.

Bob Lawson

Bob Lawson - March 19, 2020 at 09:02 AM



“ Ms. Barbara, Jody, Edmond and the rest of the family...we are so sorry for your loss of Mr. Willie. He was such a kind man with a huge heart. Our thoughts and prayers are with you all.

Love, Lisa. and Malcolm Giles

Lisa Giles - March 19, 2020 at 04:57 AM



“ Barbara, Edmond, Jody, and family. I am very sorry for your precious loss. My thoughts and prayers are with you. Love, Jeanne

Jeanne Giles Pierce - March 19, 2020 at 03:47 AM



“ J. D. Priest lit a candle in memory of Willie J. Tyson



J. D. Priest - March 18, 2020 at 08:04 PM



“ Barbara, Willie was such a great friend and boss. We liked to visit and talk-Willie talked-I listened-about our trials and tribulations at work. He always had my back when on occasion (rare) my mouth got in gear before my brain engaged. It was a privilege to have had him in my life. There are not a lot of people in a lifetime who rise to that level.

John Adkins

John Adkins - March 18, 2020 at 07:32 PM



“ Our thoughts and prayers are with all the family at this most sad time. Brother Willie will be greatly missed by us at Fellowship P.B. Church. His wisdom, experience and spirit were always a great benefit to the church and it's body. He served his Lord, and Savior faithfully, but has now attained his well deserved reward and rest. "I love you Brother Willie, and will miss you sitting on the pew behind me". Respectfully submitted, Joan Grant

Dan - March 18, 2020 at 07:46 PM



“ My thoughts and prayers for all the family at this time. Like the old church song says take "One Day At The Time" and cherish all the great memories. Tommy Cummings, Greensboro, Ga., retired CES Agent.

Tommy Cummings - March 19, 2020 at 06:33 AM



“ I have known Willie Tyson all of my married life, soon to be 47 years. He was one of the first people I knew when I married and moved to Perry. I shared a ride with him to Robins AIR force Base, when I was in my early 20's. We had some great laughs and stories during those times. He was a very good man, a true family man, with great faith, and the truest of principles. He always had a smile for me, and a twinkle in those beautiful blue eyes. I will miss him.... to all of his family, how lucky you are in having him as your loved one. My thoughts and prayers are with all of you.... Jane and Tommie Collier

Jane Collier - March 19, 2020 at 08:16 AM



“ Praying for the family.

Kay. Mooney - March 20, 2020 at 09:34 PM