



Austin Claude Brownlee

July 8, 1938 - April 26, 2025

Austin Claude Brownlee, age 86, of Laurel, Mississippi, passed away peacefully on April 26, 2025, surrounded by his loving family after a courageous battle with Alzheimer's dementia. He left behind a legacy of love, laughter, and unwavering integrity. As a man of his word, Claude believed that character and honesty mattered more than anything else.

Claude was born on July 8, 1938, in Laurel, Mississippi, to Austin L. Brownlee and Gracie Arcola Brownlee (Martin). He was one of fifteen children and grew up in a close-knit family where faith, hard work, and love for one another formed the foundation of life. He graduated from Beat Four High School, where he was a proud member of the football team.

A dedicated veteran, Claude served his country honorably in the United States Army. Following his service, he devoted his life to his family, building a legacy of love, strength, and hard work that will be cherished for generations to come.

Claude was a beloved son, brother, father, grandfather and great-grandfather. His greatest joy came from the time spent with his children and grandchildren, offering wisdom, laughter, and unwavering support. He found happiness in the simple things—telling a good story, spending time outdoors, and being present for the people he loved. A hardworking man, he never shied away

from a challenge; whether in the woods with his hunting gear or at home sharing laughter around the table, he lived fully and gave freely. His sense of humor and knack for storytelling made him the heart of every gathering. His values—honesty, loyalty, and love—will continue to guide his family for generations. He was also a devoted member of Oakland Grove Baptist Church, where he expressed his faith with humility and kindness.

Claude was preceded in death by his parents, Austin L. Brownlee and Gracie Arcola Brownlee (Martin); his sisters, Lucille, Linda, and Joyce; his brothers, Dallas, Gaddis, W.C., Calvin, Johnny, Jackie, and Ralph; and the mother of his children, Sandra Jean Brownlee (Walley).

He is survived by his son, Randall Claude (Lan Bach) Brownlee; his daughters, Donna Lynn Coad and Cynthia Gail (Ernest) Cleland; his grandchildren, Amanda Lynn (Jordan) Brawer, Oliver James (Alicia) Orleans, Mackenzie Grace Brownlee, and Peyton Austin Cooley; and his great-granddaughter, Brynn Diane Brawer. He is also survived by his loving sisters: Faye, Winnie, Annie, and Judy.

Visitation and funeral services will be held at Oakland Grove Baptist Church, located at 2475 Pleasant Grove Road, Laurel, MS. Visitations will take place on Wednesday, April 30, 2025, from 5:00 PM until 7:00 PM, and on Thursday, May 1, 2025, from 12:00 PM until 1:00 PM. Funeral services will be held on Thursday, May 1, 2025, at 1:00 PM, followed by a graveside service in the church cemetery.

Pallbearers for the services will be Justin Walters, Barry Saul, Larry Hodge, Cory Brownlee, Justin Brownlee, and Chuck Brownlee. Honorary pallbearers include Lan Bach, Ernest Cleland, Billy Livingston, Mike Brownlee, Ed Brownlee, Gary Dicks, and Wendell Ulmer. Luke and Laura Brownlee will serve as usher and greeter.

Memory Chapel Funeral Home is honored to handle the arrangements.
Flowers should be sent directly to Oakland Grove Baptist Church.

To sign the online guest book, visit www.memorychapellaurel.com.

Cemetery Details

Oakland Grove Baptist Church Cemetery

2475 Pleasant Grove Rd
Laurel, MS 39443

Previous Events

Visitation

APR 30. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Oakland Grove Baptist Church
2475 Pleasant Grove Rd
Laurel, MS 39443

Visitation

MAY 1. 12:00 AM - 1:00 PM (CT)

Oakland Grove Baptist Church
2475 Pleasant Grove Rd
Laurel, MS 39443

Funeral Service

MAY 1. 1:00 PM (CT)

Oakland Grove Baptist Church
2475 Pleasant Grove Rd
Laurel, MS 39443

Tribute Wall

JO

“ Alot of great times with the Brownlee family and the extended family of everyone that had the honor to visit the club land. Good people. Yall made the briars a legacy. Lay wit it uncle Claude.

Jonsey - January 11 at 11:40 AM

TF

“ The Holden Family purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Austin Claude Brownlee.



The Holden Family - April 29, 2025 at 09:10 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Austin Claude Brownlee.

April 29, 2025 at 01:15 PM



“ Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Austin Claude Brownlee.



April 29, 2025 at 01:15 PM

TY

“ Thomas Young-Raine purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Austin Claude Brownlee.



Thomas Young-Raine - April 29, 2025 at 09:51 AM

UL

“ I really enjoyed taking care of Mr brownlee... He was such a great person inside and out, heart felt and funny... What little time I had with him I enjoyed every moment. Some may be confused , sad and hurt but there's no need to weep because Jesus needed him more... I'm going to truly miss you Mr brownlee Love Ms lewis

urania lewis - April 28, 2025 at 10:42 PM