



Dr. Billy G. Lightsey

September 16, 1927 - April 7, 2015

Dr. Billy G. Lightsey, 87, beloved brother, husband, father, grandfather and friend died Tuesday April 7, 2015 at South Central Regional Medical Center in Laurel after an extended illness.

Visitation will be held at 1 p.m. Saturday, April 11, 2015, at Memory Chapel with the memorial service to follow at 2 p.m. Dr. Mark Anderson will officiate. He was preceded in death by his parents, John Oliver and Idell Lightsey of Heidelberg; brothers Clifton Lightsey of Heidelberg, G.R. Lightsey of Grand Prairie, TX, Oliver Lightsey of Jackson, and Luther Lightsey of Laurel and sister Lurlene Coleman of Louisville.

He is survived by his devoted, beloved wife of 65 years, Anna Sue Lightsey of Laurel. They were married November 26th, 1949

His daughter, Barbara Ann Lightsey of Atlanta, Ga and son, Steve Lightsey of Birmingham, Al with his wife Delora Lightsey lovingly remember Billy. He is survived by three grandchildren whom he dearly loved: Melanie Sue Curtis of Ft Payne, Al, Steven G. Lightsey Jr of Denver, Co and James M. Emerson of Brooklyn, NY and four great grandchildren: Jackson Green Lightsey, Alexis Curtis, Casey Curtis and Madelyn Curtis. Survivors also include his sister: Vivian Brashier of Heidelberg, nephews, Roy Brashier of Arlington, TX, Don Brashier of Heidelberg, Mike Coleman of Louisville, and Jerry Dale Lightsey of Grand Prairie, TX, nieces, Emma McFarland of Soso, and Freddie Kay Warren of Laurel.

Billy was born September 16, 1927 in Heidelberg, MS. He graduated with

honors from Heidelberg High School, served in the U.S. Army during WWII, earned an AA degree from Jones County Jr. College before attending Southern College of Optometry in Memphis, TN where he served as senior class president graduating in 1960.

Billy returned to Laurel and served the public through the practice of optometry for forty-two years. He was also a member of the Mississippi Optometric Association and served as its president as well as serving on the board of the Southeastern Conference of Optometry.

A distinguished civic leader, Dr. Lightsey dedicated his life to building and promoting civic organizations and was committed to community service. As a member of the Kiwanis club he served as president and also Lt. Governor. As a charter member of the Laurel Little Theater he directed a play and acted in several others. He was a member of the board of directors at Franklin United Methodist Church. In later years he moved his membership to First Methodist Church of Laurel.

In 2001 Dr. Lightsey made the decision to retire from the practice of Optometry and continued to work part-time for several years at an optometry clinic in Hattiesburg.

His hobbies included golfing, traveling, gardening, and enjoying the arts. He was an accomplished photographer sharing his photos from England, France, Spain, Greece, Switzerland and many other places with his patients while doing eye exams. During foreign travels he would combine his hobbies by taking pictures of beautiful gardens in far away places then bringing them home to those who may never experience those places. Billy's love for gardening was evident among many friends when he shared baskets of produce or flowers with them.

If you had the honor of knowing Billy, you knew him to be a man of integrity, honor, commitment and loyalty, as evidenced by the great number of friends who sought his advice and assistance in matters professional or personal. He shared with his daughter he felt closest to God when he was in his garden. However, the whole world appeared to be his garden for those whose knew

him best.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that memorials be made to the First United Methodist Church of Laurel.

Memory Chapel is in charge of the arrangements. To view and sign the family guest book, visit www.memorychapellaurel.com.

Tribute Wall

JF

“ Dear Sue, Barbara, Steve,
Our thoughts are with you, We will miss him.

Joan Flynt & Jodee Flynt-Davies - April 14, 2015 at 10:56 PM

L>

“ Sue we're sorry thought a lot of Billy.Love Bernell &Dixie

L>B>Adkins - April 11, 2015 at 10:36 PM

LW

“ Fond memories of Dr. Lightsey, especially while performing in LLT.
productions. He always seemed so happy & cheerful. He will be
missed by so many friends & family.

Linda G. Walton - April 11, 2015 at 11:50 AM

M.

“ God Bless You All. Sarah and Latrelle Bush Marvin Bush

M.L.Bush - April 10, 2015 at 05:58 PM

RB

“ You are in our thoughts and prayers. Always Rachel and Tim Howell

Rachel Bush-Howell - April 10, 2015 at 05:54 PM

KD

“ I am so sorry for your loss. It was such a pleasure to be able to work with Dr. Bill. We always looked forward to Fridays just because we knew he would be coming in with that sweet smile of his. I loved hearing the stories he would tell and loved the beautiful flowers he would bring. Whenever I see or hear about a sunflower I still think of him. Praying for comfort for all of the family during this time.

Kristi Mayfield Dugan - April 10, 2015 at 02:52 PM

PQ

“ Am going miss Mr.Bill as I use to call him.when I started working for Mr.Bill and Mrs.Sue,I felt a connection.Every morning I would come in I'll go straight to his chair where I found him sleeping every morning I'll go over and say good morning Mr.Bill and shake his hand and he would say good morning Paula and every time I would leave I would tell Mr.Bill I'll see you in the morning and you eat your lunch and he would reply ok and I would say you promise he said yes and I would tell him and Mrs.Sue that I loved them they became a part of my family.When I found out Mr.Bill had passed my heart felt heavy and tears started to come down all I thought about was that I have to go where Mrs.Sue is.Mr.Bill your in your beautiful graden now rest on am gonna miss you.God does'nt make any mistake.

Paula Quintero - April 09, 2015 at 01:08 PM

MS

“ My thoughts and prayers are with you.

Margie Smith - April 09, 2015 at 10:04 AM

DA

“ *My Uncle Bill. Some of my fondest childhood memories are of summer visits to Laurel, MS to spend time with my Grandmother, Aunt Sue (who I was named after) Uncle Bill, my cousin's Barb & Steve, along with "the rest of the family".*

Uncle Bill was a great Uncle! Even with a houseful of all the cousins, slumber parties, and all that goes with that, Uncle Bill was fun & funny. I truly cherish those childhood memories that are a part of who I am today. I'm grateful for family, the love and warmth I experienced, contributed to the woman I have become!

Thank you Uncle Bill for always making me feel welcome. My heart is there with you....

Debby Anderson-Schultise - April 07, 2015 at 07:02 PM