



Clark Jefferson Temple

April 17, 1943 - November 19, 2025

Clark Jefferson Temple, age 82, passed away on Wednesday, November 19, 2025.

Clark was born on April 17, 1943, and was a lifelong resident of Laurel, MS. He was also known to family and friends as Daddy, Poppa, Pop, Uncle Dink, Jeff, and J.D.

He was preceded in death by his parents, William Clark and Daisy Temple, and siblings Paul Temple, Nelson Temple, Louie Temple, Annie Temple Windham, Sudie Temple Lewis, Lamar "Skinny" Riley, Roland "Slick" Temple, and Nita Temple Phillips McRae.

Clark is survived by his loving wife of 62 years, Taleta Dukes Temple; daughter, Paula Marie Temple McElhenney (Jarvis); granddaughter, Miranda Leigh McElhenney Smith (Danny); and great-granddaughter, Finleigh Noelle Smith; daughter, Kristie Leigh Temple Sumrall (Dale); grandson, Samuel Martin Sumrall (Madison). He is also survived by his siblings, Brenda Temple Luckie, Floyd Temple (Cheryl), and Nell Temple Hopkins; as well as numerous nieces and nephews.

Clark had a very strong work ethic, devoting his life from a teenager to retirement as a steel fabricator at Laurel Machine & Foundry Company. After

retirement, he spent his days working with his dear friend Danny Byrd and sons Kris, Kevin, and Ken Byrd.

Clark loved to be on the go--outside lawn-mowing, fishing, or woodworking in his shop, and was well known for his bird houses and duck boxes. He always loved a challenge to fix anything! He enjoyed watching the Atlanta Braves and going to Southern Miss baseball games.

Clark had a very deep love for his family and friends, and his church family. He had a firm foundation of hard work and a devotion to faith and family. He was a servant leader and deacon as a lifelong member of Emmanuel Baptist Church and cherished his church family.

Clark was a loyal, strong, and determined man that will leave a legacy to his family of wisdom and truth in his good name. We are unsure as what we will do without "Poppa" with us, but we know he is reunited with those gone before him, and is with our Lord, waiting for his family and friends.

We would like to express our sincere thanks to the many people in our community who have prayed for our family during this very difficult time.

All family and friends are cordially invited to attend a graveside service on Sunday, November 23, 2025, at 3:00 p.m. at Emmanuel Gardens Cemetery at Emmanuel Baptist Church, 895 Lower Myrick Road, Laurel, MS, with Rev. Ken Harrison and Rev. Gene Douglas officiating.

In Clark's honor and memory, any donations can be made to Emmanuel Baptist Church, P.O. Box 2302, Laurel, MS 39442.

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

Cemetery Details

Emmanuel Gardens

895 Lower Myrick Road
Laurel, MS 39443

Previous Events

Graveside Service

NOV 23. 3:00 PM (CT)

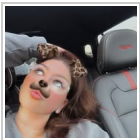
Emmanuel Gardens
895 Lower Myrick Road
Laurel, MS 39443

Tribute Wall

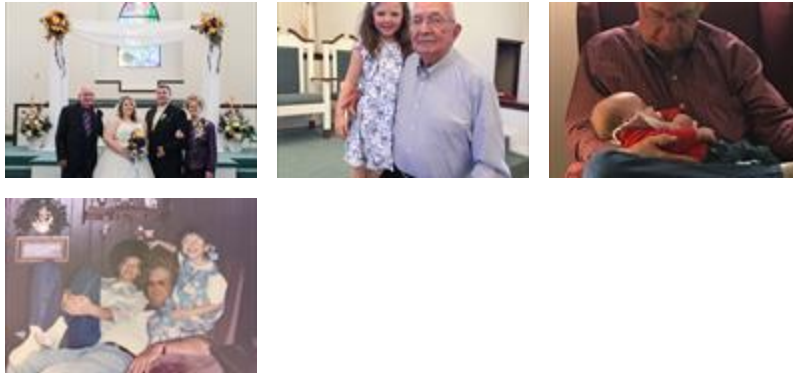
NS

“ I’m sorry for your loss. My heart sunk when I heard of his passing. JD was a mentor to me. I worked with him many years at Laurel Machine. He shared his knowledge with me. I’ve always been grateful for him taking me under his wing.
Neil Stricklin

Neil Stricklin - November 23, 2025 at 02:57 PM



“ We miss our sweet Pop! Life will never be the same without him!!!



Miranda Smith - November 22, 2025 at 01:19 PM

SF

“ Shannon Smith and Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Clark Jefferson Temple.

Shannon Smith and Family - November 22, 2025 at 12:27 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Clark Jefferson Temple.*



November 22, 2025 at 12:27 PM



“ *Uncle Dink was the one who helped me experience many “first time moments” every little boy dreams of. He took me on my first hunt, steadied my hands for my first shot with a .22 rifle to get my first trophy squirrel. He gave me my first rifle, passing down that same .22 rifle that I will soon pass down to my son. He took me on countless fishing trips, which he often blamed his lack of catches on my congestion and constant sneezing were scarring the fish away. He always made me laugh, telling me stories about when him and my dad were younger. Uncle Dink will be missed, his impact on the ones he leaves behind lives on.*



John Temple - November 22, 2025 at 12:17 PM

HB

“ I’ve known Jeff all my life that I can remember. When we were little kids he went to Powers School, I went to Antiock. I knew him then because we went to Sunday School and Church together. When Powers and Antiock were consolidated into Myrick we were both in the 8th grade. We played ball together, worked together and fish together. After school I saw Jeff occasionally at Laurel Machine. About a year ago someone told me Jeff mowed the Church yard every Friday. My wife and I drove by hoping to see him there but never did. I’m so sorry to hear about Jeff passing. Jeff Temple was one of the best persons I ever knew.

Hill (Jr.) Boutwell - November 21, 2025 at 07:00 PM

KD

“ I am so very sorry for your loss. He was a great man and a wonderful friend to my Daddy.



Kathy B Donovan - November 21, 2025 at 02:01 PM