



## Dewey Dunagin Blackledge, Jr.

August 2, 1942 - September 6, 2015

Dr. Dewey Dunagin Blackledge, Jr. passed away on Sunday, September 6, 2015, at his home in Laurel. He was the oldest son of the late Mr. and Mrs. Dewey D. Blackledge, Sr.

Funeral services are scheduled for 2 p.m. Tuesday, September 8 at First Baptist Church of Laurel with visitation Monday, September 7 at Memory Chapel from 5-8 p.m. Interment will be in Laurel Park Cemetery. Dr. Randy Turner, Rev Ben B. James, Jr. and Rev. Lindsey Blackledge will officiate. The body will be placed in the church at 1 p.m. Tuesday.

Dr. Blackledge was born on August 2, 1942. After graduating from George S. Gardiner High School, he received his Bachelor of Science degree in mathematics and business administration from Mississippi College. He obtained master's and specialist's degrees from Mississippi State University and earned the degree of Doctor of Education at the University of Southern Mississippi.

His profession spanned over forty-five years as a public school educator in the areas of teaching, coaching, administration, grant writing, consulting and conducting community education programs. In his early career he became the coordinator of the Distributive Education Club of America, which received numerous national awards.

Directorships included the Regional Service Center, the Safe Schools Project and the R. H. Watkins Vocational Center. In 1990 Blackledge organized and led a consortia of eight school districts in establishing the Southeast

Mississippi Regional Alternative Education Cooperative and was appointed as superintendent. More recently he served as education consultant with the North Carolina-based Centers for Quality Teaching and Learning.

In 2010 Mississippi College awarded Dr. Blackledge the distinguished alumnus for the Education and Leadership Department.

An active member of First Baptist Church, he held the positions of deacon and Sunday School superintendent and served on the building and planning committee for the FBC Family Life Center. He was a member of the Sanctuary Sunday School Class.

His civic duties included chairman of the Jones County Heart Association, fund-raising chairman and past president of the United Way of Pine Belt Region, past president of the Laurel Kiwanis Club and member of the Jones County Realtors Association.

Dr. Blackledge was predeceased by his brother-in-law Frank J. Campbell of Vicksburg and is survived by his wife Mary Jo Blackledge, two daughters Laura Leigh James (Rev. Ben) of Prentiss, Ann Adele Nettles of Pass Christian and one grandson Abel Nettles. He is also survived by two sisters, Ann B. Grogan (Ken) and Carole B. Campbell of Vicksburg and two brothers Lindsey Blackledge (Vivian) of Laurel and David Blackledge (Jan) of Vicksburg in addition to numerous nieces and nephews.

Pallbearers are his nephews, Kenneth F. Grogan, IV, Dr. William F. Campbell, Jonathan L. Blackledge, Joshua D. Blackledge, J. Lane Campbell and Matthew D. Campbell. Honorary pallbearers are member of the Laurel Kiwanis Club.

To view sign the guest book, visit [www.memorychapelarelaurel.com](http://www.memorychapelarelaurel.com).

# Tribute Wall

EW

“ *Dewey Dunagin Blackledge, Jr.*

Ellen Curtin Wong - September 11, 2015 at 03:11 PM

LW

“ *Mr. Blackledge was a super educator and also enjoyed the real estate aspect of the business. He will be greatly missed!*

Linda G. Walton - September 08, 2015 at 05:36 PM

TF

“ *Both of our families have lost so much in losing Mr. Dewey. He was so much to our family but most of all he was our friend. Our loss is Heaven's gain for I know without a shadow of doubt he is there now. No more pain or sorrow. He has gone to see his King. I find joy and happiness that I will see that wonderful smile and hear that booming laugh again when I join him, Ms Virginia and Mr Blackledge there. Our thoughts and prayers are with each of you. God bless. Willard, Thelma and Family*

The Donald Family - September 08, 2015 at 03:26 PM

AM

“ *I'm very sorry for your loss, Mrs. Blackledge and family. My prayers are with you and your family.*

Angela McKlemurry - September 08, 2015 at 01:36 PM

JR

“ *Mary Jo, my daughters and I extend to you, the girls, and Dewey's family our deepest sympathy. Dewey was a good man and greatly respected in his community. I know your loss is great and we are sad for you. With our love, Jamie, Renee' and Sheila*

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**Jamie Roddey** - September 08, 2015 at 12:59 PM

MD

“ *Dr. Blackledge was one of the best teachers I had at Watkins. He encouraged and inspired his students to be the best they could be. My thoughts and prayers are with the family as they say goodbye to this wonderful man.*

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**Mary Ann Wash DeSantis** - September 08, 2015 at 10:20 AM

BD

“ *My heart is sadden by your loss,which is our loss also. Your husband and dad was a great friend for many years. I will miss him as we all will. At the same time we rejoice because he is now home with his Lord..Know that we are praying for you*

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**Bill Durr** - September 08, 2015 at 09:59 AM

RR

“ *My thoughts and prayers are with you. Dewey was a good friend while at MC and I enjoyed being with him at our 50th reunion. May our great God wrap His loving arms around you and bring comfort at this time.*

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**Ray Russell** - September 07, 2015 at 10:36 PM

MM

“ Dewey was a gentle giant of intelligence and tenderness. He will be missed by all of his 1960 LHS classmates. May the family find peace in the knowledge that he is in our God's loving arms.

Margaret Mayfield Mayne - September 07, 2015 at 10:25 PM

GH

“ Dewey & I entered MC as freshmen & started a friendship that has lasted over 50 years. He has been loyal to his classmates & will be missed when we join for reunion.

George Houston - September 07, 2015 at 08:40 PM

NC

“ So sorry for your loss. Dewey will be missed. He was a good man. Prayers going your way. Nedra

Nedra Carter - September 07, 2015 at 08:32 PM

JC

“ Your family are all in my thoughts and prayers. Judy Cantelli

judy cantelli - September 07, 2015 at 06:30 PM

LK

“ Love & prayers for the family

Larry & Sarah Kitchens - September 07, 2015 at 06:16 PM

FE

“ Such wonderful memories as classmates at MC...praying that his loved ones are so aware of God's comforting presence during these days.

Farley Earnest - September 07, 2015 at 06:12 PM

DW

“ My prayers are with Mr. Blackledge's family. He was certainly a very respected and admired man. He touched, encouraged and mentored so many youth. I know he certainly made a difference in my years at Watkins. He will be missed.

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**Debbie Hinton Ward-Ewen** - September 07, 2015 at 05:55 PM

RJ

“ This news saddens our heart. We know he will be missed by many. Will remember the Family in our prayers.

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**Ralph and Charlotte James** - September 07, 2015 at 03:58 PM

AB

“ So sorry for your loss. Praying for God to bless you with comfort and peace during these days.

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**Amy Busby** - September 07, 2015 at 01:15 PM