



## Gosby Joe "GJ" Thompson

January 1, 1931 - May 26, 2020

On May 26, 2020, Gosby Joe "GJ" Thompson of Laurel passed away peacefully in his sleep with family by his side. A devoted husband and father, a longtime Laurel business owner, a cattle farmer and prolific gardener, and a humble man with an affinity for contemplation, Thompson's legacy proves difficult to embody in a few short paragraphs. Instead, Thompson's true legacy lives on in the many lives he impacted during his beautiful, God-fearing life.

Mr. Thompson owned and operated Thompson's Barber shop across from South Central Regional Medical Center in Laurel for over 40 years. Thompson also served his country for 2 years in the Navy Reserves and then for 4 years in the Air Force as Airman 1st Class, Radar Operator during the Korean Conflict in Anchorage, Alaska.

Mr. Thompson was a loving husband, father, and grandfather. He met his wife Janice in junior high school, and they were sweethearts all the way through Gardiner High School. Mr. Thompson's humility was especially evident in his relationship with his wife, Janice. Married for 69 years, his devotion to her was unmatched. Theirs will remain an example of a godly marriage for generations to come.

Mr. Thompson was also an active member of West Laurel Baptist Church all his life, where he served his Lord and church family. Throughout his life, Mr. Thompson remained grateful for God's blessings.

Even while working long hours as one of the city's most beloved barbers, he also loved raising cattle for the business he owned with his brother Herbert

Thompson, "Double T Limousine Farm". In his retirement, Mr. Thompson, could be found napping on his porch swing. Yet, he was always ready and willing to offer a haircut to family or close friends. Easy going and mild mannered, Gosby was never bothered, except when others were focused on him (in fact, he would be bothered to know that any of us spent time on his obituary). With a servant's heart, he was motivated by making the lives of others easy to navigate.

As a young man, Mr. Thompson, "Dig", excelled on the baseball field as a pitcher for the semi-professional Laurel Orphans. Later in life he developed a love for golf and even (famously) made a hole-in-one at the Dixie Golf Club, where he was a charter member. He also enjoyed fishing and hunting, but his favorite place to enjoy God's creation was the beach at Gulf Shores, Alabama. Mr. Thompson would often say, "If ya'll get to looking for me, I'll probably be down here on the beach somewhere." Anyone who knew Thompson knew him as a thinker. No doubt someone reading this obituary battled him in a week long chess match down at Thompson's Barber Shop. He is a treasured soul and will be sorely missed by his family and friends.

Thompson is preceded in death by his father Otis Thompson, Step Father Bill Martin, Mother Mae Landrum, and Step Mother Hazel Martin. He is also preceded in death by three sons, Larry, Gary and David.

He is survived by his wife of 69 years, Faye Janice Thompson, brother Herbert Ray (Joyce) Thompson, daughter Karen (Ken) Swager, Son Larry (Dora) Thompson, Daughter Kathy (Glenn) Smith, Five grandchildren Kelsey (Sean) Dobbins, Casey (Grace) Johnson, Nathan (Meryl) Johnson, Christopher (Linsey) Thompson, Tyler Thompson and seven Great-Grandchildren: Juniper Dobbins, Caleb Johnson, Evelyn Johnson, Kent Johnson, Emery Thompson, Aiden Thompson and Ryleigh Thompson.

Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, services for Mr. Thompson will be graveside only at Hickory Grove Cemetery in Laurel on Monday June 1, 2020 at 10:00 am. Rev. Steve Jackson of West Laurel Baptist Church will officiate.

To sign the online guestbook, visit [www.memorychapellaurel.com](http://www.memorychapellaurel.com)



# Previous Events

## Graveside Service

JUN 1. 10:00 AM (CT)

Hickory Grove Cemetery  
Intersection of 15th Street and Old Bay Springs Rd  
Laurel, MS 39440

# Tribute Wall



“ *Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Gosby Joe "GJ" Thompson.*



---

May 29, 2020 at 05:05 PM



“ *Steve And Marsha DeReamer lit a candle in memory of Gosby Joe "GJ" Thompson*



---

**Steve and Marsha DeReamer** - May 29, 2020 at 03:07 PM



“ *What a wonderful legacy of love Uncle Gosby left us! What a very special family. My love to you all. Jane Rawson*

---

**Jane Rawson** - May 29, 2020 at 01:35 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Gosby Joe "GJ" Thompson.*



---

May 29, 2020 at 10:53 AM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Gosby Joe "GJ" Thompson.



May 29, 2020 at 08:00 AM



“ Treasured Lilies Spray was purchased for the family of Gosby Joe "GJ" Thompson.



May 28, 2020 at 11:12 PM



“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Gosby Joe "GJ" Thompson.



May 28, 2020 at 11:12 PM



“ Let me tell y'all about this nice man 😞 He pushed his wife around all day every single Day he was very sweet and always happy I loved his spirit and this is so sad 🦋🦋🦋☐

Quinshay - May 28, 2020 at 09:24 PM

JP

“ Larry and family so sorry to hear of the passing of your loved one. prayers are with you all.

judy pitts - May 28, 2020 at 09:14 PM

JP

“ Judy Pitts lit a candle in memory of Gosby Joe "GJ" Thompson



judy pitts - May 28, 2020 at 09:12 PM

RD

“ Mr. Thompson was a very sweet and gentle man who loved his wife so very much. He would do anything she asked of him. That there is an epic love. -Rachel Ducksworth



Rachel Ducksworth - May 28, 2020 at 03:28 PM