



J. W. Fagan

November 15, 1919 - November 11, 2013

J.W. Fagan passed away Monday, November 11, 2013, at his home in Laurel. Mr. Fagan was born in Sanford, MS, on November 15, 1919, the son of Rev. J.W. Fagan, Sr. and Mildred Easterling Fagan. He attended Laurel City Schools and Mississippi College where he excelled in football and track and served as Senior Class President.

Mr. Fagan served as a fighter pilot for the U.S. Navy, Pacific Fleet, during WWII, declining a tenure with professional football. He was a life-long member of First Baptist Church, Laurel, where he served as Chairman and Superintendent of multiple boards, committees, and foundations. Additionally Mr. Fagan served Mississippi College as Alumni President, Board of Trustees, and was honored as Alumnus of the Year, 1989, and Member of the MC Sports Hall of Fame.

He was co-owner and operator of Laurel Wholesale Grocery for 25 years. His community involvement included a term as President of the Laurel School Board, Chairman of United Givers Fund, and participation in various other groups and organizations. He was active in Masonic work at the state and national level. Mr. Fagan's hobbies included golf, quail hunting, and attending sporting events.

Preceded in death by his parents, his sisters, Estelle Fagan Polk, Martha Lou Fagan Walker, Betty Dee Fagan Gann, he is survived by his sister Sarah Jo Fagan Smith.

Also preceded in death by his wife of 64 years, Anita Boteler Fagan and son,

Gregory Alan Fagan, Sr., Mr. Fagan is survived by his son Julian W. Fagan, III, two daughters, Virginia Fagan Jones (David) and Joy Fagan Brandon (Gary), 10 grandchildren, and 12 great-grandchildren.

Funeral arrangements will be through Memory Chapel in Laurel, MS, with visitation from 9:30-11:00 am on Thursday, Nov. 14, followed by a graveside service at Lake Park Cemetery. Grandsons will serve as pall bearers.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the First Baptist Church Foundation.

Tribute Wall

ER

“ *Finest man I've ever known. He will be missed.*

E. B. Robinson - October 05, 2015 at 02:42 PM

AD

“ *We have such fond memories of J.W., both as a client and as a friend. His warm, kind, spirit with truly be missed. Our thoughts and prayers go to his family and loved ones as they grieve his loss.*
Angela and Walt Dallas Jackson

Angela and Walt Dallas - December 12, 2013 at 03:30 PM

AH

“ *So sorry to hear of your loss.*

Ann Hodges - November 16, 2013 at 11:12 AM

GK

“ *Whereas it has pleased the Almighty God to call from our midst our venerable and beloved Illustrious Brother J. W. Fagan, thereby severing another link in the fraternal chain by which we are bound together — reminding us that we too are mortal and must soon be gathered into the land where he has gone before us, and admonishing us that in our lives we should remember death. The Fraternity loses a useful member and zealous brother; and, our state an honest, upright citizen. We deeply and sincerely sympathize with the relations of the deceased, upon whom this afflicting dispensation falls with crushing force. And from our altar we pray to Him who is ever with the mourners to deal lightly with them and bless them.*

- Gerald Klein Secretary, Itawamba County Scottish Rite Association

Gerald Klein - November 15, 2013 at 07:57 PM

JM

“ *J.W. is and was such an inspiration to us all. May God bless your family as you transition to the next phase of your life. May He give abundant peace, grace, and love.* ”

Jimmy McCraw - November 15, 2013 at 03:27 PM

JP

“ *Please know our thoughts and prayers are with you all. We regret being out of town and unable to be with you in person. May God give you comfort at this time. Our love, Joe and Carolyn* ”

Joe and Carolyn Payne - November 15, 2013 at 09:06 AM

GM

“ *I just wanted to share my condolences with the family. I know you probably don't remember me, but I am Happy Gibson's daughter. Our Dad's were the best of friends for a longtime and your Dad meant so much to my father and to my family. Please know that I am praying for your family in this time of loss. Mr. Fagan had a wonderful life and family and I know he will be missed.* ”

Glynda Maddox - November 14, 2013 at 10:33 PM

DH

“ *I am so sad to learn that we've lost Mr. Fagan. I've never met anyone who more epitomized the meaning of "southern gentleman". I'll always remember the Saints games we attended and the mornings on the treadmills at the Wellness Center. Rest well, my good friend!* ”

Dennis Henley - November 14, 2013 at 07:32 PM

WR

“ *My what a life he lived & shared with so many for 94 years. We still enjoy laughs and great memories of the years I worked at Laurel Wholesale with Mr. J.W. Fagan. He was such a good man & friend! Our prayers are with you!*

Willard & Ann Rose - November 14, 2013 at 10:37 AM

MJ

“ *Mr. Fagan was a fine man and a dear friend, and because of him my life was blessed in many ways and he will never be forgotten .*

MELVIN JONES - November 14, 2013 at 10:33 AM

WS

“ *My life is more meaningful and grounded, because of my friendship with Mr.J.W. My family will always be grateful for Mr/Mrs Fagan.*

Wade Spires - November 13, 2013 at 07:16 PM

JD

“ *Dear Family,
Our thoughts and prayers are with each of you at this time. Sherri and I have fond memories of him. He was an inspiration to all who meet him or shared even a single moment of time with him. Laurel has lost one of our greatest cornerstones.
Our love to each of you as you are in our thoughts at this time.
Johnny (JD) and Sherri Davis*

Johnny and Sherri Davis - November 13, 2013 at 06:44 PM

RH

“ *What a pleasure it was to serve at Mississippi College on the Board with your dad. He was such a gentleman and a picture of integrity. We will all miss his enthusiasm for life, the many contributions he made that had much wisdom, and the kindnesses that he showed to others around him. He lived his life in a great way, and we were privileged to know him. He will be missed, and we are sorry for your loss.*

Robert & Jane Hederman - November 13, 2013 at 04:44 PM

BE

“ *Deepest Sympathies to family of J.W. Fagan
Bill & Carol*

Bill & Carol Elliott - November 13, 2013 at 01:52 PM

JB

“ *My Dad, John Grafton, and your Dad were friends at FBC. They both were called to Heaven this year. They are rejoicing with loved ones but we miss them here.*

Judith Brown - November 13, 2013 at 10:06 AM

BC

“ *It was a pleasure to get to know Mr. Fagan when he served as a trustee at Mississippi College. His contribution to his alma mater lives on.*

Bettye R. Coward - November 13, 2013 at 09:53 AM

S(

“ Julian, Sorry to read about the death of your dad. I remember many good times when he and Anita would come to Amory to work on the property and also at football games when our children were young. You had him a long time (94 years). What a blessing. You and your family will be in my thoughts as you celebrate his homegoing!
Sandy

Sandy Bell (Atkinson) - November 13, 2013 at 09:31 AM

TM

“ Word reached us today about JW's passing, and it has brought back many good memories. Blessings on all of you, and especially Julian, Virginia Ray, and Joy.

Tom and Donna McKibbens - November 12, 2013 at 07:46 PM

GH

“ Julian--Gregg and I were so sorry to hear of your father's passing. But...what a long life that we are sure touched so many! Our condolences to you and your entire family. Sincerely, Gregg & Shirley Hilton

Gregg & Shirley Hilton - November 12, 2013 at 07:37 PM

JW

“ Mr. Fagan was a very fine man and friend, my prayers are with the family, God Bless!

Joe Walker - November 12, 2013 at 05:07 PM

SB

“ Thinking of all of you today. Mimi Barham died Nov. 11 also GS

Sharon Barham - November 12, 2013 at 10:53 AM