



## Jack Elton Burnham

May 27, 1935 - January 15, 2016

Jack Elton Burnham, son of the late George Enoch Burnham and Viola Craft Burnham, went to be with the Lord on January 15, 2016 at the age of 80, following a 2 year illness. A memorial service will be held at 1:00 p.m. on Tuesday, January 19th at Memory Chapel in Laurel, MS. Visitation begins one hour prior to the service. Burial will follow at Mount Pleasant Cemetery in Mize, MS. Rev. George Cornett will officiate.

Jack was born and reared in Laurel, MS. He attended LSU School of Music where he obtained his Master of Music Degree in vocal performance. He was a frequent soloist with the LSU A Cappella Choir, under the direction of the renowned Dallas Draper. He spent his life serving the Lord through his passion in music. During his career, Jack served as minister of music at churches including Colonial Heights Baptist and First Presbyterian in Jackson, MS. He was choral director at Callaway High School , where he produced respected choral groups including the Callaway High School A Capella Choir. He was a noted bass-baritone soloist for oratorios and operatic performances and was a member of the popular Maurice Thompson Singers for many years. Over the course of his career, Jack produced numerous recordings, including albums featuring his choirs and a gospel solo album.

In the 1970's Jack and his family lived in Mendenhall, MS, where he opened a real estate office and developed various properties. He served as minister of music at Mendenhall United Methodist Church, directed community theater productions, and created the vocal group, The Jack Burnham Singers.

Jack spent the latter years of his life in Granbury, TX., where his performances included a leading role in “The Promise”, a longstanding musical production of the life of Christ, performed annually at the Texas Amphitheater in Glen Rose, TX. His passion to invest in the lives of others and to develop young musicians led to the opening of a private voice studio. He served as music director of Thorp Spring Baptist Church until his retirement at age 77.

In 2013 Jack moved back to Louisiana where he was surrounded by family and friends, until his death. He is survived by his three children: Jeff Burnham and wife Debe Terral Burnham, Debbie Burnham Hebert and husband, Loree W. Hebert, Jr., Steve Burnham and wife, Genevieve Jones Burnham, his 6 grandchildren: Jeremy Burnham, Jordan Burnham, Joshua Hebert, Amanda Hebert Breaux, Nicholas Burnham, Brittany Burnham, and 11 great grandchildren. He is also survived by his sister, Doris Burnham, sister in law, Lucille Burnham, a niece, and four nephews.

The family requests that memorial donations be directed to a ministry of your local church or the Parkinson’s Disease Foundation.

Memory Chapel is in charge of services. To view and sign the guest register visit [www.memorychapellaurel.com](http://www.memorychapellaurel.com)

# Tribute Wall

BB

“ I was part of the A Capella Choir at Callaway High School (Class of '71). Mr. Burnham allowed me as a sophomore to join the Junior/Senior choir. I loved every second of it. I remember the recordings we did (and my door-to-door sales of the albums), and his constantly reminding us to "Hook it! Hook it!" i.e., to allow our voices to resonate in the head and not just from the throat. He had an amazing voice, just incredible. He could sing the National Anthem at a football stadium without a mike! He had us believing we were the best of the best. I remember boasting to a college acquaintance that we rivaled any college choir anywhere. Looking back I see how presumptuous my bragging was, but it was Mr. Burnham's gift to us to believe in ourselves and to do our very best. I pray for God's Spirit to give those who knew him, especially his family, comfort and peace.

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**Bud Bennett** - September 04, 2020 at 05:21 PM

DA

“ Everyone from First Baptist Church of Thorp Spring loved Jack. He was a special gentleman. He was one of our first new friends when we moved to Granbury, Texas from Indiana. He hired me as pianist at the church. My husband later became S.S. Superintendant. Our prayers are with all of your family. So sorry we didn't get word in time to come for his service.

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**Don and Darlene Atchison** - January 21, 2016 at 09:07 PM

DA

“ All of the members at First Baptist Church of Thorp Spring will remember Jack as a special person. So sorry we did not get word sooner so we could have attended his service. He was one of our first friends here in Granbury after we moved from Indiana. He hired me as pianist and later my husband became S.S. Superintendent. We enjoyed working with him. Our thoughts and prayers are with you all.

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**Don and Darlene Atchison** - January 20, 2016 at 09:12 PM

PF

“ So sorry to hear about Jack. He was very special to my parents, Lyn and Martha Wright, and my family. All 3 of my daughters took lessons from Jack. My dad would meet Jack for breakfast or lunch. After my dad passed away, I continued the tradition and would meet Jack. It was always so nice to get to visit with him. He could brighten up a day. I know he is enjoying a song with my dad today in a better place.

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**Patti Flanary** - January 20, 2016 at 02:39 PM

RH

“ So sad to hear about Jack's passing. He was well loved and respected here at FBC Thorp Spring. Wish we had know about the service, as many of us would have attended. Condolences to the family.

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**Richard & Kaaren Heffner** - January 20, 2016 at 11:56 AM

SW

“ I saw Mr. Burnham's obituary in the Clarion Ledger and wanted to express my sympathy to Steve and the rest of the family. My prayers are with you all.

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**Susan Kelly Walt** - January 19, 2016 at 07:04 PM

AS

“ My condolences to Mr. Burnham's family. Thank you, Mr. Burnham, for one of my favorite classes at Callaway.

AI Scarbrough - January 19, 2016 at 11:04 AM

FM

“ Mr. Jack was such a loving, talented man who was a part of our family while he was in Mendenhall. Our Mother, Mrs. Myrtle Phillips worked in the real estate office and we attended Mendenhall UMC. We know he is in a good place and leading the heavenly choir!

Flora Phillips McDonald - January 19, 2016 at 09:56 AM

RB

“ Jeff, Steve, Jack was so proud of both of you. He called me in the summer of '66 after our church youth choir sang at the then Colonial Heights Bapt. Church, He asked me to change my class choice from Industrial Arts to Choral Music. Without his call I would have never known the joy of knowing how to sing. I can't even sing in the congregation, let alone the choir without remembering what Jack taught me. He was a true inspiration which had affected my entire life. I can't wait to sing in Heaven's choir with Jack. God Bless you both. Robert Burns CHS '69

Robert Burns - January 18, 2016 at 09:32 PM

KB

“ I was a member of Mr. Burnham's Callaway High School Concert Choir during the first two years of Callaway's existance. He was an outstanding choir director and those of us in choir were very fortunate to have been under his direction. Immediately after high school, I used the techniques he taught us as the director of my sorority's song fest choir and we won first place. Callaway was lucky to have him!

Karen Bush - January 18, 2016 at 08:42 PM

DT

“ *My sincere condolences to the Burnham family. May your family find the necessary strength to endure your loss. Psalms62:8.*

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**D. Tyler** - January 18, 2016 at 06:51 PM

CC

“ *We are praying for your entire family in the loss of Jack. I knew Jack while going to school at Callaway. I was in the band and the band hall was right next door to the choir room. You could always hear Jack singing. He and I talked many times. I will never forget him.*  
*Craig Cummings*

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**Craig Cummings** - January 18, 2016 at 05:47 PM

KA

“ *Debbie, we are so sorry to hear about your father's passing from Loree. We send our sincerest condolences for your loss and pray you will find peace in your dearest memories and comfort from family and friends.* *Karen and Jan Adelman*

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**Karen and Jan Adelman** - January 18, 2016 at 04:04 PM

SH

“ *I owe my entire inspiration of a life time career of choral vocal music to Jack. I will miss him dearly!*

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**Stan Hayes** - January 18, 2016 at 11:56 AM

AB

“ *So sorry for your loss. God bless you with peace and comfort.*

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**Amy Busby** - January 18, 2016 at 11:52 AM

SM

“ *Extending deepest sympathy to your family. Was very saddened to learn of Mr. Burnham's death. I was a member of the choir at Callaway High School way back (class of 1969) loved that man. Prayers!*

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**Shellie Batte Matthews** - January 18, 2016 at 11:09 AM