



James R. (Pete) Bankston

August 6, 1928 - February 26, 2016

James R. (Pete) Bankston of the Mill Creek Community completed his earthly journey on February 26, 2016 and faithfully went to be with his Lord Jesus Christ at the age of 87. He is survived by Myrtis Hurst Bankston, his loving wife of 64 years. Mr. Bankston was born August 6, 1928, and raised in the Strengthford community by his parents Martin & Darrel Bankston. Pete and Myrtis have three children, including their daughter Marsha Bankston West and her husband Bruce; their son James Harris (Jamie) Bankston and his wife Derice; and their daughter Rebekah Bankston Breckenridge & her husband John. Mr. Bankston is also survived by his brother Frank (Shorty) Bankston and wife Otti, his brother Vondell Bankston and his sister Voncile (Sonny) Cheek. Pete and Myrtis's 8 grandchildren include Renee West Strickland and husband Barry, Leah West McAndrew and husband Jeremy, Meghan Breckenridge Ruelas and husband Kenneth, Jay Bankston and wife Monica, Meredith Breckenridge English and husband Caleb, Laura Bankston, and grandsons Daniel and Joshua Breckenridge and 2 step-granddaughters, Callen and Bailee Gibson. Pete and Myrtis were also blessed with 10 great-grandchildren. Mr. Bankston was preceded in death by his mother and father, brothers Edward, J. D. & Jack Bankston and sister Myrtle Bankston Rose.

Mr. Bankston served his nation in the U.S. Navy and played on the Navy's official basketball team while stationed in San Diego Harbor. He was an active member of Lake Congregational Methodist Church where he served faithfully

for many years as a deacon. He began his working career at International Paper in Moss Point before moving back to Jones County, where he farmed and raised livestock. He also raised, trained, and showed champion beagles. Mr. Bankston was a long-time member and past president of the Free State Beagle Club of Jones County and he traveled throughout the southeast showing and judging at field trials. He also took great pleasure in growing and sharing watermelons with family and friends.

Visitation for Pete Bankston will be at Memory Chapel on Sunday, February 28th, from 5 to 7 PM. Services will be held on Monday, February 29th at 2 PM in the sanctuary of the Lake Congregation Methodist Church on Highway 84 east of Laurel. Mr. Bankston will be placed in the church at 1 PM Monday. Mr. Bankston's services were scheduled to be conducted by Brother Bill Ross of Jasper, TN and Brother Ken Harrison of Dumas, MS with internment in the Mill Creek Cemetery. Pallbearers include Mr. Bankston's grandsons Jay, Jeremy, Barry, Kenneth, Daniel, Joshua and Noah. Representing Pete's longtime family friends and church family are Mr. Jim Easterling and Mr. Robert Mitchell.

Mrs. Bankston and all of Pete's family greatly appreciate all the love and kindness expressed in his passing.

Cemetery Details

Mill Creek Cemetery

2319 Mill Creek Rd
Laurel, MS 39443

Tribute Wall

RP

“ *Mr J.R. Bankston was a very special man. I greatly admire him and his family. He was my grandfather's brother but I called him my Uncle Pete. He was from a big family but his mother always said that Aunt Myrt married the best of her kids! Granny B was something.....She was right on that one perhaps. Much love to all, I hope everyone is doing well.* 🙏💜🇺🇸

Rob Price - October 29, 2023 at 11:11 AM

AL

“ *Strengthford School (Wayne County) has lost another alumni. Since organizing the Strengthford School Reunion in 2004, Mr Pete, his brothers and their wives enjoyed attending the reunion and he will be missed. Albert and Sara Landrum*

Albert and Sara Landrum - March 05, 2016 at 07:37 AM

JB

“ *Dear Marsha and family,*

Please know our thoughts and prayers are with all of you. You'll have a wonderful reunion one day.

*With love,
John and Roxie Bogart
Mt. Juliet, TN*

John and Roxie Bogart - March 02, 2016 at 06:10 PM

GB

“ Bro. Pete was as solid as a rock in his Salvation! He was an elder Deacon at Lake Congregational Methodist Church. Our whole service this morning was a tribute to Bro. Pete. It was officiated by our interim Pastor, Bro. Randy Cook. There was a photo displayed on our Media System at church of Bro. Pete and his dear wife which we all love so much, Ms. Myrtis. I want to Stroll Over Heaven With You was played because we all know that Bro. Pete is indeed Strolling Over Heaven. This has left a void in our Church that cannot be filled. We can say with Certainty that Bro. Pete is now walking on those Golden Streets of Heaven and holding hands with Jesus!

Love & Prayers to Ms. Myrtis and all the dear children and grandchildren.

*Love,
George & Sue Bridges*

George & Sue Bridges - February 28, 2016 at 03:49 PM

VB

“ We dearly loved this man of GOD.
He will be missed.

Vernon & Anne Byrd



Vernon & Anne Byrd - February 28, 2016 at 01:33 PM