



Linda Tabor Howard

October 22, 1943 - April 2, 2019

Linda Tabor Howard, 75, of Laurel, Mississippi passed away on April 2, 2019. She was born in Perry, Georgia, the daughter of Lewis and Laverne (Rammage) Tabor. She was educated in the Houston County school system in Perry and later attended Mercer University in Macon, Georgia, where she obtained her Bachelor of Arts degree in psychology with minors in business and Spanish and served as the Associate Dean of Women. Mrs. Howard went on to receive her Master of Education from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, North Carolina. She also performed doctoral level research at Indiana State University in Terre Haute, Indiana where she also worked as the Assistant Vice-President of Student Affairs. It was also while studying and working at Indiana State University that the then Miss Tabor met her future husband, Billy Wilson Howard, Sr.

She is devotedly remembered and survived by her beloved husband and best friend, Billy, who she has been happily married to for 48 years. She and Billy were blessed in life by her loving children and their families: Billy (Pam) Howard, Jr., Michael (Katy) Howard, and Cyndi (Kyle) McCoy. Mrs. Howard will also be fondly remembered and is survived by her eight, cherished grandchildren and their spouses: Mary Alice (Adam) Thornhill, Leslie Howard, Ellie Howard, Karly McCoy, Will (Mikala) McCoy, Anna Kate Howard, Andrew Howard, and Abby Howard. She was anxiously awaiting the birth of her first great-grandchild -- Tabor McCoy to be born in August of this year. In addition,

she is survived and will be missed by numerous nieces, nephews, and other family members and friends.

Mrs. Howard and her husband founded Howard Industries, Inc. in Laurel, Mississippi and together they grew the company into a billion-dollar enterprise, employing more than 4,500 people in Mississippi and building it to become the number one producer of distribution transformers in the United States. In addition to their transformer company, the couple launched their own trucking company, Howard Transportation, Inc., that now operates over 200 tractors and trailers in the USA as a wholly-owned subsidiary. In 1994, they began manufacturing electronic and HID ballasts, eventually expanding this into Howard Lighting. Finally, in 1998, they announced the development of a computer company, which is now a full-service technology company -- Howard Technology Solutions.

Over the years, Mr. and Mrs. Howard received numerous awards, including the 1995 Southern Growth Policies' Governor's Cup, 1997 Mississippi Exporter of the Year, Laurel Junior Auxiliary Humanitarian of the Year, Laurel-Jones County All Civic Award Hall of Fame, Entrepreneur of the Year, Southeastern Region Manufacturing Award, and the Mississippi Business Hall of Fame. In addition, Mrs. Howard was selected as one of the Fifty Leading Business Women of Mississippi by the Mississippi Business Journal and served on the Board of Directors of Mississippi Power Company and Mississippi FutureNet Technology Board.

Billy and Linda have collectively and individually made significant contributions to their area and state. As a team, they originated the local Adopt-A-School Program, established a grant program for all area schools (public and private), co-chaired successful drives to air-condition all city schools and build a high school practice field and weight room. They also funded the upgrading of R. H. Watkins' high school science lab, funded the language lab at a local

elementary school, and numerous other educational activities around the area. They co-chaired several local PTA's and sponsored numerous local youth athletic teams and air-conditioned all Jones County high school gyms. They were and continue to be significant contributors to numerous colleges and have instituted a company policy that pays for books and tuition for any employee to obtain BS, MS or other degrees.

Mrs. Howard has also served as an officer and member of the Laurel Little Theatre Board of Directors, Laurel Community Concert Association, Girl Scout and Boy Scout leader, Girl Scout Advisory Board Member, President of local PTA's, treasurer of R. H. Watkins High School Booster Club, and founding member of Laurel Ballet School Guild. She was also the Chairman of the Fund Drive for her alma mater -- Mercer University, an advisor on the Youth Court Board, and a docent for the Lauren Rogers Museum of Art. She was a member of the Daughters of the American Revolution, Chi Omega Fraternity Alumni Association, and a life member of Junior Auxiliary.

Funeral services will be held at St. John's Episcopal Church on Friday, April 5, 2019, with the visitation from 10:00-11:30 a. m. and the funeral service to follow at 12 p. m. The graveside service will immediately follow at Lake Park Cemetery in Laurel.

Arrangements are being handled by Memory Chapel Funeral Home of Laurel, Mississippi. In lieu of flowers, the family asks that donations be made to St. John's Day School or St. John's Episcopal Church in Laurel.

To sign the online guest book, visit www.memorychapellaurel.com.

Cemetery Details

Lake Park Cemetery

1303 Old Bay Springs Rd
Laurel, MS 39440

Previous Events

Visitation

APR 5. 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM (CT)

St. John's Episcopal Church
540 N 5th Ave
Laurel, MS 39440

Service

APR 5. 12:00 PM (CT)

St. John's Episcopal Church
540 N 5th Ave
Laurel, MS 39440

Tribute Wall

LS

“ My love, thoughts and prayers are with all of you. Praying that God will wrap his arms around you and give you strength to deal with your great loss. Linda and I grew up together in Perry, Ga. Our class was working on a project for our school and thanks to Linda’s generosity it is awesome.

Linda Davis Smith - April 06, 2019 at 01:53 PM

SG

“ Praying for God’s comfort to be made real for you-The Aubrey Green Family

Sue Carol Green - April 05, 2019 at 04:48 PM

KT

“ So very sad to hear of Linda’s passing. She touched so many lives thru her generosity to the schools & individual teachers. She was so special to so many people & will always be remembered with great affection from any one who really knew her!! I will always have fond memories of her when I worked for Howard Ind. My prayers go out to the entire family !



Karen Townsend - April 05, 2019 at 02:16 PM

SD

“ *Very sad to hear the news of Linda's passing Our thoughts and prayers are with Billy, Billy Jr, Michael, Cyndi, your extended Howard families as well as the Howard Industries team. Embrace the joyous memories of Linda and the positive impressions and contributions she and Billy have made throughout Mississippi and beyond.*

With sympathy,

Scott Dorn and the entire Spectrum Industries team

Scott Dorn - April 05, 2019 at 11:53 AM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Linda Tabor Howard.*



April 05, 2019 at 11:34 AM

WS

“ *With Love, from all of us at Carlson Sales purchased the Serene Retreat for the family of Linda Tabor Howard.*



With Love, from all of us at Carlson Sales - April 05, 2019 at 11:29 AM

ST

“ Linda was a pleasure to work with. In the short time I spent with her and Billy, I felt true care and partnership from Linda and her husband. It is not every day you come across such a sincere and refreshingly direct business partner. I will miss Linda and appreciate all she did in partnership with my company. I am sorry for the family’s great loss! You are in my thoughts and prayers.

Sincerely,
Steve Tuck

Stephen Tuck - April 05, 2019 at 11:10 AM

GJ

“ Billy, we will all miss Linda and are praying for you and your entire family at this difficult time. Gardiner and Bobbie Green

Gardiner Green, Jr. - April 05, 2019 at 10:51 AM

SM

“ I’m so sorry for your loss. You’re in my thoughts and prayers. I’ll continue to pray for your family.

Sharon P Murray - April 05, 2019 at 10:23 AM

PD

“ PowerTech, LLC - Jeff, Dorinda and Dean purchased the Beautiful Heart Bouquet for the family of Linda Tabor Howard.



PowerTech, LLC - Jeff, Dorinda and Dean - April 05, 2019 at 09:27 AM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Linda Tabor Howard.*



April 05, 2019 at 09:12 AM



“ *Thoughts and Prayers for your family.*

Joan Elizabeth - April 05, 2019 at 12:12 AM



“ *So sorry for your loss Mr. Billy, it was a joy to have met Mrs. Linda and get to know her. I know her grand children will truly miss her for she often told me how special family was to her. You were so supportive for her and may God be with you during this time. My prayers go out to you and your family.*

Dorothy McCullum SCRMC Wound Care - April 04, 2019 at 11:57 PM



“ *Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Linda Tabor Howard.*



April 04, 2019 at 11:05 PM

WT

“ So sorry to hear about Mrs. Linda, she was such a great influence in our community. She will be greatly missed! Our thoughts and prayers are with the family. Walt and Glenda Therrell

Walt and Glenda Therrell - April 04, 2019 at 05:36 PM

DR

“ So saddened to hear this news. I always enjoyed the trips to Laurel and the wonderful hospitality of the family. The entire Howard family is in our thoughts and prayers.



Don Raleigh - April 04, 2019 at 05:31 PM

YS

“ Your friends at Innovative Medical Systems purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of Linda Tabor Howard.



Your friends at Innovative Medical Systems - April 04, 2019 at 05:21 PM

WH

“ Wayne Herring, employees and family of Sandy Hook Machine Shop, Inc. would like to express our deepest sympathy and condolences. We will keep the Howard family in our thoughts and prayers.

Wayne Herring - April 04, 2019 at 05:21 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Linda Tabor Howard.



April 04, 2019 at 04:19 PM



“ Paul and Donna Long, former General Manager of Central Electric Power Association, offer our sympathy and condolences to the Family! You all are in our Thoughts and Prayers!!!

Paul D. Long - April 04, 2019 at 04:12 PM



“ Billy - We were so sorry to hear of Linda's passing...from this life to now be with our Lord. May God strengthen you during this time spiritually, emotionally and physically. We are praying for you here in Texas. We thank God for such a beautiful life that Linda lived.
Dr. Art Cleveland

Dr. Arthur Cleveland - April 04, 2019 at 03:30 PM



“ Linda Howard really loved community and all of the schools in Jones County. She was their best cheerleader. She accomplished a great deal in her lifetime and I feel honored to have come in contact with her. Brenda Dickerson Moss

Brenda Dickerson Moss - April 04, 2019 at 02:48 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Linda Tabor Howard.*



April 04, 2019 at 01:53 PM



“ *Russell & Jacquelyn Howard purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Linda Tabor Howard.*



Russell & Jacquelyn Howard - April 04, 2019 at 01:21 PM



“ *Larry Harris and Family purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Linda Tabor Howard.*



Larry Harris and Family - April 04, 2019 at 01:17 PM



“ *Francis, Randy, Faye, & Berenice Ong purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of Linda Tabor Howard.*



Francis, Randy, Faye, & Berenice Ong - April 04, 2019 at 01:11 PM



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Linda Tabor Howard.*



April 04, 2019 at 12:54 PM



“ *From all of us at Wrathall & Krusi Inc. purchased the Beautiful Whisper for the family of Linda Tabor Howard.*



From all of us at Wrathall & Krusi Inc. - April 04, 2019 at 12:45 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Linda Tabor Howard.*



April 04, 2019 at 12:36 PM



“ *Brandy Coulter lit a candle in memory of Linda Tabor Howard*



Brandy Coulter - April 04, 2019 at 11:27 AM



“ *Ocean Breeze Spray was purchased for the family of Linda Tabor Howard.*



April 04, 2019 at 11:18 AM



“ *Bright and Beautiful Spray was purchased for the family of Linda Tabor Howard.*



April 04, 2019 at 11:11 AM



“ *Lavender Reflections Spray was purchased for the family of Linda Tabor Howard.*



April 04, 2019 at 11:09 AM



“ *John Sharkey, Matt Thomas and John Sharkey Jr. Sheridan LLC purchased the Lily and Rose Tribute Spray for the family of Linda Tabor Howard.*



John Sharkey, Matt Thomas and John Sharkey Jr. Sheridan LLC - April 04, 2019 at 10:41 AM

DF

“ How do you describe this woman? She knew what she wanted and that made her hard in some people's eyes...but she knew how to make it happen....she had a vision and knew what it took to reach it, I call that extraordinary.



She had a compassion for children and helped to see that MANY children got to be a part of a school function, that without her help, they would not have been able to...and she could be funny, especially if she thought you were flirting with Mr. Billy...

I pray for peace for the family. it's been a long road and I know she is glad the journey is over. I pray Mr. Billy finds comfort and peace in knowing she is not hurting anymore. I pray for the Good Lord to give Mr. Billy strength for the days ahead.

The community has lost a tremendous woman and I hope she will be remembered as so.

I am so thankful for the blessing of knowing her.

Debbie Flynt

Debbie A Flynt - April 04, 2019 at 10:34 AM

TM

“ I am so sorry to hear this sad news..... I remember how beautiful Linda and all of the Howards treated me when I visited the plant during my days with Southern California Edison. Linda was so kind, sincere and a Beautiful lady..... May she RIP.....

Terry Moore - April 04, 2019 at 10:23 AM

LT

“ *Lenovo team purchased the Sweet Solace Spray for the family of Linda Tabor Howard.*



Lenovo team - April 04, 2019 at 10:16 AM



“ *Ocean Breeze Spray was purchased for the family of Linda Tabor Howard.*



April 04, 2019 at 10:11 AM

CM

“ *Chris, Kathy, Corey, Erin, Cole and Matt McCoy purchased the Vivid Recollections for the family of Linda Tabor Howard.*



Chris, Kathy, Corey, Erin, Cole and Matt McCoy - April 04, 2019 at 08:44 AM

JA

“ *Dear Howard family,
How sorry I am to hear about Mrs. Linda. So sad to loss one who has truly touched so many lives. I will remember her for her kindness and generosity and I am so thankful that I had the wonderful opportunity for our lives to cross paths, if only for a short time. God bless you all through this sad time.*

Janet Armour - April 04, 2019 at 08:17 AM

RW

“ *Ruby Williams lit a candle in memory of Linda Tabor Howard*



Ruby Williams - April 04, 2019 at 08:02 AM

HR

“ *Howard family,
My wife and I want to express our sincere sympathy for the loss in your family. Mrs. Howard was a lovely woman and a pillar to her family and the community.*

The one time I travelled with her we ran stop lights so we would not be late for our appointment, on our return she politely emphasized to me to stop on all red lights. The trip took place 25 years ago.

Linda Howard will "always" be missed!

*Sincerely,
Henry and Judy Rawls*

Henry Rawls - April 04, 2019 at 07:15 AM

RW

“ *Praying for the Howard family. Mr. and Mrs. Howard were a blessing to our family along with Kyle and Cindy. Mrs. Howard will truly be missed. So thankful I had the opportunity to know her.*



Rebekah Ward - April 03, 2019 at 11:23 PM

DH

“ *Dennis Henley lit a candle in memory of Linda Tabor Howard*



Dennis Henley - April 03, 2019 at 10:00 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Linda Tabor Howard.*



April 03, 2019 at 09:34 PM

FF

“ *From Frank Blanco and Family. purchased the Magnificent Life Spray for the family of Linda Tabor Howard.*



From Frank Blanco and Family. - April 03, 2019 at 09:11 PM

LW

“ *Linda and Billy were true friends to my family. They were always available to us and always spoke and talked to us one couple like them and We were truly blessed to have them as one of our true friends if I ever needed ANYTHING OR ADVICE THEY WERE There for us. Will surely be missed and one thing for sure no one can take her place. I Old time saying she was a crown jewel L. V.*

I v. walters - April 03, 2019 at 08:10 PM

LW

Mr. Billy and Mrs. Linda set a high standard of love, honor and commitment. They are loved by so many people. Their kindness and generosity was overwhelming! Mrs. Howard (GranGran) will be terribly missed but, forever remembered! They have graciously helped my son with the financial gift to achieve things he could otherwise only dream about! We love you both very much and will miss Gran Gran greatly! Our thoughts and prayers are with you Mr. Howard, and all of your precious family!

Lloyd, Laura and Aaron Waite - April 03, 2019 at 11:53 PM

MB

“ *Michael and I are so saddened by the news of Linda's passing. Hugs , prayers and love to all the Howard's. she was such a dear friend and such an outstanding community leader. We are proud to have called her friend, so proud to have raised our children together sharing travels and school events. Peace, comfort, ,and the love of our Heavenly Father be with you all .*

margaret brooks - April 03, 2019 at 08:03 PM

JB

“ *Johnny Blackledge lit a candle in memory of Linda Tabor Howard*



Johnny Blackledge - April 03, 2019 at 07:58 PM

CW

“ So deeply sorry to learn of Linda’s passing...my prayers for the Howard family in the loss of your beloved Linda...she was always so friendly and kind whether you saw her at a ballgame or a meeting/tour of educators. She loved life, her family, and giving back to community and others. I will always remember her Southern Hospitality! Rest In Peace, sweet lady!



Cheryl Wheelis-Lott - April 03, 2019 at 07:07 PM

GS

“ So sorry for the loss of Mrs Linda. Praying for all the family during this time of sorrow. May God Bless ya.
Danny Roy and Glenda Spradley

Glenda Spradley - April 03, 2019 at 06:01 PM

KD

“ Karla Lee Davis lit a candle in memory of Linda Tabor Howard



Karla Lee Davis - April 03, 2019 at 05:56 PM

TK

“ *Though I am saddened by this news, I am thankful that I had an opportunity to meet Mrs. Linda. I will keep each of you in my prayers.*

*Sincerely,
Tamatha Knight*

Tamatha Knight - April 03, 2019 at 04:21 PM