



## Thomas Morgan Coats

April 13, 1932 - August 27, 2011

Thomas M. Coats, 79, of the Gitano community, died August 27, 2011 in Laurel.

Services will be held at 10 am Wednesday, August 31, 2011 at Memory Chapel with burial to follow at Coats Cemetery. Rev. Daryl Coats will officiate. Mrs. Coats was born April 13, 1932 in Magee to James Buchanan and Arlene Valentine Coats. He was a graduate of Soso High School and married Essie Voncile Crain in 1955.

He served in the United States Army during the Korean War as an infantryman with the Seventh Cavalry. During this time he earned the combat infantry badge and four major battle stars. He later served in the United States Air Force rising to the rank of Tech Sergeant and was a veteran of the Vietnam War. He retired from the military in 1972 after twenty-three years of service. Mr. Coats then settled in the Gitano Community with his family where he served the City of Soso as a policeman for ten years. He was a member of Old Antioch Baptist Church.

Mr. Coats was preceded in death by four older brothers, Jack, Burnell, Edsel and Fred and his older sister, Sybil.

Mr. Coats is survived by his wife, Essie Voncile Coats of the Gitano community; three sons, Daryl R. Coats and wife Victoria of Finland, Danny T. Coats and wife Sharon of Lancaster, CA and Dwayne R. Coats and wife Michele of Pascagoula; 18 grandchildren; 2 great grandchildren; and one sister, Joy Hilbun of the Gitano community.

Pallbearers will be Danny Coats, Dwayne Coats, Dustin Coats, Christopher Coats, Daniel Coats and Michael Coats.

Visitation will be held from 9 am until the time of service at Memory Chapel of Laurel which is in charge of the arrangements.

# Tribute Wall

MP

“ *May the Lord cover your family with the comfort and hope only He can provide. With much sympathy, love and prayers,*  
*David & Deb Porter*

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**Mr & Mrs David Porter** - August 31, 2011 at 08:52 AM

RS

“ *Dwayne and family, Psalm 121: 1& 2 says: I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help. My help cometh from the Lord, which made heaven and earth. Take care and God Bless all of You.*

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**Robin Simon** - August 30, 2011 at 04:15 PM

MH

“ *Thinking about and praying for all of you.*

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**Margaret Ann Harrison** - August 30, 2011 at 11:53 AM

CB

“ *daryl and family i was sorry to hear about your dad, but we know where he is and that makes heaven a little sweeter. we can look forward to the day when we can be reunited with our loved one*

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**carolyn blakeney** - August 29, 2011 at 03:30 PM