



Victor C. West

August 27, 1924 - April 13, 2016

Victor C. West, 91, a business and community leader in Laurel, passed away at his home, surrounded by family, on Wednesday, April 13, 2016.

Visitation will be noon-2 p.m. today (Saturday) at Memory Chapel of Laurel. The funeral service will be at 2 p.m. at Memory Chapel followed by interment at Sunset Gardens. Brother Rod Smith will officiate.

West grew up in the Strengthford Community of Wayne County and went to Jones County Agricultural High School in Ellisville. After graduating in 1942, he enlisted in the U.S. Navy and served in World War II in the Pacific and Atlantic until the end of the war.

When he returned, he went to work for Southern Bell Telephone and married the former Louise Parrish in 1946. They would have celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary on April 20.

West worked for the phone company for 21 years before opening a Kentucky Fried Chicken franchise in Laurel in 1967. With the success of that first business, he soon opened two more KFCs and from that, West Quality Foods was born. At the time of his death, WQF had more than 70 eateries in four Southeastern states, including 55 in Mississippi. His four sons and two grandchildren work in the family business. West often said that the support of

his wife Louise early on was the reason for the success of the business. They ate lunch together most Sundays at his one-of-a-kind hometown restaurant Vic's Biscuits and Burgers.

West served as president of the Southeastern KFC Franchisee Association in 1983 and was a longtime board member. In 2004, he won the PETE (People Encouraging Talent and Excellence) award, which is the highest honor KFC Corporation awards to a franchisee. He was the 1996 Jones County Junior College Alumnus of the Year and he served on the JCJC Foundation board. He also served on the boards of South Central Regional Medical Center and the Salvation Army. He was a member of West Laurel Baptist Church.

West was a past president of the Laurel Shrine Club and he was a member of the Laurel Masonic Lodge 414 A&FM, Laurel York Rite Bodies, Meridian Scottish Rite Bodies (32nd degree). He was a member of the Hamasa Shriners Laurel Motor Corps.

He was preceded in death by parents William Ward West and Errette Walters West; brothers Marvin, Paul and Ronnie West; and sisters Ann Baucum Brooks and Maxine Stringer.

Survivors include his wife Louise West; sons Dick (Pat) West, Bill (Pam) West, Steve (Cherie) West and Tim (Theresa) West; grandchildren Ken (Debbie) West, Mike (Crystal) West, Gary (Meredith) West, Kristin West, Lauren Busby, Marcy (Slade) Crawford, Aleza (Lee) Boyette, Aaron (Winn) Walker and Alex Walker; 16 great-grandchildren; and a host of nieces and nephews.

The family offered special thanks to home-care sitters Ricky Nicholson, Cheri Harris, Mary Hill, Liz Nicholson, Cyndy Thornton, Lavon Hicks and Velinda Thigpen.

Pallbearers will be Mike West, Ken West, Gary West, Lee Boyette, Donnie West and Alex Walker.

Dr. Aremmia Tanious, Dr. John Hassell and the Hamsa Shriners Laurel Motor Corps will serve as an honorary pallbearers.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that memorials be made to the Hamasa Shriners Transportation Fund at 5516 Dale Dr., Marion, MS 39342.

Memory Chapel is in charge of arrangements. Condolences may be made to the family at www.memorychapellaurel.com.

Cemetery Details

Sunset Gardens Cemetery

1206 Wansley Road
Laurel, MS 39440

Previous Events

Visitation

APR **16**. 12:00 PM (CT)

Memory Chapel Funeral Home
3100 Audubon Drive
P. O. Box 674
Laurel, MS 39440
(601) 428-5235
memorychapel@comcast.net
<https://www.memorychapellaurel.com/>

Service

APR **16**. 2:00 PM (CT)

Memory Chapel Funeral Home
3100 Audubon Drive
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Tribute Wall

LC

“ *Lin Roman, Brad Corbelli lit a candle in memory of Victor C. West*



lin roman, brad corbelli - May 07, 2016 at 12:21 AM

LC

Vic was the most special person we have ever met. Self made, hard charging, funny, loving, charitable, quick witted and downright amazing. We love you Vic and send our prayers to you and your dear wife Lou. Your friends and family won't likely meet another like you in their life time. Rest well dear friend. Love, Lin and Brad

lin roman, brad corbelli - May 07, 2016 at 12:25 AM

PM

“ *Jack Marshall Foods, Inc. in Tuscaloosa, AL is deeply saddened to hear about the loss of our friend and fellow KFC Franchisee. Please know that we are praying for your family during this difficult time.*

Philli Marshall - April 19, 2016 at 03:28 PM

JF

“ *Steve and family, we are so sorry for the loss of your dad. We have so many wonderful memories of your family and of the old neighborhood on Wansley Road. He always had a smile and big greeting for everyone! I know you are proud of his contributions to our community. He will be greatly missed. Please give our regards to your mom. Jodee Flynt-Davies and Joan Flynt.*

Jodee Flynt-Davies - April 19, 2016 at 12:48 PM

RG

“ Steve and Family: May the Peace of Christ be with all of you now and the days ahead. Please know that we are praying for you . He was a great person and my family always thought so much of him and your mother. Please hug her for us. Love always, from Rick and Roma Rahaim Graham and family and Walterine Rahaim.



Roma Rahaim Graham - April 17, 2016 at 03:37 PM

JS

“ One Of The Greatest Men I Know. Sure Will Miss Him.

john slaton - April 16, 2016 at 03:57 PM

EG

“ Ellen And Darrell Graves lit a candle in memory of Victor C. West



Ellen and Darrell Graves - April 16, 2016 at 09:42 AM

RK

“ We are sorry for your family's loss.
Bro. Jimmy Knight
Former pastor, West Laurel Baptist Church, 2004

Rev. Jimmy Knight - April 15, 2016 at 05:10 PM

JO

“ *Mr. West was a founder of KFC and helped build a great brand and company. He paved a path for so many others to follow and prosper. He will be missed but the family will carry on his legacy.*

James Olson - April 15, 2016 at 05:08 PM

JP

I will never forget our trips to the Kentucky Derby.,each trip was more fun than the last. My uncle Randall Dawson loved Vic. He gave Vic a set of glasses with his favorite bridge that he built a Cumberland Gap. Frank said Randall liked Vic more than him because Frank never got them. It was a great joke between them. Frank and Vic shared the same birthday, ten years apart. You will be sorely missed dear friend

Judy pilgrim - April 16, 2016 at 11:35 AM

AR

Steve -- sorry to read of your loss. Mother and I have you'all in our prayers. Mother was one of the first people your Dad heired when he opened the first KFC in Laurel. Angela Angie Young) Rayner-Phillips (my mother is Shirley Sumrall-Young-Fowler.at 8:11 PM 4/16/16

Angela Rayner-Phillips - April 16, 2016 at 08:14 PM

PC

“ *Dick and Tim - so sorry to hear of your loss. My family and I will pray for your family in your time of need.*

Patrick Coty - April 15, 2016 at 04:06 PM

BP

“ *So sorry to hear about Mr. West. He will be missed by so many people. Our thoughts and prayers are with all of you during this difficult time. Brenda (Todd) & Tommy Powell*

Brenda (Todd) & Tommy Powell - April 15, 2016 at 03:10 PM

JB

“ *Mr. West loved his wife and family very much and always had a smile on his face. I'll always remember his fondness for suspenders, and he had some cool ones. I'm praying for all of you during this difficult time and I know he will continue to watch over all of you.*

--Jaime Boler

Jaime Boler - April 15, 2016 at 01:02 PM



“ *Strength & Solace Spray was purchased for the family of Victor C. West.*



April 15, 2016 at 12:22 PM

AB

“ *So sorry for your loss. Praying for God's comfort and peace during these days.*

Amy Busby - April 15, 2016 at 10:02 AM

AL

“ *The 13th Strengthford School Reunion will honor his memory at our annual reunion at the Strengthford Masonic Lodge later this month. We will be proud to honor him as an alumni of the school in Wayne County that closed in 1957 to consolidate with Clara School and Beat Four School. Albert and Sara Landrum*

Albert and Sara Landrum - April 14, 2016 at 08:12 PM

PM

“ We extend our deepest sympathy to the entire West family. Find comfort in the Word of God where it tells us that to be absent in the body is to be present with the Lord. Mr. West is now at rest with his Lord and Savior. May God's peace be with you all during this time. Look to the hills from which comes your help...your help comes from the Lord. We love you and will continue to pray for you.

Preston & Jackee McClee

Preston & Jackee McClee - April 14, 2016 at 07:53 PM

DW

“ We express our sorrow to the family of Mr. Victor West. We pray our Lord's love, comfort, and strength for each of you.

Dan and Rachel West - April 14, 2016 at 07:52 PM