



## Vincent Gradie Scoper

May 15, 1933 - September 14, 2014

Senator Vincent Gradie Scoper

Senator Vincent Gradie Scoper, 81, died at his home in Laurel, MS, on Sunday, September 14, 2014 of esophageal cancer. He was surrounded by family as a peaceful transition was made to be with his Lord Jesus Christ.

Funeral services will be held at First Baptist Church, Laurel, MS on Wednesday, September 17, 2014 at 2:00 pm followed by a graveside service at Lake Park Cemetery. Visitation will be held the evening before on Tuesday, September 16, 2014 from 5:00 pm until 8:00 pm at Memory Chapel Funeral Home in Laurel.

Born May 15, 1933 in Pass Christian, MS to Vincent Gradie Scoper, Sr. and Bertha Scarborough Scoper, young Scoper was an outstanding student and star athlete at Pass Christian High School, Perkinson Community College and Mississippi State University.

Vincent Scoper will always be remembered as a man of character and kindness. Former colleagues in the Mississippi House of Representatives and the Mississippi State Senate, members of his church and his profession have always spoken of him as an honorable man who was respected by all. He was a statesman, politician, business owner, church leader, author and athlete. But more importantly, he was truly a man of God. He never hesitated in expressing his faith through teaching a Men's Bible Class, serving as Sunday School Director and a deacon at First Baptist Church of Laurel. He also served as the Moderator of the Jones County Baptist Association.

Scoper was a self-made man, being the first of his family's generation to earn a college degree. He excelled in baseball, football, golf and tennis and was ranked #1 on the Mississippi State University Tennis Team. Upon his graduation in 1955, he was honored with the MSU Algernon Sydney Sullivan Award for Character and Scholastic Achievement.

After graduating from Mississippi State University with a B.S. in Geology, he married the former Dell Thompson Dickins of Leland, MS and they moved to Grande Isle, LA for his first position as a petroleum geologist with Humble Oil Company (later Exxon). They were later transferred to Laurel where they started their family, having two children, Stephen and Cynthia. When asked by Humble Oil to transfer away from Laurel, Vince and Dell made a conscious decision to stay and make Laurel their home. Vincent began work as a consulting petroleum geologist and in 1972, bought Mississippi Gauge and Supply Company. Having a strong work ethic all of his life, he continued to work full time up until three weeks before his death.

To fill a need in helping laymen understand the technicalities of the oil industry, Scoper wrote *Come Drill a Well in My Backyard*. Since its publication in the late 1960's, orders are still coming in with over 75,000 copies sold. Senator Scoper began his political career in 1968 when he was elected as a Jones County Election Commissioner, becoming the first elected Republican since Civil War Reconstruction and laying the ground work for the present day Republican Party in Jones County and Mississippi. He served 28 years in the Mississippi State Legislature; two terms in the House of Representatives and five terms in the Mississippi State Senate. Scoper spent his entire Senate career on the Oil & Gas Committee, serving as Vice-chairman and Chairmen. Working for the betterment of the state of Mississippi, he served on the following House and Senate Committees: Finance, Forestry, Constitution, Highways, Labor, Environment, Public Property, Public Utilities, Municipal Fees, Salaries, and Banking. The Nixon administration appointed him to the U.S Department of Transportation's National Citizens Advisory Committee on Quality Transportation. During Governor Fordice's Administration he was

appointed to serve on the National Energy Council which is made up of 10 countries in North and South America.

Besides being a champion of the oil industry, Scoper was also a champion for the civic progress of Laurel and all communities in Jones County. He served as Campaign Chair and then as President of the United Way of Jones County. He was a member of the Laurel Rotary Club and served on the Executive Committee of the Jones County Republican Party. Scoper spoke fondly of receiving the "Citizen of the Year" Award for Laurel in 2003. "I enjoyed having a hand in working on the future of our community and state" he said at the time.

Vince Scoper was an avid and accomplished golfer his entire life. He enjoyed his status of being the oldest active golfer at the Laurel Country Club.

He was preceded in death by his father, Vincent Gradie Scoper, Sr.; his mother, Bertha Scarborough Scoper; his brother, Gordon A. Scoper; his brother and sister-in-law, Gerald L. Scoper and Gayle Scoper. He is survived by his wife, Dell Dickins Scoper; his son and daughter-in-law, Stephen V. Scoper, MD and Nancy P. Scoper of Virginia Beach; his daughter and son-in-law, Cynthia D. Scoper Folmar and David S. Folmar of Dallas; his sister-in-law, Kathryn S. Scoper; his sister-in-law and brother-in-law, Dorothy Dickins O'Neill and Thomas R. O'Neill; six grandchildren: Elizabeth P. Scoper, Julia B. Scoper, Gradie G. Folmar, Stokes S. Folmar, Laurel D. Folmar, Tatum J. Folmar; and seven nephews and nieces: Scott G. Scoper, Genie Scoper Howard, Kristin Scoper Hopper, Wendy Scoper O'Connor, Shannon Scoper Keute, John D. O'Neill and Jennifer D. Brammell.

Pallbearers will be Gradie Folmar, Stokes Folmar, Scott Scoper, Roy Ward, James Holifield, Terry Caves, Carey Hauenstein, Eric Lindstrom, MD, and Mark Horne, MD.

Memorial gifts may be sent to the First Baptist Church of Laurel Foundation, the Mississippi Baptist Disaster Relief, and the Lauren Rogers Museum of Art.

# Tribute Wall

VG

“ Dear Mrs. Scoper and family, We were so sorry to hear of your loss. After reading Mr. Scoper's obituary, he sounds like an amazing man after God's heart. Please accept our condolences for your loss. Sincerely, Valley of Fire Chapter, Nevada DAR Alexx Green, Chaplain

Valley of Fire Chapter, NV Chaplain Alexx Green - October 08, 2014 at 09:08 AM

NN

“ The Nevada State Society, Daughters of the American Revolution, send their sincere sympathy to the Scoper family. The joy of the Lord is our strength.

Nevada State Society NSDAR - September 24, 2014 at 11:35 PM

JF

“ I was so very sorry to hear of Vincent's passing. He was a kind, generous, caring person who lived his faith. My heart and love goes out to Dell and the whole family. Much love to you all.

Jamie Berry Federick - September 19, 2014 at 01:52 PM

RM

“ On behalf of the Yuma Arizona chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution we sent our sincere sympathy to the bereaved family. God is always with you. Amen

Regent Bonnie McGill - September 18, 2014 at 11:46 PM

AW

“ My sympathy

Alice Walker - September 18, 2014 at 02:22 PM

PG

“ Shirley and I offer our prayers and thoughts to you. May God keep you in His hands. Pink

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**Pink Gorman** - September 18, 2014 at 12:40 PM

LP

“ I thank you, Mrs.Dell, for sharing your wonderful husband with golf, God, and the GOP. MS is the richer for his dedication and the world is poorer at his loss.  
I am grateful that he shared you with DAR and thank you for your service. The world rejoices at a loyal HODAR!  
May God comfort and strengthen you and your family until you and Mr. Vince are reunited.

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**Lynn Wallace Kinsell, Ph.D.** - September 18, 2014 at 12:10 PM

LW

“ To Dell and family members: Mr. Scoper was a gentle, kind, excellent political servant & friend to all in the Laurel/Jones County community. His service & faithfulness to the community, friends, and family will be greatly missed. Thoughts and prayers are with you...Linda G. WaltonM

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**Linda G. Walton** - September 18, 2014 at 10:03 AM

GD

“ Mrs. Scoper, General Daniel Newnan Chapter, Georgia Society, National Society Daughters of the American Revolution presents greetings and extends condolences to you and your family. We are so sorry for your loss. May the Lord guide you and encourage you as you begin another chapter of service to Him. With Great Respect, Judy Gagliano Chaplain

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**General Daniel Newnan DAR** - September 17, 2014 at 10:55 PM

BJ

“ *My thoughts are with your family today. I have sweet memories of talking with Vince. He always leaned down toward me and really listened to what I was saying! He was a great man.*

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**Babs Johnson** - September 17, 2014 at 05:22 PM

MS

“ *It is with enormous understanding that I send my deepest sympathy. Please take each day with happy memories and take care of yourself. Sending many good thoughts to you, Love, Mary Lu*

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**Mary Lu Saavedra** - September 17, 2014 at 03:18 PM

RB

“ *Dearest Dell: Both of you such wonderful and caring people. Our sympathy and many fond memories of old times are with you now. Marda & Dick*

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**Richard & Marda Burton** - September 17, 2014 at 12:39 PM

CP

“ *Mrs. Scoper & family: My thoughts and prayers are with you and your family in the passing of Mr. Scoper. May happy memories replace the sadness in your heart.*

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**Cindi Holifield Pippen** - September 17, 2014 at 12:12 PM

JC

“ *Senator Scoper was, next to my Father and his Father, one of the finest men it has ever been my honor to come into contact with. He will be missed. My condolences to the family.*

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**John C. Cox** - September 17, 2014 at 11:10 AM

HH

“ Dear Dell,  
Mary and I send our deepest sympathy over Vince's death.  
Although we have had no contact with you for many years since our  
privileged upbringing on "the block" in Leland, memories of that era  
and my love for your family are still powerful and enduring. Our  
thoughts are with you as you move on without your beloved  
husband  
Howard

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**Howard Hurtig** - September 17, 2014 at 10:31 AM

AR

“ Dear Dell and family - I was so sorry to hear of Vince's death and  
want you to know my thoughts and prayers are with you and Steve  
and Cynthia.

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**Arlene Hurtig Rubel** - September 16, 2014 at 11:12 PM

BH

“ Dell, I was very sad to hear of Vince's death. Please accept my  
sincere condolences.

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**Bonnie Hurtig** - September 16, 2014 at 11:10 PM

DB

“ Dell, just know you and your family are in my prayers. I will be  
praying for you in the days to come.  
Dianne

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**Dianne Burchfield** - September 16, 2014 at 10:23 PM

BB

“ Please accept our sincerest sympathy in you loss of Vince. Our prayers are with you and your family at this time. Rest assured Vince is resting with God in a special area reserved for men of his character, values and beliefs. Billy and Suzanne Baker

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**Billy and Suzanne Baker** - September 16, 2014 at 10:23 PM

MB

“ Lots of Love to you, Dell and all your family. You are in our thoughts and prayers Mary and EL

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**Mary and E L Boteler** - September 16, 2014 at 09:02 PM

JE

“ Dell, My deepest sympathy to you and your family, May God surround you with His love and peace during this very difficult time.

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**Jean Thompson Edwards** - September 16, 2014 at 07:46 PM

BL

“ The members of the William Day Chapter NSDAR wish to express their sympathy for the loss of your husband, father, grandfather and friend. Our thoughts and prayers are with you. Betty Lynam, Chaplain William Day Chapter

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**Betty Lynam** - September 16, 2014 at 07:44 PM

DB

“ Dell, I was so sad to learn of your loss of Vince. I only wish my sister and your good friend Lera, were here to extend her condolences as well.

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**David Bowen** - September 16, 2014 at 12:43 PM

MH

“ *Dell, you have my deepest sympathy. Prayers and thoughts are with you and your family today and in the days ahead.*

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**Marion R. House** - September 16, 2014 at 11:16 AM

KJ

“ *Vincent Gradie Scoper*

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**Ken Combs, Jr.** - September 16, 2014 at 09:36 AM

AP

“ *Dell, so sorry for your loss. You and your family are in our prayers. May the Lord Bless you, protect you and keep you from all harm. Andy & Gloria Petro*

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**Andy Petro** - September 15, 2014 at 10:26 PM

EF

“ *My deepest sympathy to Dell and the family upon the extreme loss of husband, father, grandfather and uncle. I am happy to have met him once at the MSSDAR State Conference and have such high admiration for Dell.*

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**Esther Fabbicante** - September 15, 2014 at 08:39 PM

JK

“ *What a wonderful man and dear friend. I am richer for knowing him, be the world is poorer because he is no longer with us. May he live on in all that he left behind. Our thoughts are with you Dell, Steve, and Cindy during this time. We love you.*

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**Jim and Sandra Keith** - September 15, 2014 at 07:33 PM

DB

“ *The Scoper family is in our thoughts and prayers during this difficult time. May God bless with peace and comfort in knowing that he is healed and in his heavenly home. He will be missed by his family, friends and the community that he so faithfully served.*

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**Donna Black** - September 15, 2014 at 06:13 PM

PB

“ *Thoughts and prayers with the family*

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**Peggy Bean** - September 15, 2014 at 03:26 PM

AH

“ *Mrs Dell, My thoughts are with you, ANN*

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**Ann Hodges** - September 15, 2014 at 02:30 PM

LB

“ *Dell and Family, you are in my thoughts and prayers. Love you*

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**Lisa Brown** - September 15, 2014 at 12:18 PM

RW

“ *Our deepest sympathies and prayers are with Vincent and are extended to his family.*

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**Robert E. "Bob" Waltman** - September 15, 2014 at 12:38 AM

SB

“ *You kno you are SO in my prayers. Precious family, the obituary was the best written I've read. Worthy tribute to his well-spent life.*  
*Sharon Barham*

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**Sharon Barham** - September 14, 2014 at 09:05 PM

RK

“ We always respected Bro. Vince. May God's grace be sufficient for your loss.

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**Rev. Jimmy & Alane Knight** - September 14, 2014 at 06:04 PM

OH

“ He was a friend to all. Prayers go out to Ms. Dell and all of the family. God Bless you.

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**Ouida Hester** - September 14, 2014 at 05:48 PM

AB

“ So sorry for your loss. Great man.

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**Amy Busby** - September 14, 2014 at 05:19 PM