



## Willus M. Horne

June 11, 1932 - May 25, 2015

Willus M. Horne, born on June 11, 1932, died Monday, May 25, 2015 at his home in Laurel. He was preceded in death by parents Jacob L. Horne and Sarah Wilcher Horne. He is survived by his wife Bettie Fay Horne; four children, daughter Martha Lynn Thompson, son Willus Mark Horne (Danita), daughter Gladys Ann Bautista (Pons), and daughter Bettie Joy Naman (Michael); grandchildren, Christopher Thompson, Tyler Thompson, Kiser Horne, Sabine Horne, Fletcher Horne, Andrew Gordy, Mathew Gordy, Paul Bautista, Monique Bautista, Alexandria Berry, Julia Berry, Jacob Berry, and Cecilia Naman; brother Rev. Raymond L. Horne; sister Christine Horne Mangrum; and a host of nieces and nephews. Willus was born and lived in Jones County his entire life where he was a longtime business owner and cattle & timber farmer. He was involved with local 4-H programs from a young age and began winning state, local, and national accolades beginning in 1942. In 1949 Willus earned a 4-H leadership trip to Washington D.C. where he met President Harry Truman in the Rose Garden. From 1950 - 1954 he held many 4-H offices including MS4-H Club President two years running. He served as president of his sophomore class of 1951- 1952 at Jones County Junior College where he earned an associate degree. He graduated in 1954 with a Bachelor of Science degree from his beloved Mississippi State's school of Agriculture. From 1954 until 1956 Mr. Horne served in the U.S. Army in Wiesbaden West Germany with the Medical Corps, where he received the Good Conduct Medal and Army of Occupation Medal. After returning home he

worked from 1957-1960 with the U.S. Department of Agriculture State Conservation Service and ran for Circuit Clerk of Jones County in 1959. Willus married Bettie Fay Farmer on January 17, 1959. They enjoyed 56 wonderful years together. He joined in partnership with his father in the daily operations of Horne Nursery in 1960 where he served as president and general manager for over 50 years. Over his career in agriculture, Mr. Horne received several special appointments. In 1968 he was appointed to a four year term with the MS Board of Animal Health. He served as President of the MS Nursery Men's Association from 1974 - 1976. In 1982 Mr. Horne was invited by the US Secretary of Agriculture to serve a two year term on the National Arboretum Advisory Council. Willus enjoyed working and managing his cattle and timber land and participating in many local civic organizations. He was a lifelong member of First Church of God in Laurel, MS, serving as chairman of the board and teaching Sunday School. Visitation will be from 5 p.m. - 8 p.m. on Wednesday, May 27 at Memory Chapel Funeral Home in Laurel, MS. Thursday, May 28 there will be a brief visitation beginning at 9:30 a.m. with services at 10:30 a.m. at First Church of God in Laurel. Pallbearers are Christopher Thompson, Tyler Thompson, Kiser Horne, Andrew Gordy, Mathew Gordy, Pons Bautista, Michael Naman, and Wayne Windham. Honorary pallbearers will be Fletcher Horne, Paul Bautista, and Jake Berry. In lieu of flowers please make donations to First Church of God in Laurel or Kairos Prison Ministry.

# Tribute Wall

TI

“ *What fond memories I had in childhood of going to the wonderful fish fries and enjoying playing with Joy. Mr Willus was a wonderful man who helped out in many ways. He lived a life most of us should strive for. Rlp Mr. Willusc*

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**tammy swindoll ingram** - May 30, 2015 at 04:07 PM

DP

“ *Deepest sympathy, Mrs Horne, Lynn and family. Our thoughts and prayers are with you.*  
*Debbie & Gene Phillips*

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**Debbie Phillips** - May 29, 2015 at 08:25 PM

MT

“ *To the Horne family: We want to express sympathy to you in the loss of Mr. Willus. He was a fine man and will not only be missed by you, but by the whole Laurel area as well. Sincerely, Martha and Terrell Tisdale*

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**Martha and Terrell Tisdale** - May 28, 2015 at 10:10 AM

LW

“ *Thoughts and prayers are with the family.*

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**Linda G. Walton** - May 28, 2015 at 09:33 AM

CS

“ I'm so sorry for your loss. I just learned of Mark's Dad dying tonight. We will be unable to visit funeral home or make it to the funeral. Our deepest condolences to you, Mark, and your family. May our Father in Heaven provide you comfort during this time. God bless.  
Love in Christ, Ralph & Carolyn Shedd

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**Carolyn Shedd** - May 27, 2015 at 11:21 PM

RB

“ You are in our thoughts and prayers. What a wonderful gentleman God Bless you all Rachel and Tim Howell

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**Rachel Bush-Howell** - May 27, 2015 at 09:47 PM

CD

“ Sorry to hear of your loss. Prayers for peace and comfort.

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**Carol Daniels** - May 27, 2015 at 05:06 PM

SS

“ Dr. Horne and Family: So sorry about your loss. What a wonderful man Mr. Horne was. I used to see him and your mom at Grandparents Day at Laurel Christian School and always enjoyed talking with them. May God bless you and comfort you during your time of loss. Sherry Shows

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**sherry shows** - May 27, 2015 at 04:11 PM

RW

“ You are in my thoughts and prayers.

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**Regina Williams** - May 27, 2015 at 03:50 PM

SD

“ *My thoughts and prayers are with you all.*

Sheryl Daniels - May 27, 2015 at 03:44 PM

RR

“ *Willus M. Horne*

Rebecca Ramos - May 27, 2015 at 03:42 PM

JM

“ *Jim & Rachel Mayfield has sent this Expressions of Sympathy card.*

Jim & Rachel Mayfield - May 27, 2015 at 03:21 PM

TF

“ *Our deepest condolences. Willus was a fine and honorable man.*

The Berry Family - May 27, 2015 at 10:42 AM

GM

“ *As a friend of Danita's and her parents from high school, I would like to express my deepest sympathy for the family's loss. May he rest in peace and Eternal Light ever shine on his soul. Amen.*

Garrison (Gary) L. McDavid - May 27, 2015 at 12:35 AM

JO

“ *Willus and I were first cousins who had immense respect for each other. He reached that rare height of accomplishment in both his physical and spiritual lives that must have made him very happy. I saw him every two years and always looked forward to comparing notes. Our family becomes one of lesser achievements because of his passing.*

Jim Osbon - May 26, 2015 at 07:48 PM

JJ

“ *I have know Willus all my life. He was a good man.*

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**Joe Johnson** - May 26, 2015 at 10:47 AM

JH

“ *May God give you peace as you celebrate Mr. Horne's life. I remember him and Mrs. Faye with fond memories. Mrs. Faye was my father's nurse during some especially hard times. My thoughts and prayers are with you and your family. Jane Upton Henderson, daughter of J.B. and Estelle Upton*

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**Jane Upton Henderson** - May 26, 2015 at 10:19 AM