

—TRIBUTES

THANKS TO OUR DAD Our words fail to express our admiration to the man who is our father. We cannot show the appreciation felt for his support. He guided us with purpose. Most of all, our father was a godly man of faith and dedication. We were taught to love Jesus and live our life in a fashion to uplift the name of the Lord. Although our thanks are not enough, we must say Thank You! Thank you for the love and support you provided. Thank you for telling us when it was time "to push our feet from under the table". Lol. .

You will forever be in our hearts, Patra, Loretha, LaShonda, Shone and TC

"Your best Papa every" Love You, Donavon

TRIBUTE TO OUR BROTHER

Sometimes God picks a flower that's still in full bloom,
Sometimes the flower that is chosen we feel He's picked to soon.
We're at peace knowing: you're in God's heavenly garden;
He has placed the ones we treasure you have changed our lives forever.
Love You - Rosie, Ray, Janice, Robert & Bruce

Don Wayne, you are still here in my heart and my mind. I hold you in my thoughts and can feel you which gives me the strength and courage. For you, big brother, I will go on with my life and make you proud. I will always hold you in my heart, I promise you. I will be missing you every day until we meet again. Much Love, Bruce

THE COUSINS Our eyes filled up with tears as we heard the news and we found ourselves wishing that it wasn't real. But our hearts tells us that you'll always be with us as we remember your warm and loving smile, your kind gestures and "bigger than life" personality. We'll love and miss you forever until the day we're together again. But until that day comes, we will wipe our tears and hopefully see you again someday. *We Love You. The Baileys, Ephrans, Goodens, Moores and Sodias*

SPECIAL THANKS

To the Doctors and Nurses of MD Anderson Cancer Center & St. Luke Episcopal Hospital

A WORD OF THANKS

There is such a great comfort in knowing that we are not alone at this time. This assurance is manifested by the many warm and sincere expressions of care and concern. Each kind deed brings to fruition the promise of our Savior... "Blessed are they that mourn, for they shall be comforted." Please know that we are grateful for your many prayers to our heavenly Father on our behalf. Additionally, we are equally grateful for those of you have been there for us through the years. The English language fails to offer words that can sufficiently express our appreciation for the many calls, visits, cards, warm wishes and other acts of kindness. Your incredible display of unselfish love has been a source of strength for us as we celebrate a life well lived. Though a void is certain, one thing is equally sure, through the guidance of the Lord and the comfort of the Holy Spirit, we will endure! Our prayer for all of you is that God's matchless grace and blessings will fall richly upon you all.

~ Don's Family

ACTIVE PALLBEARERS

John Galvan
Prentiss Robey

Esteban San Miguel
Ben Scott III

James Reliford
Jacob Tolbert

HONORARY PALLBEARERS

Dwayne Berry
Donavon Bratcher
Anthony Clarks
Walter Hawkless Sr.
Bryce Orise

William Berry
Landon Bratcher
Carl Ephran
Calvin Holbert
Travis White

Bobby Bratcher
Ray Bratcher
Edward Ephran
Michael Massey Sr

Bruce Bratcher
Thomas Bratcher
Shone Gibson
J C Miller

FLOWER BEARERS

Class of 1971

RESTING UNTIL HE COMES

Eastview Cemetery

REPAST

New Hope Baptist Church Fellowship Hall



SATURDAY, JANUARY 25, 2014

TWO O'CLOCK IN THE EVENING

NEW HOPE MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

3300 AVENUE F | BAY CITY, TEXAS

THE REVEREND T. L. RICHARDSON

OFFICIANT

THE REVEREND MURRY MARTIN

EULOGIST



REFLECTIONS ON A LIFE WELL LIVED

On Friday, June 19, 1953 Thomas and Earline Bratcher were excited to announce the birth of their bouncing baby boy, Donald Wayne. Little Donald was blessed to be raised in a loving household with parents who showed him love and support. Don was an obedient child who didn't get into much trouble and who did well in school. He was very close to his siblings from younger years and throughout life. He and his brother Bobby were so close that many people thought they were twins. After all, since Bobby was one year older, if Don wanted to go somewhere, his parents sent Bobby along to keep a good eye on him. This closeness and camaraderie of the siblings lasted throughout their lives and, even as mature adults, they enjoyed spending time with each other at family functions and they looked forward to their trips together to the Dallas Cowboy Games.

Don's great work ethic started when he was a small child when his father would take him and the other boys to cut yards after he got off work. His sister Rosie recalls Don getting a job driving and delivering telegrams when he was young. Rosie recalls her mom being shocked because she didn't even know that Don knew how to drive. It was that type of determination that led him to a lifelong career of over forty years of service to Dow Chemical Company where he was currently employed.

A graduate of Bay City High School and Wharton Junior College, Don valued education. He encouraged and motivated others, especially his children and grandchildren to excel academically. His grandchildren, nieces and nephews looked forward to the monetary rewards for good grades while in school and his unselfish financial support when attending college.

Don cherished spending time with all of his family especially his wife, children, grandchildren and his great-grandchildren. He was very level-headed and had a special way of calming people and bringing peace to situations. To know Don is to know that he enjoyed his cattle and ranching, eating seafood and T-bone steaks, trips with his wife, going to Live Oak, fishing and watching sports on ESPN, especially his team, The Dallas Cowboys and telling fishing stories of his cousin Frankie.

Don accepted Christ and lived a Christian life. His dedication to the Lord was evident in his service to ministry. During his life he served at Enterprise Missionary Baptist Church, New Hope Missionary Baptist Church and Mother Zion Missionary Baptist Church. He led others to Christ and helped them become mature Christians as he taught them the Word of God as a Sunday School Teacher, modeled the Word of God as a deacon and trustee, and welcomed them into the house of God giving leadership to the ushers. Don's commitment to Christ was not only evident in the four walls of the church, but in his family, around his friends and within his community. Don knew his bible and would encourage others through his thankfulness... as he would often say, 'If I had 10,000 tongues I couldn't thank Him enough.'

In July 2013 Don began his second battle with cancer. Throughout the process, although he was in a fight for his life and excruciating pain, Don never lost his faith or his faithfulness to Christ. Don understood that as Christians we are not exempt from trials and tribulations, but because we are Christians, our Christ is with us during these difficult times. Don held strong to his trust in God, never complaining and always believing. On Tuesday, January 21, 2014 his faithfulness was rewarded as God welcomed him home.

Those who will often reflect on these and other precious memories include his loving and supportive wife of nearly forty years, Annie Marie Bratcher; his children, Patra (Frederick) Berry of Wylie, Texas; Loretha White of Katy, Texas; LaShonda (George) White of Richmond, Texas; Shone Gibson of Orhard Park, New York; and Thomas (Kiera) Bratcher of Houston, Texas; his siblings, Ray (Gretchen) Bratcher of Missouri City, Texas, Bobby (Racheal) Bratcher of Missouri City, Texas; Janice (Michael) Massey of San Antonio, Texas; Bruce (Vickie) Bratcher of Pearland, Texas; aunts Ruby Bailey, Effie Bailey, Yvonne Bailey, Anna Moore; uncles, Elward Ephran (Mabel), Carl Ephran (Sophie); mother-in-law, Lettie Green-Giles; sister-in-laws Eddie Miller (J.C. Miller) Phyllis Hayes, Wilda Green; as well as fourteen grandchildren and four great grandchildren.

The Celebration of Life Worship Experience

PROCESSIONAL

SONG OF PRAISE

OLD TESTAMENT PASSAGE

NEW TESTAMENT PASSAGE

A TALK WITH GOD

SONG OF PRAISE

RESOLUTIONS

REMARKS

PICTORIAL REFLECTIONS

SONG OF PRAISE

THE SPOKEN WORD

FINAL GLIMPSE 'TIL GLORY

RECESSIONAL

Mother Zion Mass Choir

Rev. Willie Myles
Tyree Chapel AME Church

Rev. Ronald Brown
Mother Zion Missionary Baptist Church

Rev. T. L. Richardson
New Hope Missionary Baptist Church

Mother Zion Mass Choir

Mother Zion Missionary Baptist Church
Mount Hebron Missionary Baptist Church
The Church Without Walls
The Ford Bend Church

Rev. Michael Hebert
Clergy

Caroly Sug Flagg
Class of '71

Ronnie Reeves
Hillard Alumni Association

Mother Zion Mass Choir

Rev. Murry Martin



CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF **DONALD WAYNE BRATCHER**