



Ralph Emerson Matthews

October 16, 1937 - January 28, 2022

On Friday, January 28, 2022, God summoned Ralph Emerson Matthews to "Come home." His family friends shall greatly miss him.

During his 84 years of life, he served in many roles. Notably, he was an owner and president of Matthews Industries, Ropak Manufacturing, and National Packaging. To his alma mater (Bob Jones University, Greenville, SC) and the organizations he served, he was a trusted advisor and confidante. To decades of church friends he was a song leader, deacon, teacher, and friend. To his family he was Granddaddy, Grandpa, Papaw, Daddy, Dad, father, and husband.

To all, he was an example of faithfulness: in his marriage, in his home, in church, and in business.

He was born the youngest of four sons on October 16, 1937, to Arthur Madison Matthews and Nancy Mildred (Compton) Matthews. He met his future bride, Anne Elizabeth Dietz, at church when he was 13 and she was 11. Their courtship flourished years later and they wed on August 21, 1959. Together they raised four children, have 21 grandchildren, and eight great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents, his two eldest brothers, his only

daughter, Judith Ann (Matthews) Grant, and one granddaughter, Charity Leigh Matthews.

He is survived by Anne, his wife of 62 years, and their sons, Tim (Cynde), Paul (Aimee), and Joel (Sarah), all of Decatur.

Their 20 grandchildren: Drew and Jessie Matthews (children, Aaron, Emma, and Ian), Jana and Anthony Rogers, Holly and Donald Helman, Jonathan Grant, Christen Grant, Scott and Megan Matthews (child, Everly), Carol Anne and Mitchell Beck (children, Asa and Selah), Meg and Stephen Wess (children, Caryn and Tommy), Anna Grant, William and Cindy Matthews, Kalista and Ben Moore, Charlotte and Blake Felber, Karis and Nathan Herbster, Abigail and Christian Sides, Elizabeth Matthews, Erin Matthews, Caleb Matthews, and Nathan Matthews.

A visitation and memorial service will be held at Shelton Funeral Home, 2105 Beltline Road, S.W., Decatur, AL 35601 on Saturday, February 5, 2022. The visitation will be held from 10:00 a.m. until 11:00 a.m. with the memorial service immediately following at 11:00 a.m. Interment will follow in Decatur City Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, the family respectfully requests memorial donations be made to one of the following: the Matthews Scholarship at Bob Jones University in Greenville, SC; the Mission Fund of Faith Baptist Church of Decatur, AL; or to your favorite missionary or ministry.

Cemetery Details

Decatur City Cemetery

Highway 20
Decatur, AL 35601

Previous Events

Visitation

FEB 5. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

Shelton Funeral Home Chapel
2105 Beltline Road SW
Decatur, AL 35601

Funeral

FEB 5. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (CT)

Shelton Funeral Home Chapel
2105 Beltline Road SW
Decatur, AL 35601

Tribute Wall



“ *Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Ralph Emerson Matthews.*



February 03, 2022 at 10:31 PM



“ *Serenity Wreath was purchased for the family of Ralph Emerson Matthews.*



February 03, 2022 at 06:02 PM



“ *Dear Ann,*

Ralph was a godly man we have highly respected over the years. Praying for you and your family in your time of sorrow. We are looking forward to our Lord's coming where there is no sickness, sorrow and death and no more sin. May God comfort you as only He can.

*Prayerfully,
Milton and Pam Jones*

Dr. and Mrs. Milton Jones - February 03, 2022 at 11:07 AM

JM

“ I had the privilege to know and work with Ralph in my role at BJU. I have enjoyed time with him in his home, dining out, in the board room, many talks on the phone, and enjoying fellowship at a BJU alumni event he hosted at his home. When I think of Ralph I think of a godly man who loved God, his wife and family, his church, his work and BJU. Ralph truly was a balanced person, content and fulfilled. A true prayer warrior. We will miss him. John Matthews, VP of Advancement and Alumni Relations at BJU.

John Matthews - February 02, 2022 at 09:25 AM

PF

“ Pastor & Amber Cochran & CBC Family purchased the Medium Dish Garden for the family of Ralph Emerson Matthews.



Pastor & Amber Cochran & CBC Family - February 01, 2022 at 11:50 AM