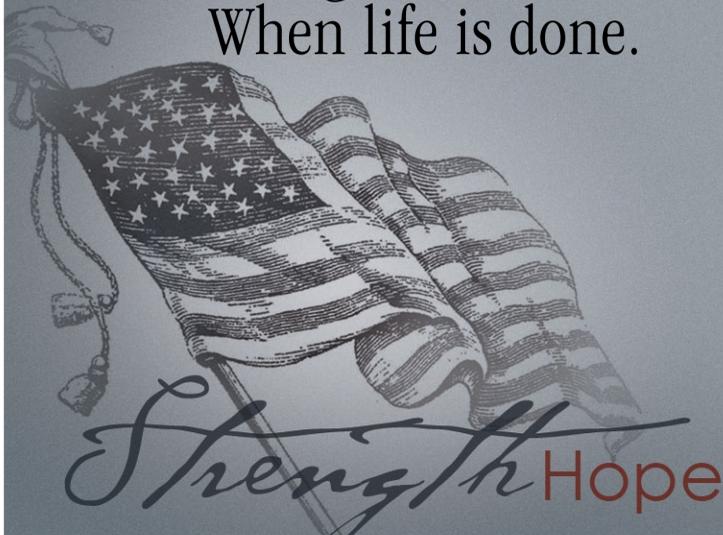


I'd like the memory of me
To be a happy one,
I'd like to leave
an afterglow of
smiles
when life is done.

I'd like to leave an echo
Whispering softly down the ways,
Of happy times and laughing times
And bright & sunny days.

I'd like the tears of those who grieve,
To dry before the sun
Of *happy memories*
that I leave behind
When life is done.



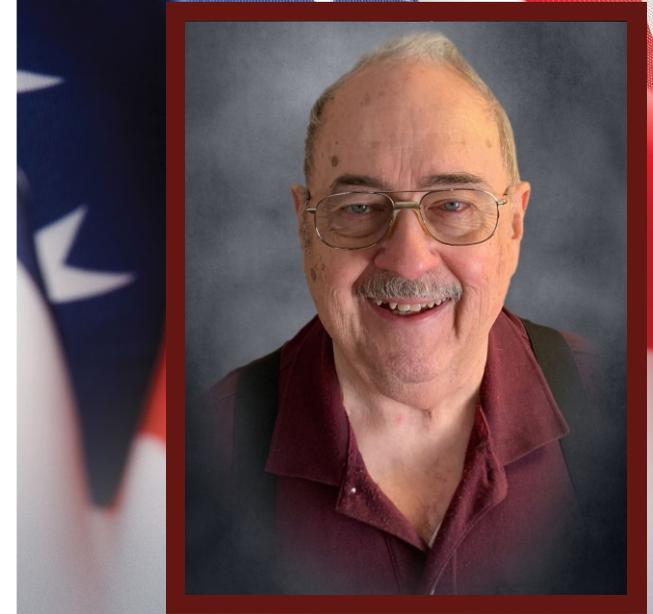
bravery · courage · honor · respect · bravery · courage · honor · respect · b

During a time like this
we realize how much our
Friends
really mean to us.
Your expression of
Sympathy
will always be remembered.



Berry Funeral Home
& CREMATORY

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ELBERTON, GEORGIA 30635
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In Loving Memory of
Hoke Smith Fortson, Jr.
December 24, 1938 - November 18, 2025

bravery · courage · honor · respect · bravery · courage · honor · respect

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Courage

Let not your *Heart*

be troubled; ye believe in God,
believe also in me. In my Father's house
are many

Mansions;

if it were not so, I would have told you.

I go to prepare a place for you.

And if I go and prepare a place for you,
I will come again, and receive you unto myself;
that where I am, there ye may be also.

Peace I leave with you,
my peace I give unto you;
not as the world giveth, give I unto you.

*Let not your heart be troubled,
neither let it be afraid.*

- John 14:1-3,27



Funeral Service

2 o'clock in the afternoon
Saturday, November 22, 2025
Memorial Chapel of Berry Funeral Home

Officiating

Rev. Tim Adams
First Baptist Church of Elberton

Interment

Norman Family Plot
Forest Hills Memorial Park
Elberton, Georgia

Respect Honor

Mr. Hoke Smith Fortson, Jr, 86, of Austell, GA,
husband of 63 years to Linda Cheryl Norman Fortson,
passed away on Tuesday, November 18, 2025, at
WellStar Cobb Hospital in Austell, GA.

Mr. Fortson was born in Anderson, SC on
Christmas Eve 1938, and was raised in Elbert County.
A son of the late Hoke Smith Fortson, Sr. and Zelma
Hulme Fortson, he was a 1959 graduate of Clemson
University where he obtained a bachelors degree in
electrical engineering. Hoke began his career with
Georgia Power at the age of 20, and retired after 45
years of service as an engineer. He was a devout
Christian and was presently a member of First Baptist
Church of Mableton, GA. One of his greatest
accomplishments was serving in the U.S. Navy
Reserves for six years.

Hoke was a very giving man, and took great
pleasure in helping others, and was generous for all of
his life. He was a devoted father who loved his
children dearly. In his free time, he enjoyed tinkering,
woodworking, and always had a home improvement
project he was working on.

In addition to his beloved wife Linda, he is survived
by his children: Hoke Smith "Chip" Fortson, III and his
wife Lauran of Bowman, GA and Sherry Fortson
Popovic and her husband Dan of Cumming, GA; and
siblings: Josephine Fortson, Francis Fortson, and
Dewey Fortson, along with several nieces and
nephews.