

ACTIVE PALLBEARERS

Billy Mack Bradley
Carlos Brinkley
Clifton Henry
Edwin Henry
Calvin Horton
Cedric Sampson

HONORARY PALLBEARERS

Detrick Duffey
Jordon Duffey
Melvin Duffey, Jr.
Anthony Epperson
Joe Alvin Epperson, Jr.
Mark D. Gunter
Howard K. Walton

HONORARY FLOWER BEARERS

Donna Henry
Rebecca Henry
Vanessa Henry-Gee
Carlotta Henry-Mayes
Rochelle Sampson-Perry
Cassandra Sampson
Clarenca Varie Henry-Wooten

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The family wishes to acknowledge with deep appreciation the many expressions of love, concern, and kindness expressed and shown to them during this time of bereavement. May God Bless You and Keep You!

The Epperson Family



INTERMENT

Cedars Memorial Gardens Cemetery
1830 S. Pacific St.
Mineola, TX 75773

REPAST

St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church
Fellowship Hall

SERVICES ENTRUSTED TO

London's Mortuary

"Providing A Dignified and Comforting Memory"

176 County Road 2503~ Mineola, TX 75773~ (903) 569-5404

Rodney London Manager

Robin London FDIC/Embalmer



Celebration of Life-His Legacy Lives on

God's Warrior

Haywood Lee Epperson

Sunrise September 18, 1939

One in a Million

Sunset April 26, 2025



SERVICE

Wednesday, May 14, 2025, 10:00 am

Reverend Demethrius Boyd, Officiant / Eulogist

St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church

304 South Stone Street

Mineola, Texas 75773

HAYWOOD LEE EPPERSON

Sunrise September 18, 1939

“A Look at the Man”

Sunset April 26, 2025

Haywood Lee Epperson was born on September 18, 1939, in Mineola, Texas, to Joshua and Vivera Newsome-Epperson. He was baptized at St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church. Haywood's educational journey began at Addie E. McFarland Elementary and High School. After graduating, he served in the United States Army for three years before earning an honorable discharge, including a deployment to Germany.

He moved to San Francisco, CA, and was later joined by his high school sweetheart, Betty Berry, even though the Mineola and Quitman boys constantly feuded over their women. The couple married on Friday, August 31, 1962, and were married for 62 years. They have two children, Marcus and Jeffrey, from Long Beach, California.

Haywood's professional life is marked by dedication and success. He had two jobs during his lifetime: the military and Chevron Corporation. His career at Chevron began at an entry-level position, pumping gas, and he steadily climbed the ranks to become a station manager and eventually Chevron's territory manager. He retired from Chevron after 43 years of service. Despite his full-time employment, Haywood was committed to his education, studying at Long Beach City College and California State University. He earned a Bachelor of Arts in Business Administration from California State University, Long Beach, CA.

Haywood was a self-made man, a businessman, and a leisure man, making golf his primary hobby, traveling across the country, and winning first place in every tournament. He loved to fish and was a seasonal deer hunter. He was a meek, mild-mannered individual characterized as a critical thinker who was loving and sentimental. Haywood visited his hometown often to see his childhood friends, schoolmates, who lived in a circle (C) of neighborhood family, and friends who resided on Krause, South Stone, Belcher Street, and Walton Drive, visiting door-to-door on both the Southside and Eastside, visiting with small-town folks, and reminiscing about his early childhood, youth, and young adulthood days. He loved discussing current events and recalling experiences and memories.

During his life, he tried to make a difference with his family, friends, and colleagues. As a civil servant, co-founder, director/board member, with fourteen schoolmates at the Addie E. McFarland Foundation, Inc., they established a non-profit organization in 1995. In addition, he attended all McFarland school reunions since 1982. He was a giving person who gave to family, charity, and non-profit organizations, such as the Addie E. McFarland Foundation, Long Beach Poly Football Team, and Helping Young People Excel (HYPE). From 2006 to 2007, he sponsored the Youth of St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church financially, which attended the annual National Baptist Sunday School Convention. Haywood's contributions supported St. Paul and never failed to participate in church each time he came home to visit. Moreover, he is a member of the Elks Club, serving as assistant president. He was a motivator for others to keep on keeping on.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Joshua and Vivera Epperson, niece, Karen Epperson.

Left to cherish his memories his wife Betty, sons Marcus (wife Jocelyn), and Jeffrey, Sr. Haywood, two granddaughters, Morgan and Sydney, two grandsons, Jeffrey, Jr. (JJ) and Jaden; siblings, Joe Alvin and Bobby (wife Juanita); matriarch Aunt Pattie Wheeler-Newsome; cousins Rosalind Walton-Russell, Nelvin Murphy, and Gloria Murphy-Mayes; nieces Marcie Sharper-Duffey (husband Melvin) and Marsha Epperson-Duffey (husband Gregory); and nephews Joe Epperson, Jr., Anthony, and Robert Epperson, including many other nieces, nephews, cousins and lifelong friends.

When Great Trees Fall

When great trees fall, rocks on distant hills shudder,
lions hunker down in tall grasses,
and even elephants lumber after safety.

When great souls die,
the air around us becomes light, rare, sterile.

We breathe briefly.

Our eyes, briefly, see with a hurtful clarity.

Our memory, suddenly sharpened,

Examines, gnaws on kind words unsaid,
promised walks never taken.

Great souls die and our reality, bound to them,
takes leave of us.

Our souls, dependent upon their nurture.

Now shrink, wizened,

Our minds, formed and informed by their radiance, fall away,

We are not so much maddened

as reduced to the unutterable ignorance

Of dark, cold caves.

And when great souls die, after a period peace blooms,
slowly and always irregularly.

Spaces fill with a kind of soothing electric vibration.

Our senses, restored, never to be the same, whisper to us.

They existed. They existed. We can be. Be and be better. For they existed.

-Maya Angelou





Precious Memories



Order of Service

Officiating	Reverend Demethrius Boyd
Processional	Ministers, and Family
Hymn of Comfort	
Scripture Readings	
OLD TESTAMENT	Reverend Gregory Duffey
NEW TESTAMENT	Reverend Gregory Duffey
Prayer	Appointee
Presentation	East Texas P G R
First Selection	"Take Me to the King" Tamela Mann
Poem to Family	Cassandra Sampson
Resolution	St. Paul Missionary B C
Remarks	Family and Friends (Two minutes)
Second Selection	Goodness of God (Live) CeCe Winans
Special Remarks	Jackie McCalla
Third Selection	Sinner's Prayer Marvin Winans
Acknowledgements	Cassandra Sampson
Obituary	Read Silently
Fourth Tribute Selection	"Lord I Tried" Rufus Jackson
Eulogy	Reverend Demethrius Boyd
Special Presentation	London's Mortuary Funeral Staff
Farewell Viewing	London's Mortuary Funeral Staff
Recessional	





Family Love



*Always
IN OUR
Hearts*

