

Active Pallbearers

Markell Perry

Miguel Bush

Paris Perry

Tarance Jordan

Danny Greer

Nicholas Carter, Jr.

In Appreciation

We wish to express sincere appreciation for celebrating Eddie's memory with us. The greatest comfort during our sorrow has been the expressions of sympathy conveyed in so many ways. We deeply appreciate your kind thoughtfulness and thank you most sincerely.

Cleottice and Crystal

Interment

Cedars Memorial Garden

1830 S. Pacific Street

Mineola, TX 75773

Repast

St. Paul Missionary B. C.

304 Stone Street

Mineola, TX 75773

To view on-line funeral media for

Mr. Eddie Ray Walton visit London's Mortuary

website at: www.londonsmortuary.com

Services Entrusted To

London's Mortuary



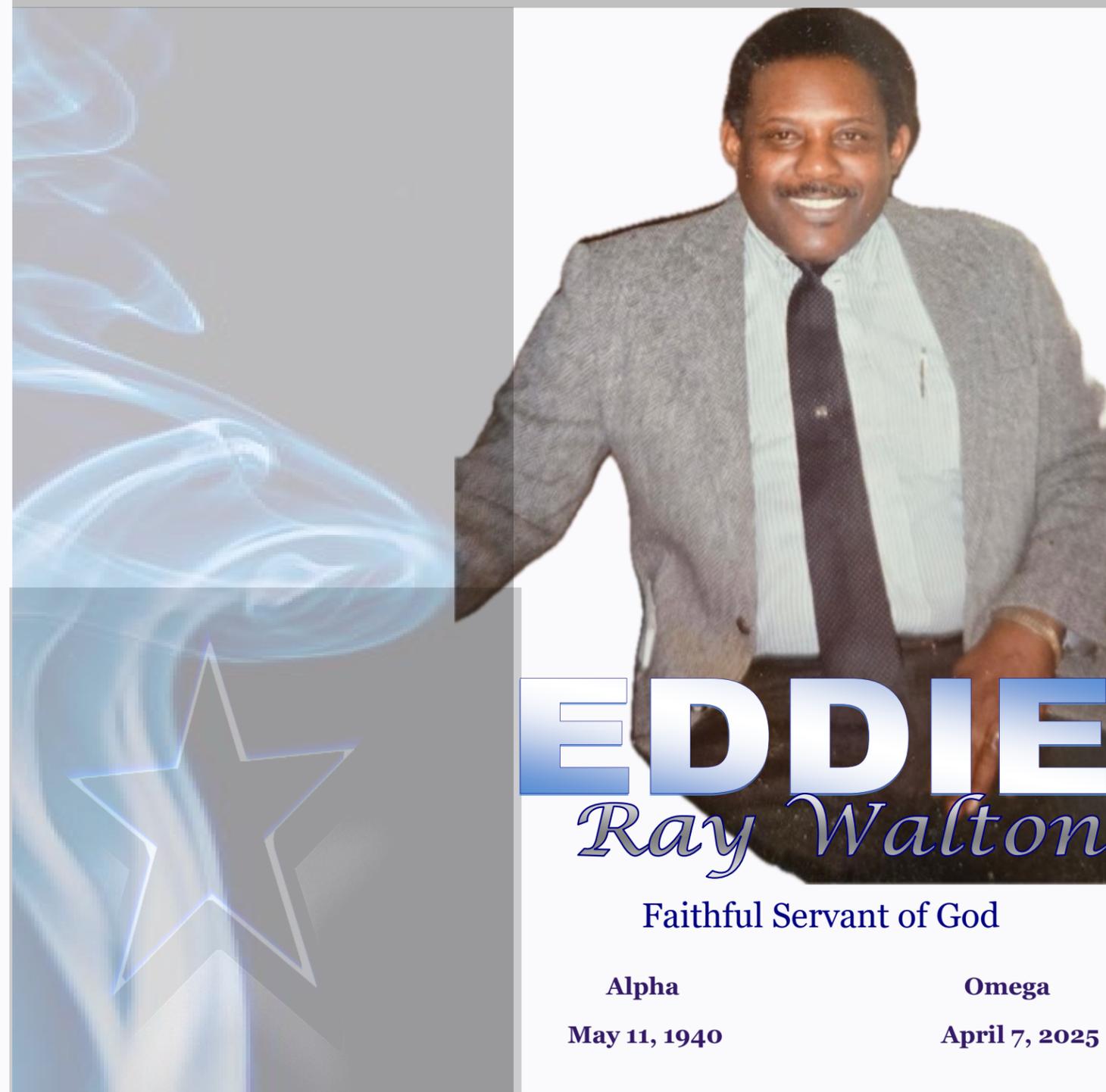
"Providing A Dignified and Comforting Memory"

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

Rodney London Manager

Robin London FDIC/Embalmer

Celebration of A Well-Lived Life



EDDIE
Ray Walton

Faithful Servant of God

Alpha

May 11, 1940

Omega

April 7, 2025

SATURDAY, April 19, 2025~ 12:00 Noon

St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church

304 Stone Street

Mineola, TX 75773

Reverend Demethrius Boyd, Pastor, Officiant/ Eulogist

Eddie Ray Walton

Eddie Ray was born on May 11, 1940, in Mineola, Texas. He was the only son born to the union between Edward and Lucille Walton. He attended elementary and high school at Addie McFarland School, where he lettered in four sports. He began his walk with the Lord at St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church in Mineola.

Eddie received a bachelor's degree from Texas College and attended Prairie View A&M, Prairie View, TX and Keane College in New Jersey. In 1963, he was drafted into the U.S. Army. While home on leave after basic training, he married Cleottice Greer, the love of his life. He was stationed in Bremenhaven Germany for twenty months before returning home to his beloved.

Eddie began his career as a high school teacher in Marlin, TX, and in Rahway, NJ. He then became a Probation Officer for Union County and later the State of New Jersey, from which he retired. He was a union representative, Past President and member of the Jackson Lions Club, and became a deacon at Macedonia Baptist Church in Lakewood, New Jersey.

Eddie and Cleottice moved back to Mineola after retiring and returned to St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church, his home church, as a deacon. Back at home, he enjoyed retirement by spending time with family and friends, traveling, working in the community and of course, attending Dallas Cowboys games, a lifelong goal of his. He was a member of the Mineola Lions Club, a volunteer with Meals on Wheels, and served as a board member for the Addie E. McFarland Foundation and the Mineola Civic Center.

Preceding him in death were his daughter Deidre Lynn; father Edward Walton; Mother Lucille Warrior; stepmother Cecil Walton; brother Jackie Warrior; sister Debra Warrior Hicks; stepbrother James Russell and stepsister Shirley Hunter.

Eddie peacefully departed us on Monday, April 7, 2025. Leaving behind to celebrate his life and all the memories are his wife, Cleottice; daughter Crystal Walton Hudson; and many nieces, nephews, great-nieces, great-nephews, cousins and friends.

Tribute from a Daddy's Girl

You were the definition of a Girl Dad before the term became popular

You were my hero, my idol and my favorite teacher

You taught me to be creative by helping me create tunnels with blocks

You taught me how to be assertive by asking me how I wanted you to comb my hair, even though you knew it was always afro puffs

You taught me how to save money by letting me charge you \$.10 for every "bad word" with the \$1.00 for unlimited

You taught me the value of doing something for myself when I used my earnings to purchase my swing set

You taught me to be competitive by never letting me win a game as some parents do. I had to earn it.

You taught me to be a team player by being my coach, even though I could not stand that whistle

You taught me to be confident and believe in myself by telling me I could become anything I wanted and to not believe anyone who said I could not

You taught me to care about my education by showing your disappointment when I bought home my one and only "C"

You taught me to dream and nurtured my love of the arts by exposing me to dance classes, ballets, plays, and the Kool Jazz Festival

You taught me what it meant to be secure by giving me piggyback rides before tucking me in at night.

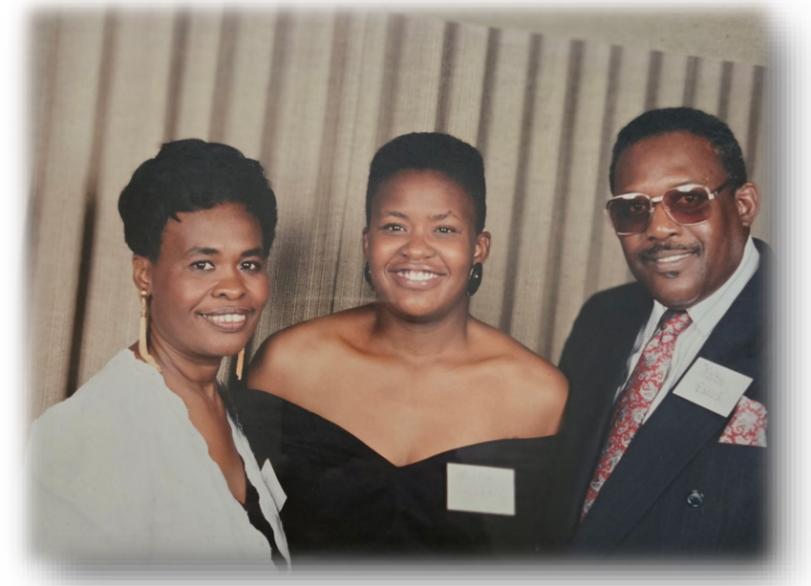
You taught me to hold my head up high by telling me you were an Egyptian pharaoh in another life which made me an African princess

You taught me so many lessons that I carry with me today

Thank you, Daddy, for all that you gave me.
I'll see you again one day

Love always,

Tootie



Tribute from Great-nieces and Great-nephews
We love you so, so much Uncle Ray



Order of Service

Processional /Viewing

Ministers & Family

Scriptures

Old Testament

Deacon Oscar Caraway

New Testament

Deacon Jason Crawford

Prayer of Comfort

Deacon Chris Caraway

Musical Selection

St. Paul Music Ministry

Remarks

Two Minutes Please

Resolutions

St. Paul Missionary B. C.

Musical Selection

St. Paul Music Ministry

Acknowledgement

Cassandra Sampson

Musical Selection

Reverend Ren Foster

Eulogy

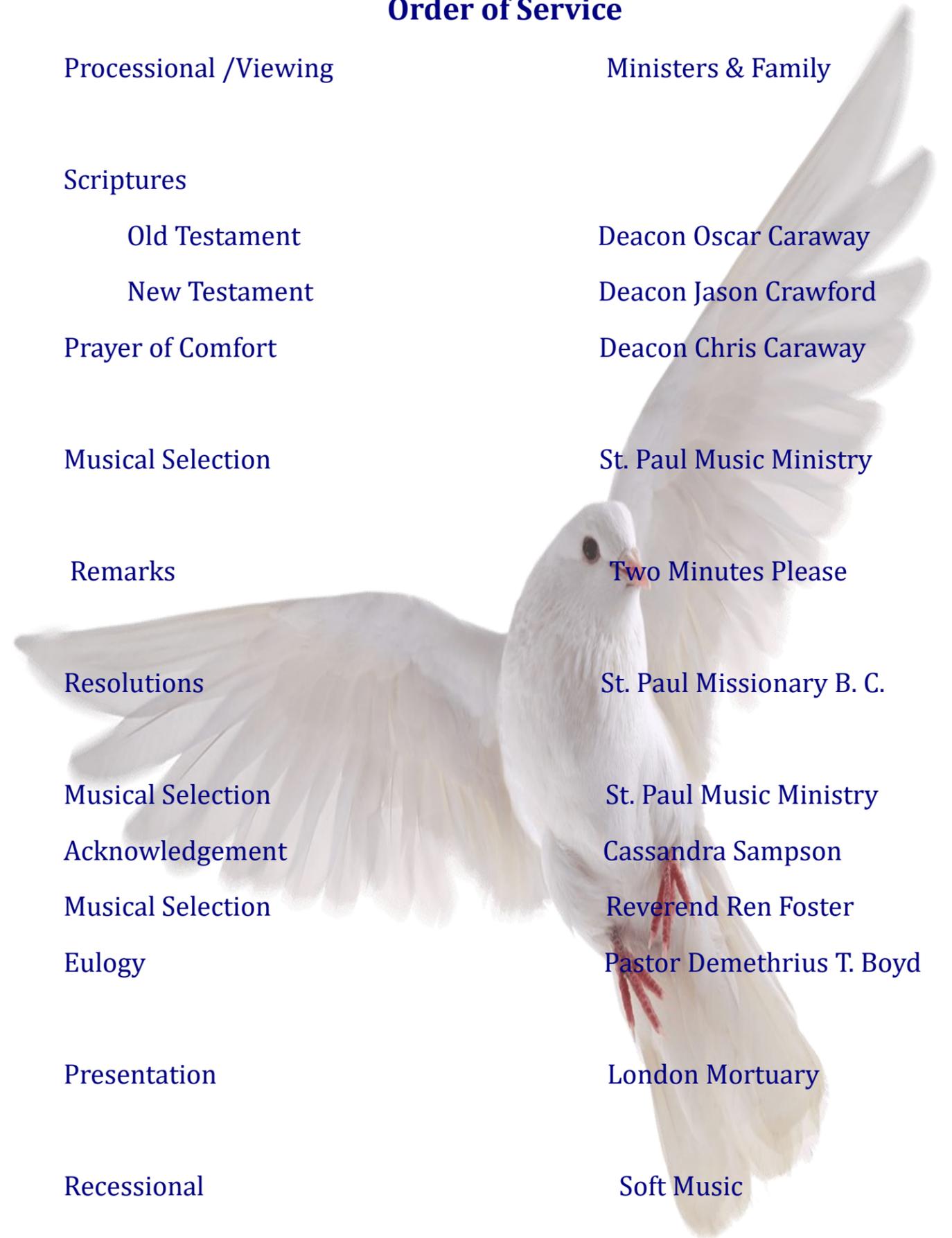
Pastor Demethrius T. Boyd

Presentation

London Mortuary

Recessional

Soft Music



High school sweethearts: "Marriage is what you make of it"

By DAVID CHENAULT
The Mineola Monitor

"Marriage is what you make of it." So said the father of the girl Eddie Walton intended to marry. Having just asked for the man's permission, Eddie got another bit of advice.

"I've already raised her," the man said, "so if you decide you can't get along with her, don't treat her badly, just bring her back home to me."

Forty years later, Eddie is bringing his wife back home to Mineola. But it is not because he can not get along with her. It is because they have decided it is simply time to come home.

Cleottice Greer was sitting in the sixth grade class when she first laid eyes on Eddie. Born in Hawkins, her family soon moved to Mineola. And is was not long after the first day of school she says, that she and Eddie had, "claimed each other."

But is was not to last. While they remained friends, they were not boyfriend and girlfriend in school.

"We were direct opposites at that time. He was always such a big tease, a very big tease," she said.

Quick to explain, Eddie offered, "I played a lot of sports."

Cleottice added, "And he was really not into girls."

That is the way they talk, finishing each others' sentences, knowing what the next is going to say, chatting for more than an hour about their life together.

"I was a four-letterman," he said.

"I didn't think he treated girls very well," she replied.

"I dated other girls in high school. My wife thought that I was..." he paused, trying to find the right words, "...that I treated girls poorly."

"All those girls were my

friends," she explained.

"I wasn't one of those guys that everywhere you turned, you had your girlfriend on your arm."

As it was, though, all the girls that Eddie was going with were Cleottice's friends.

After graduation in 1958, he went to Texas College. She got a job.

"We started dating in..." he looks to her for a date.

"Actually, I don't even know," she says.

"A friend of his came home



Eddie and Cleottice Walton have been laughing and loving for nearly 40 years. Most of that time they lived in New Jersey. Now they have returned to Mineola, the hometown where they first met. They sat down last week to talk about the secret of their marriage.

from the military and was questioning his status among the girls," she says gesturing toward her husband.

"And he," pointing to Eddie, "made the remark that he had all the girls 'sewed up,'" she said sarcastically.

"Since I was dating someone else, his friend made him a bet that (Eddie) couldn't date me. And he wanted to prove to his friend that he could."

And how much was the wager?

"A fifth of liquor," she remembers and they both break out into laughter.

Eddie won the bet and even managed to keep it a secret for months.

"I didn't know about the bet until a year or so later," Cleottice said. Fortunately for him, by the time she found out, she was too far in love.

"We had a lot in common," she says. "We would go driving around for hours, not going any place, just talking."

But world events would change the couple's future.

"In 1963 I got a letter from John F. Kennedy," Eddie said. He had been drafted.

At the end of college, his draft deferment ran out and he went to Louisiana. It was at the height of the Berlin airlift crises. When his orders came in, he packed his bags for a 20-month tour in Germany.

"He came home from Louisiana on leave," Cleottice says sipping her coffee. "We

had talked about marriage before. He explained to me he was going to be going away and would be gone a long time."

She can still remember exactly what he said and repeats it, "We can get married" she pauses, cocking her head playfully mocking him, "if you want to."

He drops his head, now a little embarrassed.

"Well," Cleottice offers, trying to rescue him, "he knew he was asking a lot because he was going to be away for a long time."

Apparently it worked and a wedding was hastily arranged.

"We got married and spent four days together," she said.

He clarified, "we got married on Dec. 7."

"And four days later he was gone."

Eddie boarded the U.S.S. Darby out of Brooklyn, New York and landed in Bremerhaven, Germany, at the start of winter.

"I was there 19 months 24 days, 10 hours, 15 minutes. You get a calendar and start marking off days," he said explaining his precision.

She was attending college with lots of time on her hands to write.

"I wrote him every other day - Monday, Wednesday and Friday. His letters weren't so long."

"Noooo, no," Eddie cuts in. "I didn't have that much time."

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SWEETHEARTS (Continued from page 4A)

Eventually he returned to Texas and they moved to Marlin where he taught chemistry and math.

There they had a daughter, a time Cleottice described as the most special of their life together.

Cleottice chuckled, "My husband is a very nervous person. He got up that morning and we could tell it was almost time to go to the hospital."

"He said he was going to call in sick. So he jumped out of bed and started to get dressed. I said, 'what are you doing?' He said, 'I'm getting dressed.' I said 'you're putting your clothes over your pajamas!'"

Eddie decided to go to school after all and wait for the news.

"I was teaching chemistry class. I was putting a formula on the board when they called. I turned around and I had a big, big smile on my face and the whole class started applauding."

"A friend in the office said, 'you are the father of a big seven pound, 19 inch daughter,' and I just..." Eddie trailed off laying his head on the table.

He was excited, but he had also wanted a boy.

At the hospital, Cleottice says, "He looked at our daughter and said, 'I wanted a boy, I wanted a boy so bad.'"

"Then he looked at her and said, 'I wouldn't take all the boys in the world for you.'"

"That was a special day," Eddie agrees.

The next year, a recruiter from New Jersey lured Eddie and his family to the north east with a high-paying teaching position.

He taught one year and then quit. "I didn't like the way the schools were run. It was a lot different than Texas."

"I didn't know exactly what I wanted to do, but I knew I always wanted to remain employed."

"I decided to go into the field of probation. I could do it because you had to have a degree from a four-year accredited college."

Thirty-five years later, after working towards a masters degree, he retired as supervisor of the department.

Meanwhile, Cleottice had gone to school and become a medical assistant. She worked for more than 25 years at a local hospital.

And now, after retiring and selling thier home, they have returned to Mineola. That was their goal.

They are living in the family house where Eddie lived when they first met while they wait for the contract to close on another house in town.

They are active in the Mineola Lion's Club, "the best service club," claims Eddie emphatically. He's had perfect attendance since he joined in the 1970s.

They've joined - "rejoined," Eddie corrects - St. Paul's Baptist Church where were they attended as kids.

"We see a lot of changes (in Mineola). I think we're really going to enjoy it."

Cleottice adds, "At the same time, it's a big adjustment for us. Pumping gas is going to be a big adjustment." (New Jersey law makes all stations full-service.) "And being an hour or so away from Macy's!" she adds.

Eddies chimes in, "Everything is close to New Jersey. We were an hour from Philadelphia and 60 miles from New York City and 60 from Atlantic City. Everything was a lot closer."

But with the move comes memories of a time long gone. Just the other day, Cleottice was sitting in the McFarland Community Center working on ceramics with some friends when she realized she was sitting in that same sixth-grade classroom where it all began.

"This is where I first saw my husband," she told the ladies.

Since then their friendship and marriage have survived where many have not. What's the secret?

"The good things outweigh the bad things," says Eddie. "With the bad things, it's like water on a ducks back, you just let it roll off."

"We've always been independent, says Eddie with Cleottice nodding in agreement. "We didn't have a lot of family members. When you don't live close to family members you can't run home. That's part of the cohesiveness in pulling together. She would have run home to her mother."

Cleottice counters, "I don't know whether I would have run home, but I also didn't call up other people and get them involved."

She pauses and looks at Eddie with a soft smile. "My husband is my best friend. He's the one I tell my innermost secrets."

Is he romantic? She claims he is, but, "he doesn't like people to think he is. That's one of his secrets."

As the conversation wraps up, Eddie claims, "I rule the roost."

Cleottice shoots back, "But I rule the rooster!"

Eddie concedes. A bit of romanticism surfaces and he tries to make amends with a smooth and sincere line.

"I wouldn't give anything for her."

The comment hangs in the air and she on his shoulder. Then suddenly she realizes exactly what he said.

In one motion she leans back an slaps him on the arm.

"You're suppose to say you wouldn't take anything for me!"

Friendship has been the Waltons' secret. They admit they work at it with fun and laughter and lots of love. It truly is what you make of it.