



Rev. Jay Ralph Rhodes

January 7, 1931 - December 21, 2020

Rev. Jay Ralph Rhodes, 89, of Anniston, passed away in the early morning of December 21, 2020. He was born and raised in Blue Mountain, Alabama. He was preceded in death by his wife Sarah, his parents Rev. Jay and Alice, his brother Fletcher and sisters Mozelle, Lillie, Edna and Kathryn. He is survived by his son Jay (Jennifer), brother Grady (Sarah) and numerous nieces, nephews, cousins and in-laws.

He was a longtime member of Pleasant Ridge Baptist Church in Choccolocco, where he served as Associate Pastor for many years. Ralph graduated from Alexandria High School and Jacksonville State University. He was a proud veteran who served in the United States Army during the Korean War and was a retiree of the Anniston Army Depot.

Ralph lived his life to the fullest. He could often be seen driving his “limousine” around town going to his regular dining spots, music performances, church activities and gatherings of friends. He enjoyed gardening and took great pride in the vegetables he grew each year. He never met a stranger, was always a prankster and he loved telling stories of his many adventures. He was a fan of Alabama football and was excited to see them win another SEC title. Ralph’s smile, optimism, big personality and generous spirit will be deeply missed by those closest to him.

The family appreciates everyone who has reached out and is especially grateful to the relatives and friends who assisted and kept in touch with Ralph during this most challenging year. Your kindness, compassion and time meant a lot to him, Jay and Jennifer.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, no service will be held at this time; however, family and friends may pay their respects on Tuesday, December 29, 2020 at Pleasant Ridge Baptist Church, where Ralph will lie in repose from 10:30 a.m. until 11:30 a.m. Masks and social distancing will be required. Ralph will receive military honors as he is laid to rest privately by his son. A special celebration of his life will be held once large gatherings are deemed safe. In the meantime, treat yourself to a frozen Coke – it was Ralph’s favorite drink and he would be thrilled to know you enjoyed one while thinking of him. And remember his oft-repeated words of wisdom: “Be good. Don’t take any wooden nickels or drink any water out of a dry mud hole and you’ll be in great shape.”

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Oxford Performing Arts Center (OPAC), a place Ralph loved and one that brought him much joy.

OPAC

Attn: Development Dept.

P.O. Box 3383

Oxford, AL 36203

Please write “In memory of Ralph Rhodes” in the memo line on your check. Alternatively, you may contact the OPAC Development Office by phone or online for assistance with making a donation via credit card in Ralph’s honor. To Donate Online: <https://www.oxfordpac.org/support-opac/donate>

Previous Events

Visitation

DEC **29**. 10:30 AM - 11:30 AM (CT)

Pleasant Ridge Baptist
Anniston, AL 36207

Tribute Wall

DM

“ I went to church with him and Grady. Both fine men. They will never be forgotten.

David Miller - February 12 at 06:29 PM

BA

“ Bro. Ralph was a Godly influence in my life as I grew up in Pleasant Ridge Baptist Church. I can remember him as testifying & preaching for the Lord. At every church homecoming after lunch, during the evening service, he would always be the first to stand & testify when the Isom Lee Trio & others would be the guest singers. He came from a very Godly family as his Daddy was a preacher of the gospel also. I'm sure he certainly will be missed by all his family & friends .We will be praying for you, Jay & Grady.

Burgess & Norma Austin - December 24, 2020 at 10:41 AM

DB

“ Jay I will never forget the day I met your dad. I was so happy for so many reasons. He was very receptive and sincere which made me feel so good. He loved you so much and was very proud of you and your accomplishments. If he could tell you today 'thank you' for being there during all this he would and with a huge smile! He will certainly be missed by many many people but NEVER forgotten. Heaven has a place for him and he will be reunited with your mom. That is such a huge blessing. Praying for you and Jennifer during this difficult time.



diane britton - December 24, 2020 at 09:03 AM

GP

“ Jay so sorry for your loss praying for you through these sad times, Ralph was a great person too be around and a great supervisor to work for spent many good days with him at AAD he will be greatly missed , Glenn Price !! Praying for you all.

Glenn Price - December 24, 2020 at 01:51 AM

DM

“ Uncle Ralph was loved by so many. A huge celebration is going on in Heaven. I can just hear the laughter and stories Daddy, Uncle Ralph and all the aunts are telling.

DeEnna McAlear - December 23, 2020 at 07:41 PM

JC

“ Jay, I am so sorry for your loss. Mr. Rhodes was a character to say the least. A good one though. I met him while Sara was taking chemotherapy and he kept the patients laughing all the time to help them forget why they were there. Even Dr. Twele cut a smile some days. I had so much respect for him and he loved you dearly. Praying for you thru out this sad time but know he is dancing with his beautiful wife in heaven. Be Blessed Jeanie Childs, Oxford

JEANIE CHILDS - December 23, 2020 at 06:11 PM

LG

Our Uncle Ralph was surely one of a kind. He never ever ran out of stories and could remember the most exact details of something that might have happened 60 years ago. His voice may be silent for us ... but those in the next world better get ready. Jay Ralph Rhonda's is heading your way.

Lynda Scott Godwin - December 24, 2020 at 11:34 AM



SSOOO many good memories of Ralph and Sarah Helen!! They were youth leaders at Pleasant Ridge when I was a teenager. They had us in their home, carried us for ice cream at Hill Top creamery, etc. Ralph teased us all the time....so much fun! Oh the love and excitement when Jay came! Love and prayers for Jay and Grady'

LINDA HOLLINGSWORTH - December 27, 2020 at 11:57 AM