



James H Whitt

December 17, 1924 - August 22, 2016

James Harold Whitt died August 22 at the age of 91. James was born on December 17, 1924 in Blanche, TN. His family moved to Haleyville in 1926 when his father became local manager of Alabama Power Company.

He graduated from Haleyville High in 1942 and enlisted in the US Army in 1943. He served his country in the European Theater during WWII rising to the rank of Master Sergeant and being awarded the Bronze Star for his meritorious service. Upon discharge from the Army in 1946, he enrolled at Auburn University graduating in 1948 with a degree in electrical engineering. He served as an electrical engineer for TVA until 1950 when he returned to Haleyville and established Whitt Jewelry Company, a company he operated with his family for 58 years. From 1958 until 1960 Mr. Whitt served as Diversified Occupations instructor at Haleyville High School, making an indelible and life-long impact on the lives of his students. In 1960, he founded Whitt Electrical Contractors and played a role in constructing many hospitals, schools and industrial facilities throughout northwest Alabama.

Mr. Whitt served with distinction as mayor of Haleyville from 1964 – 1968. During his tenure, he was instrumental in the construction of a new post office, sewer system, Burdick-West Hospital (now Lakeland Community Hospital) and Haleyville Memorial Stadium (Bubba Scott Field). The nation's first 911 call was made from his office on February 16, 1968. He loved Haleyville and

worked tirelessly throughout his life to bring jobs and improve educational opportunities into the community. For his contributions to the community, he was honored as the 2005 Haleyville Alumnus of the Year.

He was a member of Haleyville First Baptist Church a dedicated and effective teacher of God's Word. For over fifty years, he taught Sunday School at First Baptist Church and at Corinth Heights Baptist Church. He served as chairman of the Building Committee at each of these churches during the construction of their current sanctuaries.

His visitation will be Wednesday August 24, 2016 at the First Baptist Church in Haleyville, AL. from 12:00 noon - 3:00 p.m., with his funeral at 3:00 p.m. at the church, with Bro. Nathan Carroll officiating. Burial in Winston Memorial Cemetery.

He is survived by his wife of 69 years, Mona, by his children Kay (Ken) Sunseri and Steve (Carol) Whitt and by his brother Joe Whitt and sister Martha Hoover. He leaves behind four grandchildren; Murry (CeCe) Whitt, Beth (Keith) Moore, Holly (Heath) Sutherland and David Sunseri, and ten greatgrandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents, W. W. Whitt and Maggie O'Neal Whitt; brother, W. O. Whitt; sisters Frances Hackett, Jean Roby and Sara Fuller; and his granddaughter, Jennifer Sunseri.

In Lieu of Flowers, make donations to the church or charity of your choice, or to Lion Legacy at Haleyville High School.

you may leave online condolences at www.pinkardfh.com

Cemetery Details

Winston Memorial Cemetery

96 Co. Rd. 36
Haleyville, AL 35565

Previous Events

Visitation

AUG **24**. 12:00 PM - 3:00 PM (CT)

First Baptist Church Haleyville
1103 21st. Street
Haleyville, AL

Funeral Service

AUG **24**. 3:00 PM (CT)

First Baptist Church Haleyville
1103 21st. Street
Haleyville, AL

Tribute Wall

LE

“ Dear Mona, Steve and carol, and families--you all know what a great man we have all lost. James was extremely good to me when I came to Haleyville back in the 70's. He was always very honest and helpful with me---which I will always remember. God bless you in your hour of sorrow. Leon edmond

leon edmond - August 28, 2016 at 09:22 PM

FJ

“ To all of the Whitts, a very family so special to my own, you are in my prayers.

Felecia Palmer James - August 24, 2016 at 08:13 PM

WW

“ Dear Whitt Family, I was so sorry to hear of the passing of Mr. Whitt. He was a special person and will be greatly missed. You are all in my thoughts and prayers during this sad time. May the thoughts of all who loved him and you be a comfort at this time. We love you. Wanda Cone Whitten

Wanda Whitten - August 24, 2016 at 07:29 PM

CN

“ We are very sorry to hear of Mr. Whitt's passing. May God comfort you in this time of sorrow.

Brandon and Christi Norris

christi norris - August 24, 2016 at 02:03 PM

ML

“ *Mona and Steve, I'm so sorry to hear of your loss. I have such great memories of growing up next door to you and always held James in the highest regard. He was a great husband, father, and leader when he was mayor of Haleyville. I always felt welcome when I was over to your house. I still remember those great chocolate chip cookies. Carol and I will keep all of you in our prayers over the coming days. We plan on coming through Haleyville on Sept 29/30 and hope we can see you then.*

Mike & Carol Lovelady

Mike Lovelady - August 24, 2016 at 07:41 AM

BF

“ *Dear Whitt Family, We were so saddened to hear of the passing of our beloved neighbor. Mr. Whitt has always been so kind to us. Always greeting us with a smile. Before He got sick, we would see him across the road working meticulously in his yard and around the now gone pecan trees. He took so much pride in his lawn looking beautiful. I miss seeing him out there.*



I pray that God our Father fill you all with peace and comfort in this time of sorrow and in the days to come.

Butch & Sue Foster

Butch & Sue Foster - August 23, 2016 at 03:44 PM

SN

“ *Steve(Carol) I'm sorry for your loss. Prayers for you and your family.*

Susan Newton - August 23, 2016 at 03:31 PM

BD

“ Mayor James Whitt was a very nice man As a budding newspaper with the NWA, I was sent to interview Mayor Whitt and report on the town's progress. I was scared to death to talk to such an important man. I remember he quickly put me at ease with his kind voice and quick smile and I was able to get my story. The obituary lists many important accomplishments in his life. If memory serves me correctly, the Neighborhood Facilities Building was built during his tenure as mayor and the downtown Urban Renewal project began. He has certainly left his mark on this town. Condolences to Mona and the family.

Becky Davis - August 23, 2016 at 01:40 AM



“ Tiffany Harlan sent a virtual gift in memory of James H Whitt



Tiffany Harlan - August 22, 2016 at 11:43 PM



“ Tiffany Harlan lit a candle in memory of James H Whitt



Tiffany Harlan - August 22, 2016 at 11:43 PM

GF

“ Dear Mrs. Mona, Steve, Carol & Family,
We are so sorry for your loss. May God give
you comfort & peace in the days and weeks
ahead. May it be a comfort to you ALL to
know that you have friends that Love and
care

for you, and that we are keeping you lifted up in prayer. Mr. Whitt
was such a Wonderful neighbor to Our "Butch" and his family, they
Loved him dearly.

God Bless you as you go through this trying time.

Jesus Hugs & Blessings,
Grady & Maryanna Foster
Jasper, Alabama



Grady & Maryanna Foster - August 22, 2016 at 10:44 PM

LM

“ Growing up in Haleyville how could anyone not remember and love
James Whitt. When he had his jewelry store I cannot remember
how many things I purchased but many were for my wife of 48
years. Mr. Whitt was a true Auburn man and so am I. He would
always talk Auburn with me and I loved our conversations.
Something tells me he is having conversations now with all the
other H,ville AU alums like Doc Burgess and my Dad L.G. Morris.
They were close. God bless you Mr. Whitt and War Eagle. RIP!

Lonnie Morris - August 22, 2016 at 09:46 PM

DT

“ So Sorry for your loss- Prayers be with each of you- I always
thought a lot of Mr. Whitt

Dwight D. Thomas - August 22, 2016 at 07:34 PM

WH

“ *Mona, and family. I am so sad about James passing. He was one fine man and one of Russell' growing up friends when they lived across hill where the sub station is. My thoughts and prayers for comfort are with all of you. Wynell Howell*

Wynell Howell - August 22, 2016 at 06:39 PM