

## DURANT NEWS

by Rowena Hill

Hearts are saddened because of the damage done to our town by the recent storms but are very grateful that no lives were lost except one resident. Our heart and prayers go out to his family and friends. Thank God for his blessings. We pray for those who have been and many who still are helping with the recovery.

Churches in town have been canceled for several services the last two weeks but some met Sunday. There are still no lights for most. Maybe next Sunday.

All friends and family of Mrs. Betty Laura Williamson are thankful she is feeling better and is back home from recent hospital care.

This writer is very sad because my sister Frankie has suffered a major stroke and is a patient in St. Dominic Hospital in Jackson. The prognosis is not

good, but God is still in control and its our prayers and hope that she will fully recover.

Joey Hill returned from visiting Jamie and family in Millington, Tennessee last weekend to work and assist in the clean up and recovery in last Sunday's storm if and when needed.

Mrs. Jackie Hill and the choir from Presbyterian Church in Kosciusko sang to citizens here Sunday afternoon to bring joy and encouragement to those who are sad and/or troubled because of the homes lost and condition of the area. Thanks to each for caring.

We are thankful Mitch Land has returned to the local nursing home and pray that when lights and utilities are on again, he will be home with his family. May God bless him and all those who are sick.

The Sallis School Reunion

was well attended and enjoyed by a large group of former students. My sister Bessie Easterling worked hard for many months to make it entertaining for all in attendance with the help of many others. I won't try to name them because I might leave out some and each are special.

Thankfully Mrs. Cynthia Bratcher is home after being a patient in the hospital in Canton.

Mrs. Ann Irby and others aren't well. May God bless and bring them home again.

Mr. and Mrs. James Pilgrim of Vicksburg, Mrs. Aline and daughter of Memphis spent Friday and Saturday nights along with Mrs. Bessie Easterling of Jackson with this writer for the school reunion. It was great seeing and being together again.

Mr. James Farmer of Wisconsin visited his mother Mrs. Frankie Farmer and family during the week because of her illness. May God bless each of them.

## University of Southern Miss announces Holmes County graduates

The University of Southern Mississippi will hold spring commencement exercises May 12 - 13 on its Hattiesburg campus and the Mississippi Coast Coliseum in Biloxi, respectively.

Southern Miss President Rod-

ney D. Bennett conferred undergraduate, graduate and specialist's degrees at each ceremony. Dr. Jim Franks, senior research scientist with USM's Center for Fisheries Research and Development at its Gulf Coast Re-

search Laboratory (GCRL) in Ocean Springs, gave the commencement addresses.

Southern Miss graduates from the local area include:

**Lexington** - Jesse Hammett, Bachelor of Arts; and Maurice Ra'Shad Russell, Bachelors of Liberal Studies.

**Pickens** - Tamara L. Wright, Bachelor of Science.

# Obituaries

### LYDA S. TAVENNER

Lyda Siddon Tavenner, 74, of Smithville passed away Friday, April 28, 2017, at Sanctuary Hospice House, Tupelo. Born on August 27, 1942, in West, MS, she was the daughter of the late Harvey and Mary McNeer Siddon.

Lyda was a graduate of Riverside High School and Delta State University. On January 13, 1974, she married Garion Tavenner. A dedicated school teacher who loved her students, she taught Home Economics for 25 years at Riverside High and coached basketball. For seven more years, she taught at Leland High, Greenville Public Schools and retired from MS Delta Community College. Lyda lived in the Delta most of her life, moving to Smithville in 2013.

A strong Christian soldier for the Lord, Lyda was formerly a very active member of Alexander Memorial Baptist Church in James Crossing, MS, serving as a Sunday school teacher. She loved going to church. After moving to Smithville, Garion and she became members of House of Prayer in Amory. A great woman, she was a very

loving mother and grandmother and deeply loved her family. Having a huge heart of compassion, Lyda was passionate about helping people.

An excellent cook, she cooked for their family reunions and was known for her fried chicken, homemade biscuits and pecan pancakes. Lyda enjoyed visiting with all of her family, sewing, gardening, working in the yard and tending to her flowers and plants. Her favorite artist and music were Elvis and Southern Gospel. She will be greatly missed by her family and everyone who knew her.

Survivors include her husband of 43 years Garion Tavenner, Smithville; daughters, Terri Tate, Hot Springs, AR, Carla Ann Williams (Chad), Marietta, GA, and Sonya Umfress (Joey), Amory; grandchildren, Corrie Ann Gatlin (Dave), Lauren Smith (Richard), Ashley Coleman, Brittany Umfress, Jessy Jones (Jamy), Reed G. Williams, Catherine Williams and John David Williams; six great-grandchildren; sisters, Beulah Siddon, Lexington, MS and Alice Whitman, Southaven; brothers, Pete Siddon, Oak Ridge, LA

and Mike Siddon, Leland; and numerous nieces and nephews.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her siblings, Mamie "Sis" Siddon, Eugene "Bubba" Siddon, Wilburn Siddon, Mary Lou Farmer, Bill Siddon and Mickey Siddon; and father- and mother-in-law, Mike and Ellene Boatright Tavenner.

Her funeral service was held at 2:00 p.m., Tuesday, May 2 at E. E. Pickle Funeral Home, Amory, with Bro. Josh Siddon and Bro. Jamie Gillentine officiating. Burial followed in Grace Fellowship Cemetery. Pallbearers were Pete Siddon, Mike Siddon, Reed Williams, Franklin Coleman, Billy Farmer, Jerry Farmer and Jamy Jones. Honorary pallbearers were Albert Young, Chalmers Hobart, Thomas "Boots" Nelson, Doug Dean and Robert Nichols.

Memorials may be made to House of Prayer, c/o Cindy Loden, 30344 Bigbee Rd., Amory, MS 38821. Memories and condolences may be shared with her family at EEPickleFuneralHome.com.

### WILLIAM ELLISON SALLEY, II

William (Bill) Ellison Salley, II, 57, formerly of Holmes County, MS passed away recently in Goodlettsville, TN.

A memorial service will be held, Monday, May 15, 2017 at Parkway Baptist Church in Goodlettsville. Also, a memorial service will be held on Sunday, July 16, 2017 at First Baptist Church, Lexington, MS.

### FRANCES PAYNE WARD

Frances Payne Ward, 89, of Durant died Sunday, May 7, 2017 at Holmes County Long Term Care in Durant. Visitation was from 5:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. Tuesday, May 9, 2017 at First United Methodist Church in Durant. Funeral services were held at 11:00 a.m., Wednesday, May 10, 2017 also at the church. Burial was in Parkway Cemetery in Kosciusko.

Mrs. Ward was a retired registered nurse at Methodist Hospital of Middle Mississippi, a member of First United Methodist Church in Durant and a member of the Eastern Star.

Survivors are her husband of 64 years, Douglas Ward, son Gene Ward (Tammy) of Indianola; daughter Renee Burge (Byron) of Carriere; grandchildren, Callie Ward, Megan Hudson, Ashley Lowe, Brandi Wagner, Chase Burge, Connie Gore and J.T. Burge; and ten great grandchildren.

Mrs. Ward was preceded in death by her parents; her daughter Sarah Beth Ward; her grandson Stephen Ward; four brothers and seven sisters.

Memorials may be made to First United Methodist Church, 132 West Mulberry Street, Durant, MS 39063.

Arrangements were entrusted to Southern Funeral Home in Durant.

## Card Of Thanks

Mr. Ezell Smith Johnson passed away on April 25, 2017 and his Life's Celebration Service and Final Military Tribute were held on April 29, 2017. Mrs. Nancy B. Johnson and the family sincerely appreciate the outpouring of prayers, gestures of condolences and support from family, associates, church affiliates, friends and the local communities during this time of bereavement. In return, the family humbly prays that God's peace and grace continually dwell with you.



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