



JD Pappy Chapman

June 3, 1925 - December 15, 2019

James Dewey “JD (Pappy)” Chapman, age 94, a life-long resident of Cleveland entered into the presence of His Savior early Sunday morning December 15, 2019 surrounded by his family. He is the son of the late Stanton and Estelle Chapman. He was preceded in death by his dear wife Voleta, his brothers Charles, Hudon, Bill and Richard, sisters Vivian and Rose, son-in-law Tommy Davis, son Dennis Chapman, and his grand-daughters Ansley and Jordin Davis.

Pappy was a veteran of World War II where he served under Admiral Hill as a Morse Code operator. An eye witness to the iconic Raising of the Flag during the Battle of Iwo Jima, Pappy considered it an honor and privilege to serve his country. After returning home, Pappy married his sweetheart, Voleta Epperson, whom he had loved since they were second graders. Married 70 years, the couple had four children, James (Paula) Chapman of Cleveland, the late Dennis Chapman of Pensacola, Florida, Philip Chapman and Susie (the late Tommy) Davis both also of Cleveland. Pappy was the owner of Southern Bronzing Company that bronzed baby shoes for 50 years.

Pappy loved his family and friends, playing Rook, and watching baseball, but nothing brought Pappy more joy than sharing Christ with anyone who would listen. Jesus saved Pappy at the age of 50 years old and serving the Lord became Pappy’s greatest passion. He spent many hours taking people out for a cup of coffee or visiting them in their homes telling them how Jesus had changed his life. For many years Pappy shared the good news of the Gospel of Jesus Christ as a member of the Gideons International.

Pappy deeply loved his family. He adored his late wife, Voleta, and tenderly cared for her during the last years of her life. He also enjoyed his grandkids and great-grandkids and was very involved in their lives. Pappy also loved people well and was very intentional about making and keeping friends. He showed such a genuine interest in and concern for others that people were naturally drawn to him. Anyone with Pappy felt like he/she was the most special person around!

Pappy leaves behind to cherish his memory, his children: James (Paula) Chapman, Philip Chapman and Susie Davis; his grandchildren: James Paul (Angela) Chapman, Brian (Angie), Brandi (Eric) Cameron, Arhmin (Steven) Thompson and Chelsey (Michael) Hicks; and his great-grandchildren: Joseph and Abram Chapman, Cole Chapman, Alexis and

Megan Tracy, Emory, Truett, Willa and Elan Thompson and Carter Hicks. The family is grateful to Pearl Townsend, his Rook partner and special friend the last couple years of his life that brought him much joy.

“I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us.” Romans 8:18.

A Remembrance of Life Service will be held Thursday at 6 o'clock at Jim Rush Funeral and Cremation Services North Ocoee St. Chapel with Rev. Phil Griffin officiating. The committal service will be held Friday at 11am, with military honors at Chattanooga National Cemetery. The pallbearers will include Tony Murphy, Steven Thompson, Michael Hicks, Joseph Chapman, Eric Cameron, Brian Chapman, Tim McCullen and James Paul Chapman. The family will receive friends Thursday from 3 until 6 o'clock at the

funeral home. The family requests that donations be made in Pappy's memory to Gideons International by going to their website at www.gideons.org.

Comments



“ Knew Pappy well. Spent several holidays in his company. Did not know him in his younger days but a better man I have never known .We pray and hope the family and all those that knew him remembers him with as we do .
Love him in the Lord
Joe & Joyce Belcher

Joe & Joyce Belcher - December 19, 2019 at 04:51 PM



“ Early Sunday morning King Jesus smiled, opened wide his arms and unquestionably said, “Well done, good and faithful servant! Come and share your master's happiness!” JD was such beautiful man! The fruit of the Spirit became his DNA and you could not be around JD without knowing the Spirit was present. I smile when I think of JD and look forward to a biscuit and sausage gravy with him at the big table!

I pray God’s comfort and peace for JD’s family. This is the time to mourn, but we “do not grieve like the rest of mankind, who have no hope.” Jesus’ promise, “you will be comforted!”

Dwight Ervin

Dwight Ervin - December 19, 2019 at 04:39 PM



“ Bettye Calhoun lit a candle in memory of JD Pappy Chapman



Bettye Calhoun - December 19, 2019 at 10:47 AM



“ Dear Mr. JD was one of the good ones. I know it is hard on all of you to loose him to heaven, and rest assured that is where he is at this very moment, but God needed your special angel there. JD has been a great friend ever since the day I first met him. I will miss seeing him and the way he always greeted with a huge smile on his face and a hug. Chapman family you are in my prayers for God to give you peace and healing for your loss.

Love and Prayers,
Bettye Calhoun and Family



“ The senior center have lost a great man. Mr. JD was such a wonderful person to know.
We will miss him at the senior center.

Sharon Westfield/Director
Bradley senior activity center
230 Urbane Road NW
Cleveland ,Tenn 37312
shalo9@hotmail.com

Sharon L. Westfield - December 18, 2019 at 09:10 AM



“ Wylene McAlister lit a candle in memory of JD Pappy Chapman



Wylene McAlister - December 17, 2019 at 10:47 PM