



Jesse David Clanton, Jr.

December 19, 1931 - August 24, 2013

Jesse David Clanton, Jr., age 81, passed away on Saturday, August 24, 2013 at the Limestone Health Facility in Athens, AL. Mr. Clanton was born in Limestone County on December 19, 1931 to Jesse D. Clanton and Blanche Bullington Clanton. Mr. Clanton is survived by his wife, Gail Cottrell Clanton; Children, Ashlie Clanton Clay and husband Greg, Blanche Clanton, Andrew Clanton and wife Jennifer, Jess Clanton and wife Wendi, Pearl Clanton Lamb and husband Scott, Samuel Clanton and Caleb Clanton and wife Sophia; grandchildren, David Clay, Paul Clay, John Clay, Elizabeth Clay and Anna Clay, Jacksyn Clanton, Noah Clanton, Jonah Clanton, Emma Kate Clanton, Josiah Lamb, Nathanael Lamb, Isaac Lamb, Benjamin Lamb, Savannah Lamb and Elijah Clanton; brother-in-law, Elvin Stoffregen, sister-in-law, Kay Williams; several nieces and nephews and a host of friends and colleagues. Mr. Clanton graduated from Athens High School valedictorian. He received his BS Degree with honors from Florence State College and his M.A. Degree with honors from Peabody College in Nashville. Throughout his tenure as an educator in the Athens City and Limestone County School Systems, he served as a classroom teacher, coach, first principal at West Athens Elementary School and lastly assistant superintendent of the Limestone County Schools. Upon retirement from public education, Mr. Clanton served as an Education Specialist with New Systems Training Office, USAOMMCS, on Redstone Arsenal in Huntsville. Before he was an educator Mr. Clanton served in the U. S. Army for two years in the military Police Corps. He was 1st

Lt. and Company Commander of the 101st Military Police Company. Mr. Clanton spent his life in service to his God, his family, his country, and his fellowman. Mr. Clanton was a member of First Baptist Church of Athens, AL. Visitation for Mr. Clanton will be Monday, August 26, 2013, at Limestone Chapel Funeral Home from 6:00-9:00 p.m. The funeral service will be Tuesday, August 27, 2013 at noon at the Athens First Baptist Church. Mr. Clanton will lie-in-state at the church Tuesday from 11:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m. The burial will be in the Roselawn Cemetery in Athens with full military honors. Grandsons will be pallbearers. Honorary pallbearers will be Mr. Clanton's former students. Please sign our online guestbook.

Tribute Wall

NS

“ We always looked up to J.D. Athens High School Class of 1950 loved him and will miss him. He was very special to me.

Nancy Dupree Shope - August 28, 2013 at 07:56 PM

BP

“ I am praying for the family. He will be greatly missed.

Bonnie Putman - August 28, 2013 at 07:53 PM

NS

“ Jess....please accept my sincere condolences for the loss of your Dad....Hope you & your family are doing well...from your Kroger tennis bud Nick....

Nick Sandlin - August 27, 2013 at 08:28 PM

BB

“ Our thoughts and prayers are with your family. May God be with your family during this time and in days to come

Bud & Jean Brackeen - August 27, 2013 at 08:23 PM

WW

“ I am saddened to learn of the passing of such an outstanding educator. He contributed significantly to the education of many Limestone County and other N. Alabama students. Personally I learned much from him, particularly: appreciation of our country & heritage, democracy, patriotism, moral values, and oratory. He also gave significant support to my brother's science project endeavours in 1958-60. He will missed.

Wayne Lewis Wilson - August 26, 2013 at 10:53 PM

JS

“ I live in Iowa now, and was just notified of J.D.'s passing. My heart is full of memories of the time I spent in J.D. and Gail's home. They were wonderful friends to me at a difficult time in my life, and so helpful to me as a new mom with three little kids--the youngest of whom was named "Jesse David" in honor of J.D. Gail, I have often thought of you and prayed for you and J.D. over the years, since I moved away, and you are especially in my prayers right now. May God richly bless you at this bittersweet time, as only He can. I didn't keep in touch after the move, but I thought of you and J.D. so often with so much love and respect. My deepest sympathies to you and to all your children, and grandchildren.

Jean

Jean Whitehouse Stanford - August 26, 2013 at 10:29 PM

PH

“ Gayle, I am so sorry that I did not get to see you tonight. I am on a walker and could not even get close to park. I have a broken femur. Please know how much I respected J.D. and enjoyed working with him as long as we did. He was one of the finest and most intelligent men I have ever had the honor of knowing. Jeanette and I send our love and prayers to the whole family.

Paul Hargrove - August 26, 2013 at 07:52 PM

HD

“ We send our sympathy.

Hilton and Sallie (friends of Calab and Sophia)

Hilton and Sallie Dean - August 26, 2013 at 06:06 PM

JW

“ JD was a big influence in my life when I was a teenager, both at school and at Market Street Church of Christ. I will always remember his booming voice of authority as a teacher. I think there are a lot of people my age who are blessed to have known him. My condolences to his family.

Joe Warren - August 26, 2013 at 11:50 AM

MW

“ Sam so sorry to hear about the loss of your Father. Everyone at 1029 The Z will remember you in our prayers.

marlyn wallis - August 26, 2013 at 09:01 AM

WG

“ Mr. Clanton's achievements, and the legacy of his and Gail's splendid family is beyond all of the accolades that any mortal can render. May the better memories of this servant of God assuage the pain that his loved-ones must now feel in this moment. He was an exacting yet merciful man without peer in countless ways and we were blessed because he lived such a devoted life.
With love, Bill Graham & family

William R. Graham - August 26, 2013 at 08:55 AM

MC

“ I'm honored to have had Mr. Clanton care about me when I grew up in Athens. He treated me like his son and was the guiding influence in my life. His impact is still felt today in my Army career. He will be missed but never forgotten.

MAJ Philip Crabtree - August 26, 2013 at 12:47 AM

RT

“ Dear Pearl, Scott and Clanton Family,
Our prayers are with you in this difficult time, and asking God to sustain you in His grace and mercy. We love you. Bob and Fran

Rev Bob & Fran Travers - August 25, 2013 at 05:55 PM

RW

“ It is with great sorrow that I have learned about the loss of J.D. He was a favorite cousin that I only got to know in my late teen years. He was a true Southern gentleman. His dad, Jesse, would come to see my parents, George W. and Mattie Lou (Honey) Clanton Smith, when I was growing up in Decatur. My thoughts and prayers are with you at this time.

*Robbie S. Wigginton
Bunker Hill, WV*

Robbie S Wigginton - August 25, 2013 at 04:44 PM

SR

“ Honor and duty to his Country; to his Profession and to his GOD. A Leader in every respect. "ANNUIT COEPTIS"

Steve Romine - August 25, 2013 at 04:19 PM

PJ

“ My Uncle JD was 13 years old when I was born and I adolized him. My heart and prayers go out to Gail, the children and grandchildren. The sorrow is ours because I know he is whole once again and surrounded by all who went before him and love him so much. My heart is rich with memories and I was blessed to have him in my life.
Love, Pat

Pat Owens Jacobs - August 25, 2013 at 01:09 PM

TD

“ Our beloved teacher, mentor, and friend. Gail, you and your precious family are in our thoughts and prayers.

Tom and Doris Davis - August 25, 2013 at 09:48 AM

RL

“ My husband and I wish to extend our deepest sympathies to the family of Mr. Clanton. May God bless you all with His mercies and comfort you with His tender loving Spirit. We know for certain that Mr Clanton is walking, talking, singing, dancing, and praising God with the saints that have gone before without any of the physical restraints he had here on this earth. Praise God.
Love, Walt and Rexanna

Rexanna Lamb - August 25, 2013 at 12:38 AM

SC

“ Now that I am a mother I appreciate people like Mr. And Mrs. Clanton who opened their home to me many times so that I could play with my sweet childhood friend, Pearl. I hope that your family is comforted by the countless people who are praying for you right now in your time of sorrow.

Stephanie Blakely Calabrace - August 24, 2013 at 09:16 PM

WF

“ WE LOVED AND ADMIRERD J D so very much.....he was a man among men and a dear, dear friend. God bless and comfort you during this time of loss. I have no doubt JD is rejoicing in the presence of our Lord at this very minute.

Wanda J FRY - August 24, 2013 at 07:03 PM