



Mr. Joe Rufus Sanders

January 28, 1933 - June 6, 2022

Joe Rufus Sanders
Carthage, MS

Joe Rufus Sanders entered his Heavenly home on June 6th, 2022 at 89 years. Joe was born January 25, 1933, to Elizabeth Mary Allen and Austin Lamar Sanders in Freeny, Mississippi. He graduated from Freeny High School in 1949 at 16 and soon after joined the United States Air Force. He served his country overseas in France and Germany until he returned in 1955 and married his first wife, Delores Sanders. Four years later, he moved his family to Carthage, MS, and established his permanent home. He opened Sinclair Service Station at the intersection of highways 16 and 35, followed by Sanders Body Shop & Garage.

In 1974, he opened Central Mississippi Manufactured Homes. He was one of the pillar members of the Mississippi Manufactured Housing Association for over thirty years, serving the Association as President from 1982 to 1990. He was inducted into the Hall of Fame in 1993. Joe served on the building committee for the current MMHA office in Flowood, MS. He received many retailers' awards for Central Mississippi Manufactured Housing. He was one of the few southern retailers in the United States to receive the Fleetwood Homes prestigious Circle of Excellence Award for ten straight years. Joe was in the Mobile Home business for over forty years and was well respected by

all who knew and worked with him.

He was appointed to the board of directors at Central Electric Power Company on August 4, 1989, serving as president from March 17, 1992 until his death. He was a faithful member of the First Baptist Church of Carthage.

His parents and older sibling, Dayton Sanders precede him in death; and twin boys who died in infancy. He is survived by a large, loving family that included one sister, Virginia Alford; his loving and devoted wife of 42 years, Betty Sanders. She was constantly at his side during the final weeks caring for him. His five children - Jane Chwastecki, spouse Dave; Patricia Butterbaugh, spouse Dale; Joey Sanders, spouse Lynn; Lamar Sanders, spouse Tracy, and Kandyce Richardson, spouse Krissy. He was a patriarch to not only his own children but also his step-children: Mary Kimble, spouse Troy; Mona Lebleu, spouse Paul; James and Dwayne Sutton. He was a loving papaw to his grandchildren: Elizabeth, Chance, Taylor, Shelby and spouse Dylan, Jonclaud, Lathan, Cami, Zeb, Kane, Jarrod, Garrett, Brooklyn Evey, Jason, and Doug. He was fortunate to have 3 great-grandchildren: Dawson and Maeleigh Watts and Dawson Sutton.

Joe lived a long and blessed life. He spent his free time enjoying his hobbies, that included traveling, working on the farm, and playing Dominoes, in which he was competitive even in his older years. Joe enjoyed reading the Bible and books of all types, especially biographies. Joe loved spending time with family and visiting with others. He never forgot a name or a face and was mentally sharp until the end. While many of his generation had passed on, Joe had friends of all ages and will be missed deeply by his family, the community of Carthage, and beyond. We will never forget his deep chuckling laugh, his love for suspenders, and his smile after a delicious meal. Papa Joe loved us all for who we are, and we loved him in return. Rest peacefully, Joe!

The family would like to extend a special thank you to Stephanie and Bridgette of Sta Home Healthcare, who provided exceptional nursing care to Joe.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations can be made to First Baptist Church of Carthage.

Visitation is 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., Friday, June 10, 2022 at Wilcox Funeral Home. Services are 11:00 a.m. Saturday, June 11, at First Baptist Church of Carthage with Bro. Stephen Evans and Bro. Eddie Hamilton officiating. Internment is in Freeny Cemetery.

Pallbearers are CEPA Board of Directors: Pettey Leach, Danny Thornton, Phillip Crosby, Mike Brooks, Earl Browning, Hanna Watson, Max Loper, Kenneth Hagan, and David Boyd.

Previous Events

Visitation

JUN 10. 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Wilcox Funeral Home
106 S Jordan Street
Carthage, MS 39051
(601) 267-8081
wilcoxfh@netdoor.com
<https://www.wilcoxfuneralhome.com/>

Funeral Service

JUN 11. 11:00 AM (CT)

First Baptist Church of Carthage
Carthage, MS 39051

Burial

JUN 11 (CT)

Freeny (Caldwell) Cemetery
Carthage, MS

Tribute Wall

MS

“ *Condolence to the family!*



Mary Sharp - June 11, 2022 at 11:05 AM

LG

“ *Our hearts are heavy with sadness in losing one of our favorite first cousins. Joe was such a special man, always caring for others and giving a helping hand to those in need. We shall miss him dearly and lean on many fond memories to sustain us moving forward in the days ahead. Our prayers go out to Betty, Joey, Lamar, Patricia and all the family. God's blessings on each.*

With our love,
Linda and Harley



Linda Garrett - June 10, 2022 at 06:18 PM

JS

“ Joe had a LOT of friends, but he was my special friend for some 56 years. We even called each other "Brother". I was an only child. I telephoned to check on him a day or so before he passed away and, of course, Betty answered and assisted him.

As a young Attorney I worked with him and a few others for many years to organize and strengthen the manufactured home industry in Mississippi and knew many of the members of his family and his two sons, Joey and Lama quiet well.

Joe encouraged numerous manufactured home plants to locate in Mississippi and that provided steady jobs for hundreds of people in many parts our state. Sometimes I wonder just how much that he personally helped our economy and all that I can say is that it was a LOT.

Manufactured homes provided reasonably priced shelter for thousands of Mississippi families when the price of a stick-built house would have been out of their financial reach.

That was a blessing to many extended families because grandparents could now enjoy their grandchildren and vice versa. It might well have improved your life also.

It just so happened that I was fortunate enough to also represent a Chapter of the Associated Contractors of America that performed utility construction, and, among other things, its members also laid water lines. At that time The U S Farmers Home Administration was tasked with trying to reverse the migration of our citizens from moving to other states and breaking up extended families as rural areas mostly had outdoor wells.

I discussed that with Joe and that AGC Chapter and we encouraged our representatives in Congress to put more money into that program to help and they did. In fact, the members of that Chapter laid enough PVC pipe to cross our state from East to West every three mile from the Gulf coast to the Tennessee line and with that it

provided rural Mississippians with clean water. Mississippi was only second to Texas in in laying miles of water lines.

With that, Joe and some of his manufactured home dealer friends, encouraged more plants to locate in Mississippi and further aided our economy. Since many lived i rural areas and had less income, they sold them reasonably priced manufactured homes and that really changed the face of our state and was a huge factor in keeping extended Mississippi families here instead of in some distant city.

You may not have known that Joe did so much to help his state and I doubt that he told you about any of that since that is the type of man that Joe R. Sanders was and that is how I shall remember my "Brother". It was a privilege to know him.

*John C. Sullivan, Jr.
Madison, Mississippi*

jsullaw@aol.com - June 10, 2022 at 02:41 PM



“ *Beautiful Dreams was purchased for the family of Mr. Joe Rufus Sanders.*



June 10, 2022 at 11:20 AM

FH

“ *Faye & Judy Harrell lit a candle in memory of
Mr. Joe Rufus Sanders*



Faye & Judy Harrell - June 08, 2022 at 06:30 PM