

# Homegoing Celebration for



*A. J. Rankin, Sr.*

*Sunrise*

*December 10, 1932*

*Sunset*

*July 24, 2008*

*Saturday, August 2, 2008 at 2:00pm*

*Good Hope Missionary Baptist Church ~ Florence, Mississippi*

*Reverend Kevin Thomas, Officiating*

# Obituary

**A.J.** Rankin, Sr., was born on Saturday, December 10, 1932 at 7:00am to Moses Rankin and Vearlean Williams in their family home in Fayette, MS. He was their only child. Sadly, his mother died when he was two years old and his grandmother, Martha Combs Williams, raised him and sat him on the mourners bench at an early age. His father had other children and he was blessed with over 25 brothers and sisters.

A.J. and his grandmother moved to Carpenter, MS when he was drafted in the U.S. Army in 1953. He served his country for 2 years of active duty and received a National Defense Service Medal. He was released from active military service and transferred to Army Reserve to complete 8 years of service. After his release, he moved to Braxton, MS with his Aunt Flora Brocks Moore and completed his education at Piney Woods Country Life School. During that time, he met and later married Daisy Lou Williams from Pinola, MS on January 7, 1960. They lived in Florence, MS and joined the Good Hope Missionary Baptist church where his father-in-law, the late Tom Williams, was a proud deacon.

A.J. worked as a commercial construction worker for many years until his retirement with Yates Construction Company, after which he drove a dump truck to appease his boredom. He enjoyed farming and helping his children with their home improvement projects. We could always count on him to do an excellent job. He also loved family and taught the importance of visiting and keeping in touch with relatives. His favorite scripture was Ecclesiastes 3:1, *"To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven."* During his illness, he realized that he would some day *"Move on"* and made preparations. *"Plant you now and dig you later"*, was one of his favorite sayings anytime we had to say good-bye. So, good-bye daddy, we love you and we will see you later!

A.J. Rankin departed this life on July 24, 2008 at 9:00am at his home at 351 R.T. Braddy Road. His smile, great sense of humor and love for life will be carried on by his children and grandchildren.

He leaves to cherish his memory daughters: Calvetia (Steve) Lewis of Florence, MS and Arta Young of Jackson, MS; sons: Demetric Rankin and Rev. Montique Rankin, both of Florence, MS; to this union, Daisy brought two of our siblings, Clara Kitchens and Erskine Murray; left to cherish his memories; fifteen grandchildren, two great-grandchildren; and a host of cousins, nieces, and nephews. Preceding him in death was his wife, Daisy Lou Rankin and two sons, A.J. Rankin, Jr. and Marvin Singleton.

# Program

Sister Shirley Magee, Mistress of Ceremony

Processional

Selection..... *"This World Is Not My Home"* ..... Good Hope Mass Choir  
*Led by Sister Louise Thomas*

Scripture

Old Testament ..... Rev. Barney Rankin

New Testament ..... Rev. Isaac Rankin

Prayer..... Pastor Willia Brown, MDiv  
*Marantha Church of God in Christ, Chicago, IL*

Solo..... *"We Come A Long Way"* ..... Choir  
*Led By Sister Mattie Smith*

Words of Comfort and Strength..... Bro. Carl Rankin

Selection ..... *"He Cannot Fail"* ..... Good Hope Mass Choir  
*Led by Sister Latoya Kitchens*

Obituary ..... Sister Shirley Magee

Selection..... *"My Healing"* ..... Good Hope Mass Choir  
*Led By Bro. Alex Thames*

Eulogy..... Pastor Kevin Thomas

Funeral Directors in Charge

Recessional..... Soft Music



*From your*

*Grandchildren & Great Grandchildren*

# Our Grandfather

*My grandfather was once here for me to have and hold,  
His heart was loving and made of gold.  
He was always there to comfort me,  
When sorrow appeared upon my face.  
He was always there to teach me about a wonderful place.*

*A place of soft mellow breeze and lightly glowing sun,  
The fresh scented flowers that never close,  
Because the day is never done.  
The pebble path that has no end,  
The river flow that turns at bend.*

*A place where there are no enemies,  
You are friends with all,  
You walk together upon the clouds, but don't be afraid,  
For you shall never fall.*

*Because you have wings, wings of love,  
Wings that shall carry you far up above.  
Now that our grandfather has left this earth,  
He'll enjoy heaven for what it is worth.*

Julie Marie Trombley

**Your Grandchildren & Great Grandchildren  
We Love You Pa Pa**

## ***Acknowledgements***

The family of the late A.J. Rankin, Sr., extends a heartfelt thank you to our friends, families, neighbors, and church members for your love and care during our time of sorrow. No words can express how we feel, so we simply say, *“Thank You”* and *“God Bless”*.

**The Family**

### **Special Thanks To:**

Aunt Frances Rankin Perryman

Thank you for all your help in our time of need.

We Love You!

## *Honorary Pallbearers*

Arthur Montgomery (Paul)

Timothy Young

Travis M. Rankin

## *Active Pallbearers*

Julius Brocks

Walter Lacey

Derrick Perryman

Jaworski Rankin

Daniel Smith

Jack Smith

## *Interment*

Good Hope Cemetery

Florence, Mississippi

## *Repast*

Good Hope Fellowship Hall

Florence, Mississippi

**Services Entrusted To:**



**DEAN'S MEMORIAL  
FUNERAL HOME**



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Brandon, MS 39042  
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