



JAMES ARTHUR "JIMMY" CREEL

March 15, 1926 - January 19, 2017

James Arthur "Jimmy" Creel, age 90, of Hueytown, died Thursday, January 19, 2017. He is survived by his wife Gloria of 68 years, daughter Patricia Hart Terry (Bob), grandchildren Jennifer Wendorf (David) and Taylor Hart (Jen), and great-grandson Fritz Wendorf.

Jimmy was born on March 15, 1926, in Bessemer, AL. He excelled in athletics and earned the rank of Eagle Scout. At age 17, he enlisted in the US Navy, where he served on LCI #429 during WWII in the Pacific. After the war, he graduated from Hueytown High School, and went on to play freshman baseball and earn a Bachelors Degree from the University of Alabama. He was signed by the St. Louis Cardinals out of school and had a brief stint in minor league baseball before suffering career ending injuries to the shoulder. He was a salesman for Kraft Foods and later co-owner of Foodtown Grocery Store in Jonesboro (Bessemer). He was the director of the first United Way Community Food Bank in Birmingham. He remained on the Food Bank Board of Directors for several years. He was on the Board of Directors of the Bessemer YMCA, serving as president for one year. He was an entrepreneur and real estate developer. Later he was owner and president of S.T. Jerrell's Powdered Milk Company.

He was an active member of Pleasant Ridge Baptist Church, serving as a deacon and other leadership capacities. His generosity and commitment to the community will be remembered by his family and friends alike.

The visitation will be Monday, January 23, 2017, from 12:30 PM until 2:00 PM

at Pleasant Ridge Baptist Church, 1343 Hueytown Road, Hueytown, AL 35023. The funeral service will be at 2:00 PM at the Church. Burial will follow at Pleasant Ridge Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to Pleasant Ridge Baptist Church in Hueytown, AL.

Tribute Wall

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“ Our heartfelt prayers are with Gloria, Pat, Bob, Taylor, Jennifer and the entire family, along with everyone at Pleasant Ridge.

Jimmy was kind, friendly, generous and faithful. He and Gloria treated me and my family of transplanted Texans with great kindness and generosity, welcoming us to fish in their lake or pick blueberries from their bushes, and treating us to dinner on more occasions than I can remember. They made us feel like part of the family.

Always wearing a crisp white shirt and a friendly smile, Jimmy loved Jesus, his family, his church, the Alabama Crimson Tide and eating at the Bright Star.

We will cherish his memory until we see him again one day in heaven.

Love and prayers, Rick, Karen, Tyler and Evan Patrick

Rick Patrick - January 19, 2017 at 10:23 PM