

Homer Dee Skelton

May 27, 1931 - November 7, 2020

Homer Dee Skelton, 89, went home to be with the Lord on November 7, 2020 with his wife Catherine Moore Skelton by his side. The sum of one man's life is the mark they leave on the world. And the mark left by Homer Skelton was a very large one. Almost as large as the hole in the hearts left by all who knew him.

He was a Christian, a successful businessman, a philanthropist, an accomplished pilot, a veteran of the National Guard, and a devoted family man. He was a beloved husband, father, and "DeeDaddy". His life was full of recognition and distinction. Yet he was humble, kind, caring, and generous. He lived a long life full of love, laughter, and longevity until God decided his work here was done. He fought the good fight, he finished the race, and he kept the faith.

Homer and his twin sister, Deedie Skelton Thompson, were born on May 27, 1931 to Golden and Sparlin Skelton of Alamo, TN (deceased). They also had a younger brother, Franklin (deceased).

Skelton had a passion and work ethic from an early age that drove him throughout his life. He believed in treating people the way he wanted to be treated. It was this simple philosophy that propelled him to own and successfully operate multiple car dealerships in Memphis, Millington, and Olive Branch. He told everyone he met, "If you do what you love, you will never work a day in your life."

He also believed in giving back and supporting his community. One hundred percent of his salary from his car dealerships for the past number of years went to the Homer Skelton Charitable Foundation to support his church, his community, and public and private schools in Memphis and DeSoto County. For more than twenty years, he provided coats, shoes, and bicycles to children in need. He equipped the Automotive Center at DeSoto County Schools Career Tech Center in Horn Lake. He helped build the "Field of Dreams" baseball field at Snowden Grove in Southaven for handicapped children. He provided hundreds of computers and technology to schools, an undisclosed number of scholarships

for students, and behavior and leadership programs that changed many students' lives. Many needy children were enabled to enjoy summer camps because of his quiet giving. The number of lives he touched through his generosity was truly countless.

When making significant donations to schools each year, he never sought publicity for his good works. His one request year after year was to "Spend this on the children who need it the most." If pressed, he would explain his giving philosophy, quoting Matthew 6:1-4, "But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your giving may be in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you." He loved to give back to the community, and taught his family to do likewise. He had a heart for single mothers, and could not stand the thought of someone being hungry. He never wanted any recognition, only to make a difference. His abundant generosity is a huge part of his legacy.

Some of the key organizations he has quietly supported monthly include:

- *Pregnancy Care Center in Southaven
- *Memphis Boys and Girls Club
- *Shepherds Haven in Arlington, TN
- *Olive Branch Food Pantry
- *Special Kids & Families Daycare Center
- *Memphis Street Ministries
- *Hope House Day Center
- *Memphis Union Mission
- *Precious in Pink Prison Ministry
- *Agape Child & Family Ministry in Memphis
- *Care Wheels
- *Wesley Meadows Green House Campaign, home for Alzheimer's unit in Hernando

Homer Skelton accepted Jesus Christ as his Lord and Savior at age 17 and remained faithful in ministry all of his life. Homer endured to the end with hope, optimism, laughter, and faith. He saw the best in everyone and believed in others even when they didn't believe in themselves. Even in the face of great career success and accolades, Homer was most proud of his family and friends. They are forever changed by the love he freely expressed and gave.

He is survived by his wife Catherine Moore Skelton, who he lovingly referred to as his "Kingfish". They had just celebrated their 34th anniversary.

His oldest daughter is Rhonda Lewis (Bobby Lewis). Her daughter Melissa Fowlkes (Will

Fowlkes) have children Hillari Gharib (Tony Gharib), Zac Fowlkes, Gabriella Fowlkes, Bennett Fowlkes. Her son Michael Pope (Heather) has a daughter named Adalae. Hillari has two daughters Savannah and Daphne.

His second daughter is Renee Hollingsworth who has two daughters Brooke Hayes & Tiffany Rowley. He is preceded in death by Renee's son Joshua Baker and Brooke's daughter Hannah Hayes.

His youngest daughter is Michelle Skelton Chapman (Brian Chapman). Her daughter is Chelsie Chapman Gilbert (Bo Gilbert). Her sons are Brennon Chapman and Jeremiah Chapman. Chelsie has son Carter Gilbert and two daughters Kessler Gilbert & Kindsay Kate Gilbert.

Family Ashley Ragan (Ginger) have daughter Abbey Ragan-Bhanot (Saarth Bhanot) and son Will Ragan. Erika Cobb (Steve Cobb) has son Alex Middleton and daughter Ragan Middleton.

He also leaves behind three fur babies Grace, Lily, and Casey. He had many friends and loved ones who he truly considered to be family as well.

He was a faithful member of Longview Heights Baptist Church in Olive Branch as long as his health allowed and was a faithful member of Jerry Greene's Sunday School class. He gave money to build a Family Life Center for Longview Heights Baptist Church and a second one at Longview Point Baptist Church in Hernando.

The family would like to express their appreciation to everyone for their prayers and loving support. His loved ones covet your continued prayers as they rejoice for him and his glorious home going, but grieve deeply such a massive loss. As 1 Thessalonians 4:13 says, "We grieve, but not as those without hope." Our hope in Jesus, as well as Homer's hope in Jesus, makes the grief easier to bear. Homer would have no greater joy than to know that his life and death pointed others closer to Jesus. His family hopes to honor his life by serving others, loving our families well, loving Jesus more and more, and living an intentional life in preparation for our own deaths. This will be the most fitting memorial to the man we loved and called Homer, Daddy, or DeeDaddy.

The family will receive relatives and friends on Monday, November 16, 2020 from 10:00 am until the time of the funeral service at 1:00 pm at Longview Heights Baptist Church, 4501 Goodman Road in Olive Branch, Mississippi. The entombment will immediately follow at Memorial Park Cemetery, 5668 Poplar Avenue in Memphis, Tennessee.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Wesley Meadows Memory Support House at 1325 McIngvale, Hernando, MS 38632, DeSoto Dream Center at 6935 Windchase Dr. Horn Lake, MS 38637, or any charity where your heart is to carry on his legacy of giving. Please click below to view the tribute video:

Events

NOV **Visitation** 10:00AM - 01:00PM

16

Longview Heights Baptist Church

4501 Goodman Road, Olive Branch, MS, US, 38654

NOV **Funeral Service** 01:00PM

16

Longview Heights Baptist Church

4501 Goodman Road, Olive Branch, MS, US, 38654

NOV **Entombment**

16

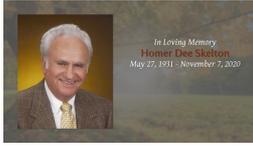
Memorial Park Cemetery

5668 Poplar Avenue, Memphis, TN, US, 38119

Comments



“ An external video has been added.



Memorial Park Funeral Home and Cemetery - November 16, 2020 at 01:15 PM



“ Mr Skelton has meant so much to me for many years. He was more than just a employer. He was a true friend and you wanted to do more for him. We had many talks about business, life, and talked about having balance in your life. He always told me if you love what you do you never have to work another day. I will miss him dearly and will forever have a special place in my heart.
RIP Mr Skelton

Steve Johnson - November 15, 2020 at 06:38 PM



“ I had the honor of working for this great man. He was a wonderful amazing person. He will be greatly missed.

Patty Franklin - November 11, 2020 at 12:01 PM



“ I worked for Mr. Skelton for 22 years before retiring. He was a great man. He was the best employer I ever worked for in my 50 years in the automotive business. But more than that, he was a great friend.

Tommy Foster - November 10, 2020 at 05:39 PM



“ It was of great honor to work for Mr. Homer. He told me some wonderful stories. He was a very blessed man and he was always blessing others. He will be greatly missed in the Automotive industry. God Speed sir!

Candi Bompreszi - November 10, 2020 at 05:37 PM



“ Cathy, Jimmy and I are saddened to hear of Homer’s passing. May God comfort you and your family in this time of grief.

Kittylu and Jimmy Wilbanks

Kittylu Wilbanks - November 09, 2020 at 09:55 PM



“ My Mom was one of those single mothers and my best friend in high school was Michele his daughter. Homer always treated me like I was one of his. One time he took us all on a cruise and made sure that Michele and I had matching shirts so that we looked alike !! Remember feeling like the coolest 13-year-old ever. So every night we got to eat as many desserts as we wanted and we thought it was amazing. He was always so loving and treated me just like I was family..I’ll never forget how he treated me never like I wasn’t enough but I felt like a princess that’s what kind of man he really was !!God bless your family and your beautiful legacy .God took one of the Saints home to be with Him they say there is a parade in heaven miles long and rejoicing so beautiful that you couldn’t even imagine.

Polly Walshin - November 09, 2020 at 07:54 PM



“ So sorry to hear about Homer. It certainly brought back numerous fond memories of Homer and I flying together. Alot of stories could be told. A person can consider himself fortunate to have had a friend like Homer in their life. Steven Roddy

Steven Roddy - November 09, 2020 at 06:11 PM



“ We at Northpoint Christian School are so grateful for the support he has given us over the years. I am grateful for the grant he provided to buy chromebooks for our first grade classes. Many children have and will benefit from his generosity. I am blessed to be able to teach his great grandson this year! My prayers are with the family.

Sincerely,
Beth Hall

Beth Hall - November 09, 2020 at 04:47 PM



“ What a great MAN he was. He was and is respected by all who knew him. He leaves a GREAT legacy. Prayers for his family. He is with the LORD.

Dick Ritchey - November 10, 2020 at 03:59 PM