



Mr. Ralph Norton

April 17, 2023

Lewis “Ralph” Norton

Ralph Norton, 93, of Bowdon, GA died Monday, April 17, 2023 at Sacred Journey Hospice Care in Newnan, GA. Ralph was born in Cleburne County, AL on November 6, 1929 to William and Emma Hilley Norton. He was the youngest of five children raised by farming parents; learning the importance of hard work.

He worked in the clothing industry in the Cutting Room Department for Bremen Bowdon Investment in Bowdon for forty-five years. This is where he met the love of his life, Berniece Brown Norton. The day after retirement from the clothing industry, he went to work for Rainwater Funeral Home. There he comforted families for twenty years. Many lifelong friendships were made from these places of employment.

Ralph enjoyed hunting, fishing, gardening and especially spending time with his family. Each summer when the plants closed on the week of July 4, the Norton family headed to Panama City Beach for their annual vacation. Many memories were made there.

He was preceded in death by his loving wife of 70 years, Berniece Brown Norton, who died in 2020. His life was forever changed at her death. He is

also preceded in death by brothers Carl (Margaret) Norton of Oxford, AL, Luther (Shirley) Norton of Minneapolis MN and sister Inez (Wilson) Clayton of Alexander City, AL; and in-laws Harold Kirby, Bearel Brown, Grady Brown, Blake Parrish, Bernell B. and Stanley Crawford, and Savoy Brown.

Surviving to remember him are his three devoted daughters and their husbands: Debbie and Chris Pyles of Carrollton, Paula and Hollis Hall of Bowdon, Pam and Wayne Ward of Graham, AL, and sister Evelyn N. Kirby now of Carrollton. To remember their PawPaw are grandchildren: Jason and Julie Hall of Lilburn, Stefanie and Jamie Estep of Carrollton, Amanda P. and Hudson Denney of Greenville, SC and Meg P. and Gene Perkins of Columbus, GA. His great-grandchildren are: Caden, Sara Claire and Cohen Hall; Emerson Estep; Will, Tad and Hayes Denney; and Hap and Alec Perkins.

Surviving in-laws are: Joyce Brown Parrish, Tommie Brown, and Roger and Carol Brown.

The daughters of Ralph Norton extend special thanks for the comfort and care given to their Daddy by Sabrina, Jennifer and Malinda. We also want to thank Sacred Journey Hospice for the support they provided, especially Megan, Robin and David.

The family will greet extended family and friends on Wednesday, April 19, 2023 between 11:00 am -2:00 pm at Rainwater Funeral Home in Bowdon. A Celebration of Life service will follow in the Chapel. Interment will be at Bowdon City Cemetery beside his wife. His loving smile and sweet spirit will be dearly missed but never forgotten.

Reverend Darnell Teal will conduct the service. His niece, Sharon C. Alford, will provide the music. Eulogies will be given by granddaughter Amanda Denney and care provider Malinda Hendrix. Flowers will be accepted or

memorial contributions may be donated to Bowdon Baptist Church

Pallbearers: Jason, Caden, Sara Claire, and Cohen Hall; Jamie and Emerson Estep; Hap and Alex Perkins; and Ellis Kirby.

Cemetery Details

Bowdon City Cemetery

Johnson Street
Bowdon, GA 30108

Previous Events

Visitation

APR 19. 11:00 AM - 2:00 PM (ET)

Rainwater Funeral Home
317 North Carroll Street
Bowdon, GA 30108
(770) 258-7239
info@rainwaterfuneralhome.com
<https://www.rainwaterfuneralhome.com>

Funeral Service

APR 19. 2:00 PM (ET)

Rainwater Funeral Home
317 North Carroll Street
Bowdon, GA 30108
(770) 258-7239
info@rainwaterfuneralhome.com
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Tribute Wall

TS

“ I am so sorry to hear about Mr. Norton's passing , I thought the world of him and Berniece both. My mother had worked with Berniece at Plunketts and she was so good to my mother back in 1997 when she passed away -Tommy Smith

tommy smith - April 20, 2023 at 06:45 PM

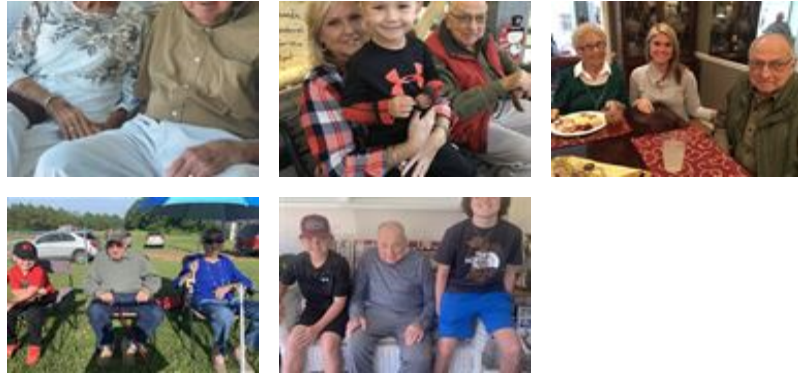
NN

“ My name is Nancy Nelson. I live in Minneapolis, Minnesota, and I am cousin to Cheryl Norton, daughter of James Norton, brother to Ralph. Though he lived in Minnesota all of his adult life my uncle James Norton never stopped talking about his wonderful family, the parents and the brothers and sisters he loved so much. In a way I always felt I knew them because of him. I know Cheryl is constantly in touch with the family and has been so concerned about Ralph and his girls and his sister. Terribly sad when she told me of Ralph's passing. I just wanted to extend my very sincere sympathies. To lose someone you've had for so long and loved so much is very difficult. I know you all take pride in the remarkable man he was, and joy in the beautiful memories he has left with you. I am so sorry.

Nancy Nelson - April 19, 2023 at 10:36 AM



“ 59 files added to the album Life Tributes



Rainwater Funeral Home - April 19, 2023 at 10:15 AM

SC

“ Susan Crook lit a candle in memory of Mr. Ralph Norton



Susan Crook - April 18, 2023 at 10:00 PM

SG

“ I am grateful for the wonderful memories I have of Ralph & Berniece Norton, and treasure so much the friendship of their family! May God bless each of you as you journey through this time of transition. Love you, Susan Gibbs



Susan McCaghren Gibbs - April 18, 2023 at 09:56 PM

CT

“ From a letter to Ralph's daughter, Debbie: "Now to Berniece and Ralph, your parents. I never knew anything but the best from both. I had many marriages to observe as I was growing up with all my many uncles and aunts and their marriages. But for some reason, I always viewed Berniece and Ralph's as one of the best. I don't think I ever in all my years of observing them, and I did watch and observe; saw an argument or anything like a disagreement. They always seemed in harmony and happy with life. And dedicated to making life for their three daughters equally happy! I was negligent in never taking adequate time to sit down with them and tell them how much I admired them and their harmonious marriage! But, once when visiting home at Kansas, I thought I would take the opportunity to visit with Ralph and Berniece and tell them a little of what I've just related to you; it was probably about 20 years ago. After speaking a while, they both demurred a bit and said, "Oh! We've had our differences at times" and both with smiles on their faces. That was it and nothing more was said; perfectly as I would have expected from such a harmonious couple! Ralph then diverted the conversation into another subject, I think it was gardening. I only hoped they learned a little bit about how much I admired their marriage and how they lived. Of all those in our family who worked at the Sewell Manufacturing Plant, they seemed happy to have the opportunity to work there. Your Dad, Ralph, always seemed ready to serve, at reunions, at all the family gatherings, at funerals as a pall bearer, always serving graciously at the Rainwater Funeral Home, the quiet one doing what was needed." Clayton Teague, a first cousin to Berniece

Clayton Teague - April 18, 2023 at 07:59 PM

JW

“ *Jr. And Donna Whitmore lit a candle in memory of Mr. Ralph Norton*



Jr. and Donna Whitmore - April 18, 2023 at 05:16 PM

MS

“ *Mike&Jan Stitche lit a candle in memory of Mr. Ralph Norton*



Mike&Jan Stitche - April 18, 2023 at 01:46 PM

RW

“ *What a wonderful gentleman! Always a pleasure to see. Thoughts and prayers for the family.*

Renee Williams - April 18, 2023 at 12:19 PM

BS

“ *Barbara Smith lit a candle in memory of Mr. Ralph Norton*



Barbara Smith - April 18, 2023 at 10:47 AM

DS

“ *Always enjoyed talking to Mr. Ralph, he was such a friendly man.*

Dale Sloan - April 18, 2023 at 10:30 AM

SG

“ *Sammie Aublene Gross lit a candle in memory of Mr. Ralph Norton*



Sammie Aublene Gross - April 18, 2023 at 09:47 AM

BL

“ *Bart Loftin sent a virtual gift in memory of Mr. Ralph Norton*



Bart Loftin - April 18, 2023 at 05:04 AM

JM

“ *Janie R Meadows lit a candle in memory of Mr. Ralph Norton*



Janie R Meadows - April 17, 2023 at 09:00 PM

PH

“ *Peggy Hewitt lit a candle in memory of Mr. Ralph Norton*



Peggy Hewitt - April 17, 2023 at 08:59 PM

JN

“ *Judy Neal lit a candle in memory of Mr. Ralph Norton*



Judy Neal - April 17, 2023 at 08:58 PM

RH

“ *We are deeply saddened to hear of Mr. Ralph's passing. He will truly be missed. He was always kind and friendly, and he was a pleasure to talk with. Our prayers and sympathy to Debbie, Paula, Pam, and his entire family.*



Rickey & Susan Huddleston - April 17, 2023 at 05:19 PM

SM

“ *Ralph was my second daddy when I lost my own. He was absent the kindest and most loving husband to Berniece and a wonderful daddy to Debbie, Paula and Pam. He will be greatly missed by those who love him. ❤️*

Susan Findley McMahan - April 17, 2023 at 04:00 PM

TC

“ *Tommy&Judy Cantrell lit a candle in memory of Mr. Ralph Norton*



Tommy&Judy Cantrell - April 17, 2023 at 03:00 PM