



Morris "Dale" Brantley

April 30, 1934 - April 27, 2024

Morris "Dale" Brantley, age 89, of McCalla, AL., went to his Heavenly Home on April 27, 2024. Dale was a member of Hunter Street Baptist Church. He also played the trumpet in the orchestra at the church. He was a veteran of the Army National Guard. Dale retired from the University of Alabama Birmingham with thirty three years of service. He enjoyed sailing and cycling. Dale was a loving husband, devoted father, and proud and caring Pop. He was preceded in death by his parents, Loyd and Edna Brantley, sister; Nancy Cooper. He is survived by his wife of 66 Years Patricia Gamble Brantley, son; Phillip (Lori) Brantley, daughter; Amy (Tom) Opie, grandchildren, Blair (Joe) LaBoon, Brooke (Chad) Gore, Griffin Brantley, 4 great grandchildren, Thad, Sloan, Thompson and Miller, sister; Martha Garrett.

A funeral service will be held on Wednesday, May 1, 2024 at 11:00 AM at Bessemer Brown Service Funeral Home, with burial following at Mount Zion Baptist Church Cemetery, 2427 Corner Road, Warrior, AL. 35180.

Family will receive friends from 10:00 AM till service time, with Rev. Buddy Gray officiating the service.

In lieu of flowers, family request donations be made to The Exceptional Foundation, 1616 Oxmoor Road, Birmingham, AL. 35209.

Cemetery Details

Mount Zion Baptist Church Cemetery

Previous Events

Receive Friends

MAY 1. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

Bessemer Brown Service Funeral Home
1300 4th Avenue N
Bessemer, AL 35020
(205) 425-2424
bessemer-brown@hotmail.com
<https://www.bessemerbrownfh.com/>

Funeral Service

MAY 1. 11:00 AM (CT)

Bessemer Brown Service Funeral Home
1300 4th Avenue N
Bessemer, AL 35020
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Tribute Wall

GJ

“ agency.

Dale was leader and pioneer in the Alabama social work profession. He worked with thousands of families as a therapist in clinics and hospital settings throughout Alabama in his lifetime. He was an educator and mentor at The University of Alabama, Samford University, the UAB School of Social Work, and the UAB School of Medicine Department of Pediatrics. He was a member of the original team of professionals who staffed and created the Sparks Center for Developmental and Learning Disorders. In 2000 he was inducted into the University of Alabama School of Social work Hall of fame.

Dale was considered an expert on the subject of Developmental Disabilities and participated as a speaker and workshop leader throughout the nation. His textbook, "Understanding Mental Retardation: A Guide for Social Workers," was used widely in schools.

Dale liked to take long bicycle trips and for many years would ride his bike from his home into the Great Smokey Mountains - averaging over 100 miles a day. He got me to participate in one of his cycling trips and I found it unbearable but he thrived in the experience. As a young man he was also an avid handball player and would participate in Birmingham tournaments. When Dale was a student at the University of Alabama he was active in the Million Dollar Band as a trumpet player. He studied trumpet with one of the top professionals in the south (Walter Moeck) and was an accomplished classical trumpet player. As a student he performed with the trumpet section of the Birmingham Symphony Orchestra. Dale's musical tastes were not limited to classical music - he especially liked bluegrass. I remember well going with him to hear Lester Flatt and Earl Scruggs in a high school auditorium in south Alabama.

Dale's love of family had no bounds. I knew his beautiful wife Pat

before I met Dale. She was so pretty that boys like me became mute around her. I had heard she was dating an "older" guy, so Dale's blue eyes and gift of gab and sense of humor obviously won the day. I often reminded Dale that his children and grandchildren were handsome and beautiful because of Pat.

I'm lucky to have had Dale for a friend for over sixty years. I know his family is devastated by the loss. Words are hard to find. I am overwhelmed by memories but memories are no substitute for having him around to talk to and tell a joke and share old times. I will miss Dale.

Gil Jennings - May 16, 2024 at 10:21 PM

PB

“*Dale Brantley was an Amazing teacher, mentor, practionier, social worker and leader in Alabama. Dale was my University of Alabama field work instructor in 1970 at CDLD who taught all of his students so much about how to work with the disabled and disadvantaged*

We were all sent to rural Alabama to see how life really was away from the big city. Carbon Hill was my one of my first assignments where I interviewed a family with several children I first had to get past the barking dogs and a huge pig which must have weighed 500 lbs scratching its back on a rusted shell of a car.

Not only was Dale a great field work instructor for the University he was down to earth, personable and fantastic advocate for students, clients and the public.

So many stories, and good times come to mind and its hard to belive it's been 50 years since those days.

To his wife, children and family-Thanks for sharing Dale with all of us

Philip Browning Los Angeles County

Philip L. Browning - May 15, 2024 at 11:08 PM

ML

“ M L. purchased the Country Basket Blooms for the family of Morris "Dale" Brantley.



M L. - April 30, 2024 at 11:01 AM

GB

“ Dale was my husband and I therapist. He was a amazing man. He helped us more than anyone else had. We missed him when he retired. Our prayers are with the family. RIP 🌸 Dale 🌸

Glenda Box - April 30, 2024 at 10:45 AM



“ Days of Sunshine Bouquet was purchased for the family of Morris "Dale" Brantley.



April 30, 2024 at 10:31 AM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Morris "Dale" Brantley.



April 29, 2024 at 08:40 PM

AM

“ 4 files added to the album Morris "Dale" Brantley



Amy - April 29, 2024 at 05:11 PM

LB

We will miss you Pop, more than you could have ever known ❤️

Lori Brantley - May 01, 2024 at 09:33 AM

JC

Sooo sorry to learn about Dale. We have been friends since our school years at School of Social Work in 1960. We talked on line regularly. We had communicated just a short time ago when I lost my wife in January 2024.

Pat I am so sorry.

You and Family are in My Prayers

Jim Claunch

Jim Claunch - May 12, 2024 at 03:31 PM

RH

“ **RHONDA HOCKERSMITH** lit a candle in memory of Morris "Dale" Brantley



RHONDA HOCKERSMITH - April 29, 2024 at 02:25 PM

JE

“ *John And Sarah Elam lit a candle in memory of Morris "Dale" Brantley*



John and Sarah Elam - April 29, 2024 at 12:25 PM