



## Ralph Zane Parks, Sr.

April 1, 1922 - November 3, 2016

The writer of the book of Colossians expresses the sentiment “And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.” On November 3, 2016, that ideal came full circle in the earthly life of Reverend Ralph Zane Parks, Sr. Ralph’s journey of service began on April 1, 1922 in very humble beginnings in a sleepy little coal mining town, Sugar Grove, Virginia. He was one of three children born to the late Henry Dickenson and Myrtle Huldah Hamric Parks. In addition to his parents, he was predeceased by his siblings H. D. Parks, Jr. and Mildred Parks Lester. Realizing early on in life that his ambitions reached far beyond a life in Sugar Grove, he enlisted in the United States Navy. He enlisted at the age of 18 and for the next 15 years he loved being a naval aviator. He flew photo reconnaissance during the Korean campaign. He would also serve six years in the Navy reserve. He ultimately attained the rank of Lieutenant Commander. In 1942 he would meet and subsequently marry Elizabeth Goodson who would be his devoted wife and life companion until her death in 2015. Ralph would later attend Georgia Tech graduating with a degree in Industrial Management. Having felt the call of God upon his life he would also achieve a Master of Divinity from Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary at Wake Forest. For the next 28 years, he followed God’s lead as he served churches in Georgia and South Carolina. He also served 14 years as a Methodist minister in Georgia. Ralph was a man of incredible personal strength and a sense of intense responsibility for those in his care. His life of

service was fashioned in such a manner that only God would be glorified and he saw himself as only a conduit of God's magnificent grace and healing spirit. Ralph would see his life blessed by two sons, Ralph Zane Parks, Jr. and his wife Bridget; David D. Parks and his wife Nancy. His Godly life was an example to his grandchildren Stephen Parks-Bell (and Cori), Moirasheen Woodward (and Tim), Meghan Petryk (and Ed), Gretchen Benz, Benjamin D. Parks (and Molly), Jessica Boon (and Ryan), Whitney Parks. There are thirteen great grandchildren. A service to honor Ralph's wonderful life will be on Sunday, November 6, 2016 at 4:00 PM in the chapel of McKoon Funeral Home led by Dr. Jimmy Patterson. The family will receive friends at the funeral home beginning at 3:00 PM. Interment with appropriate Navy honors will be at Forest Lawn Memorial Park. It is suggested that those who may wish to offer memorials may do so to either The First Baptist Church of Newnan Front Door Ministry or to The Alzheimer's Association of Georgia. Online condolences may be expressed at [www.mckoon.com](http://www.mckoon.com). McKoon Funeral Home 770-253-4580.

# Cemetery Details

## Forest Lawn Memorial Park

656 Roscoe Road  
Newnan, GA 30263

# Previous Events

## Visitation

NOV 6. 3:00 PM - 4:00 PM (ET)

McKoon Funeral Home Chapel  
38 Jackson Street  
Newnan, GA 30263  
(770) 253-4580  
care@mckoon.com  
<http://www.mckoon.com>

## Service

NOV 6. 4:00 PM (ET)

McKoon Funeral Home Chapel  
38 Jackson Street  
Newnan, GA 30263  
(770) 253-4580  
care@mckoon.com  
<http://www.mckoon.com>

# Tribute Wall

MM

“ *Mr. Parks also served his community for many years as a member of Board of Equalization. He will be remembered as a man of great character who was always kind, compassionate and understanding. We appreciated his service to Coweta County. - Mike Marchese*

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**Mike Marchese** - November 08, 2016 at 10:08 AM

NH

“ *To have known Ralph and Liz as friends and family was to be blessed indeed Myself and my late husband Gerald felt such love from them To be in the presence of Ralph was to be in the presence of a geniune godly man My daughter and her husband had the privledge of being married by Ralph He and Liz traveled all the way to Memphis to do so because she asked him too Christmas Day at our house with my family and Ralph and Liz will never be forgotten I know the heaven rang with beautiful music when he joined Liz He will be greatly missed but always remembered in love  
Nettie Horton*

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**nettie horton** - November 06, 2016 at 07:00 PM

JW

“ *So very sorry for your loss, yet happy for Heavens gain! What a dear sweet man who had such a positive influence and impact on so many lives. Thinking of all of you as you carry on without his physical presence. How proud you must be of all he accomplished in his earthly life. Judi Worth*

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**Judi Worth** - November 06, 2016 at 11:51 AM

SS

“ *We are thinking of you all, Peace  
Sheila and Greg*

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**Sheila K Smith** - November 06, 2016 at 07:06 AM



“ *Basket of Memories was purchased for the family  
of Ralph Zane Parks, Sr..*



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November 05, 2016 at 11:28 AM



“ *Lily and Rose Tribute Spray was purchased for  
the family of Ralph Zane Parks, Sr..*



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November 05, 2016 at 11:17 AM

CW

“ First of all let me say, I have not ever read a sweeter obituary, than the one for Mr. Parks. I had not had the privilege of knowing him but just a few months, and I had affectionately nick-named him Mr. Whistle. When I first met him he whistled all the time, but it was always a gospel hymn, that he whistled. If he didn't whistle he sung. I really respected him and I am sorry for your loss. May God bless you, his family and carry on .the legacy of love for God and people that he had. I will miss seeing him, but I know he's home. May you find comfort in God and just remember the good days. God bless you always..

Charlotte Wood

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charlotte wood - November 04, 2016 at 11:19 PM



“ Fruits and Blooms Basket was purchased for the family of Ralph Zane Parks, Sr..



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November 04, 2016 at 01:55 PM