



Willie Berg Chason

March 2, 1932 - October 11, 2020

Willie Berg Chason, 88, passed away on Sunday, October 11, 2020 at his home in Lanier County surrounded by his loving family. He did not set out to achieve the American Dream, but he did.

Mr. Chason was born in Lowndes County on March 2, 1932 to the late John David Chason and Edna Lineberger Chason. He was a graduate of Pine Grove High School where he played basketball for the Eagles on a dirt court. In 1950, he took the first train ride of his life to travel to Kansas City where he became one of only 12 Georgians to receive the FFA American Farmer Degree that year.

Mr. Chason was raised on a farm and figured he would spend the rest of his life tilling the soil of South Georgia. Then his life took a turn. Bill Roquemore hired Mr. Chason and his wife, Geraldine, to assist in the farming operation of a fledgling organization which came to be known as Patten Seed Company. With only a Farmall Super C tractor and a strong work ethic to his name, Mr. Chason embarked on a Patten Seed Company career that lasted 56 years.

During his first few years with the company, Mr. Chason raised corn, cotton, tobacco and other crops besides taking care of cows and hogs. In later years, his sterling accomplishments with the company came in the area of turfgrass. Mr. Chason planted sprigs from Lanier County on golf courses all over the Southeast as well as in Nassau and Freeport in the Bahama Islands and Great Harbour Cay in the Berry Islands. The most memorable course he planted was the PGA National Course in Palm Beach Gardens, Fla. He was also an expert at processing Centipede seed from the hundreds of acres of Patten Seed Company land. In his final years with the company, Mr. Chason helped to initiate the company's involvement in the pecan business.

Mr. Chason enjoyed his family, fishing, hunting, and being outdoors. He also loved basketball, particularly the Valdosta State Rebels during the Bobby Ritch era and the Boston Celtics during the career of John Havlicek. Mr. Chason experienced great peace in his life when he accepted Jesus Christ as his personal savior in 2011 when he was 79 years old.

Survivors include his wife, Geraldine Edith Copeland Chason, his loving and faithful companion in marriage for the past 69 years. Other survivors include his sons Michael

David Chason, and his wife, Kris, from Tifton; Mitchell Chason and his wife, Judy, from Lakeland; and Tim Chason and his wife, Lynne, from Cartersville.

Other survivors include his grandchildren, Dr. Tracy Nolan from Americus, David Chason and his wife, Jasmine, from Tybee Island; Jennifer Woolbright and her husband, James, from Columbus; Brandon Chason and his wife, Monica, from Villa Rica; and Dr. Kelsey Chason from Chattanooga, Tenn. Step grandchildren include Craig Hunt and his wife, Amy, from Greenville, S.C., and Amanda Miles from Valdosta.

Great-grandchildren include Brody Chason from Tybee Island, Will Woolbright and Madison Woolbright from Columbus, and Jack Chason, Asher Chason, and Ellie Ruth Chason from Villa Rica. Step great grandchildren include Haley and Emma Miles from Valdosta, and Sam and Caroline Hunt from Greenville, S.C.

Mr. Chason is also survived by two brothers-in-law, Bobby Copeland from Valdosta and Ben Copeland from Lake Park, three sisters-in-law, Nell Chason from Lakeland, Marie Copeland from Valdosta, and LaVonne Copeland from Lake Park, and many nieces and nephews. Besides his parents, he was preceded in death by two brothers, Buck Chason and Den Chason.

The Chason Family would like to thank dedicated caregivers Lisa Bailey, Jo Ann Lee, Ree Miller, Danielle Reddick, Jackie Harrell, Monty Ray, and Jimmy Reynolds. In lieu of flowers, donations honoring Mr. Chason can be made to the First Baptist Church of Lakeland or to the charity of your choice.

A graveside service for Mr. Chason will be held at 2:00 PM on Tuesday, October 13, 2020 at Greenlawn Cemetery in Lakeland. The family will receive friends from 1:30 PM until service time at the cemetery. Per the family's request, please wear a mask and maintain social distancing. Kind words and memories may be left to the family at www.musicfuneralservices.com. The compassionate and caring staff of Music Funeral Services of Lakeland is serving Mr. Chason's family.

Cemetery

Greenlawn Cemetery

62 S 6th St

Lakeland, GA,

Events

OCT 13 **Visitation** 01:30PM - 02:00PM

13

Greenlawn Cemetery

62 S 6th St, Lakeland, GA, US

OCT 13 **Graveside Service** 02:00PM

13

Greenlawn Cemetery

62 S 6th St, Lakeland, GA, US

OCT 13 **Live Stream** 02:00PM

13

Greenlawn Cemetery

62 S 6th St, Lakeland, GA, US

Comments



“ So saddened to hear of Mr. Chason's passing. I know he was a hard working man who loved his family. And I'm heartened by the knowledge his family will be able to be with him again since he knew the Lord as his savior.

I will always remember (when visiting his son Mitchell) how he and he is wife Miss Geraldine, received us into their lovely home with the most gracious hospitality. My heart goes out to Mitchell and the entire Chason family. Praying for comfort and peace. (Numbers 6:24-26)

Paul & Sherry Elder
Harris County, Ga.

Paul Elder - October 13, 2020 at 03:36 PM



“ So sorry for the loss. Prayers for the family. Phyllis and Kenneth Bennett

Phyllis Bennett - October 13, 2020 at 01:39 PM



“ I am extremely sadden to hear the news of Mr. Wille Berg's passing. My heart filled condolences go out to this great man's family. I had the great honor working for Mr. Willie Berg as a young man in which he significantly influenced my values, beliefs and my overall growth as a person that still guides me to this very day. For this man whom was tough as nails, demanding of best effort, hardworking and stubborn as a mule (at times). Loved growing things that flourished and bear fruit. Not only crops that came from the ground but also people that worked for him. As all good farmers, Mr. Willie Berg knew growing something takes time. It begins with a solid foundation for the seed to take root and that is where he always focused his efforts, at least with my hard headedness. Putting in a good hard day's work, doing it right the first time, taking responsibility for your actions, and being strong for your family are just some of the of valuable lessons Mr. Willie Berg help to emphasize in my life. Out of all of the influential men within Lanier county, Mr. Willie Berg is right behind my father and Grandfather in value of biggest impact to making me the person I am today. Love and prayers to Mrs. Geraldine and the rest of the family.

Lit Bill Davis - October 13, 2020 at 04:59 AM



“ Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Willie Berg Chason.



October 12, 2020 at 10:59 PM



“ I will always have fond memories of Mr. Willie Berg. He was a kind, sweet spirit. He was a good man who had strong moral values. He was a man of integrity and honesty. He dearly loved his family. Mrs. Geraldine was the love of his life! He was very proud of his sons and their families. It is a heartbreaking loss. Just remember the Blessings! He left a wonderful legacy. Love & Prayers.



Judy Frazier Daugharty - October 12, 2020 at 07:33 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Willie Berg Chason.



October 12, 2020 at 10:59 AM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Willie Berg Chason.



October 12, 2020 at 10:32 AM



“ Mr. Willie Berg was one of the most genuinely nice people that I've ever known. When he was with his family, he always had a smile on his face, and when I'd see him go by in one of those many yellow trucks he wore out, he looked deep in thought, probably planning out the next day, as my Daddy often did on the way home. He loved Mrs. Geraldine, he loved his boys, and later their families, and he loved the Lord. And in all of my years, I've never heard an ill word spoken of him. He was truly a fine man. My prayers are with you all that God will bless and comfort you.

Debbie Frazier Mosier - October 12, 2020 at 03:59 AM



“ Remembering the years Mr. Willie Berg and daddy worked together and our Mamas worked in the seed room. Wonderful years, many memories. He was a sweet and wonderful hard working man that will be missed by many. We offer our deepest sympathy, our prayers and much love to you all.
Jerry and Annette Dickson Tobin

Annette Dickson Tobin - October 11, 2020 at 08:18 PM



“ The Woolbright Family wishes to express our sincere sympathy in the loss of your dearly beloved one. His life will always be remembered as a family legacy. You have our deepest prayers for strength and comfort during this period and coming months.
With Love,
John and Carol Woolbright, Sr.
John and Lee Woolbright, Jr.and Family



Carol Woolbright - October 11, 2020 at 08:08 PM