

Active Pallbearers

Mr. Alan Rawls Bond	Mr. Ronald B. Miller
Mr. Oscar Daryl Davis	Mr. James Allen Rawls
Dr. Michael Fant	Mr. William Donald Rawls, Jr.
Mr. A.Y. Miller	Mr. William Leigh Rawls

Honorary Pallbearers

TN Funeral Directors & Embalmers
Golden Circle Life Insurance Company Home Office &
Agency Force
National Insurance Association
Board of Trustees, First Baptist Church
Fraternal Order of Masons

Flowerbearers

Ushers - First Baptist Church
Golden Circle Life Insurance Company District Office
Office Members

Acknowledgement

The family of Joe Zannie Rawls expresses the deepest of gratitude and appreciation to the countless friends who have supported us during this period. Your telephone calls, floral tributes, gifts, cards and other expressions of sympathy have sustained us. We pray God's blessings on you always.

—The Family

Interment

Rosenwald Cemetery

Arrangements

Rawls Funeral Home
Brownsville, Tennessee 38012
(901) 772-1472

In Memoriam



1912 - 1987

JOE ZANNIE RAWLS

Wednesday, May 13, 1987

3:30 P.M.

First Baptist Church
Brownsville, Tennessee

Dr. Jacob C. Oglesby, officiating

Obituary

*"Blessed is he who found his work,
Let him ask no other blessedness."*

—Past and Present, Book 3

April 18, 1912 was the birth date of Joe Zannie Rawls, the tenth of eleven children, the sixth son, of Ned and Tex Anna Love Rawls, born in Brownsville, Haywood County, Tennessee in the Allen Station Community.

At age thirteen his father died. He was introduced to work at an early age. At age fourteen he managed a service station for his brother who was away in embalming school. He had the total responsibility for doing all the work, keeping the books and paying the bills.

He attended the Haywood County Training School and graduated from Merry High School in Jackson, Tennessee. After high school, he was employed by the Jackson District of Atlanta Life Insurance Company, working a debit in Haywood County. It was then that he discovered his life's work - insurance. He was quite successful, so much so, that his supervisor wanted to take him to Atlanta, Georgia to meet the Home Office officials, but he chose instead in 1935 to join with his brother in forming the Rawls Mutual Benefit Association and Rawls Funeral Home.

He served four and one-half years in the U.S. Army, three years in the Southwest Pacific in New Guinea. He served in the Medical Corps and was discharged honorably in 1945.

In 1946 he married Miss Eva James Davis who proved to be a good, faithful and understanding wife, completely devoted to him and allowed him his devotion to his work.

In 1946 he owned and operated the Rawls Laundry and Dry Cleaners, established on Jefferson Street of Brownsville.

He later closed his business and returned to work with his brother in establishing the Sons and Daughters of the Golden Circle, a fraternal life insurance company which later was converted to the Golden Circle Life Insurance Company. This was a challenge of which he never tired. Not only was he to work the field, selling, collecting and delivering insurance policies, but he was to take a crash course in insurance to learn to handle the office and accounting procedures as well. To do this he had to possess not only the power of persuasion, charm and wit, he also had to burn the midnight oil, toiling over the books at night. He became the Secretary-Treasurer of the Golden Circle Life Insurance Company and remained in this position until February 1987 when he was named Secretary-Treasurer Emeritus.

He was a dedicated and unselfish man who won the hearts of young and old of Haywood County. He was the county historian in that he knew every family, the name of each family member and their addresses on any rural road in the county because at one time the burial association was comprised of some fifty thousand members. This information was to serve the citizens well when birth certificates were needed and information for obtaining Social Security benefits.

He had a keen sense of devotion to duty, it was never too hot, the field never too muddy, the corn never too tall in the fields, dirt roads never too rough for Zannie to make his rounds collecting and selling burial and life insurance.

He became a member of the Snipes Grove Baptist Church at an early age and later joined the First Baptist Church where he was a member of the Trustee Board and former teacher of the Men's Bible Class. He also was a member of the Masonic Lodge and was a licensed funeral director and embalmer.

He leaves to cherish his memory a devoted wife, Mrs. Eva J. Davis Rawls; a daughter, Mrs. Minnie A. Releford of Pamona, California; one sister, Mrs. Ada Margaret Neal of St. Louis, Missouri; one brother, Mr. Ned M. Rawls of Bolivar, Tennessee; four sisters-in-law, Mrs. Margaret Hamilton Rawls of Bolivar, Tennessee, Mrs. Maude Crofton Rawls of Brownsville, Tennessee, Mrs. Willie Bell Leigh Rawls of Detroit, Michigan and Mrs. Bessie Davis Sproling of Los Angeles, California; three brothers-in-law, Mr. William Moore of Omaha, Nebraska, Mr. Earl Neal of St. Louis, Missouri and Mr. Henry Sproling of Los Angeles, California; one granddaughter, Mrs. Lois Lynn Johnson and great grandchildren, April and Andrew of Pamona, California and many loving nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.

Program

Processional...

Music "God Will Take Care of You" - Choir

Scripture Rev. S.B. Moore

Prayer Rev. Eddie L. Currie

Resolutions:

First Baptist Church Mrs. Lue A. Jones

Golden Circle Life Insurance

Company Agency Force Mrs. Rubye Johnson

Acknowledgements Mr. Cecil M. Giles

Tribute Mrs. Lena M. Reams

Solo "I've Done My Work" - Mrs. Gladys Douglass

Obituary Mrs. Laura Young

Eulogy Dr. Jacob Oglesby

Song "Precious Lord" - Choir

Recessional...

WORKING

Work, and thou wilt bless the day
Ere the toil be done;
They that work not, cannot pray,
Cannot feel the sun.
God is living, working still,
All things work and move;
Work, or lose the power to will,
Lose the power to love.

-John Sullivan Dwight