



Joe R. Brannon, Jr.

November 9, 1944 - March 13, 2017

Joe Royce Brannon, Jr. went home to be with the Lord at age 72 on Mar. 13th, 2017, in Lakewood Ranch.

He is survived by his wife of 46 years, Mary C. Brannon; son Jeremy and wife Allie of Acworth, Georgia and their five children Iain, Cory, Laina, Mason and Ivy; son Phil and wife Kelly of Lakewood Ranch, FL and their son Miles; brothers Larry Brannon of Flowery Branch, Georgia, Don Brannon of The Villages, Florida, and sister-in-law Gloria Bellis, also of The Villages.

He was preceded in death by his parents Joe Sr. and Olga Brannon and his brother Rick Brannon.

Joe was born in Washington, DC. and his family moved around while his father was in the Navy. He and his brothers enjoyed growing up by the ocean, exploring tidal pools at the beach in Satellite Beach, FL. His interest in marine life later led him to pursue a Master's in Zoology at the University of Florida.

As he began his career as a high school science teacher, he met his wife Mary, when they taught together in Port St. Joe, FL. It was love at first sight for him! After a brief courtship, they were married on Valentine's Day, 1971.

Joe later sensed a call to ministry and earned a degree in music ministry at

the Southern Baptist Seminary in Louisville, KY. Pastoral ministry became the focus of his life's work and he pastored a rural SBC church in Rayle, Georgia. The family moved to Sarasota when he accepted the call to pastor Colonial Oaks Baptist Church in 1984.

Prior to retirement, Joe taught middle school science at Braden River Middle. He was involved as Lakewood Ranch Baptist, teaching Sunday school classes, leading prayer, and preaching occasionally. He was also served with Child Evangelism Fellowship and Jordan Prison Ministry. Joe prioritized leaving a godly legacy for his grandchildren.

Joe's passion was sharing the joy of knowing Jesus Christ.

A celebration of his life will take place at Lakewood Ranch Baptist Church at 1pm Saturday March 18, 2017.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be given to Lakewood Ranch Baptist's missions fund.

Toale Brothers Funeral Homes, Bradenton Chapel is in charge of arrangements.

Tribute Wall

MS

“ I just read about Joe's passing and was saddened only because the world is a little colder without him in it. He led me back to the Lord 25yrs ago and gave me a chance to join the praise team at Colonial Oaks. That chance lit a fire in me that has lasted all these years. I am now the praise team leader at my church in Port Charlotte. I will always remember Joe and Mary and their kindness to a lost soul in need of direction. God bless you, Mary and family and rest assured that Joe will never be forgotten by those who knew him and we look forward in perfect certainty to the day when we'll see him again, walking in the light of Jesus on streets of gold.

Mike Schmelzer - June 04, 2017 at 12:00 AM

MJ

“ Mary, Joe will be missed by so many. The men loved him in the prisons. He was loved and appreciated for his love of God's Word and excitement in sharing the love of Jesus. My love and prayers are with you, MaryAnn Jordan, Jordan Prison Ministry.



MaryAnn Jordan - March 18, 2017 at 12:00 AM

MJ

Mary, Joe will be missed by so many. The men loved him in the prisons. He was loved and appreciated for his love of God's Word and excitement in sharing the love of Jesus. My love and prayers are with you, MaryAnn Jordan, Jordan Prison Ministry.

MaryAnn Jordan - March 18, 2017 at 12:00 AM

TR

“ *Donnie:*

When a loved one becomes a memory, a memory becomes a treasure! You shall always treasure Joe's memory!

We hope you and the family find peace during this sorrowful time!

Toe and Spoo

Toe and Spoo Ridenour - March 18, 2017 at 12:00 AM



“ *We are so sorry for this lost. I will be forever appreciative of him for recognizing my calling and ordaining me. I respected his heart and know his family was well served by his love.*

March 16, 2017 at 12:00 AM

JS

“ Dear Mary and family,
We were shocked and sad to learn of Joe's passing. Even though we know he is in Heaven it is still difficult on the family. Our thoughts and prayers are with all of you. This earth lost a great man with a passion for helping people. When our Mom was at Hospice House last year, we contacted Joe since he was one of our family's favorite people. Without hesitation Joe agreed to come. Mom needed to talk, and Joe listened and lovingly reassured her. Later when she wasn't able to talk anymore, Joe was still visiting. Once we came in her room to see Joe sitting on her bedside singing to her. I know she loved it, although she wasn't able to say anything. Joe's loving kindness and sensitivity meant the world to our family. We so appreciate you sharing him with us. I'm sure Mom & Dad were there at Heaven's gates to welcome him in and show him around. I can just imagine the long line of people in Heaven waiting to say thank you to Joe for loving them to Jesus. He is an incredible man and we will miss him.

May God comfort and keep you,
The J. Ray & Carolyn Smith family

Julie Smith Searer - March 16, 2017 at 12:00 AM

CN

“ Mary, My dear Friend and collaborator - I am sending my love and condolences to you and your family. Please let me know if I can help in any way. Keep your many happy memories close to your heart. Hugs, Carole

Carole Nikla - March 16, 2017 at 12:00 AM



“ *Pastor Joe was our friend and Pastor for years. We so appreciate and love he and Mary. May God surround all of you with His love and grace. You are in our thoughts and prayers. Nancy and Nick Frederick, Lakewood Ranch, Fl.*

M

March 16, 2017 at 12:00 AM



“ *Dear Mary, our hearts and prayers go out to you. Joe was a good man, a good friend and a great example of a Christian. Earth's loss, Heaven's gain.*

Lura and Bob Mathews - March 16, 2017 at 12:00 AM



“ *Pastor Joe had a tremendous impact on my life as a new believer when I moved to Sarasota and began attending Colonial Oaks Baptist Church. He impacted the community for Christ. He will be missed, I'm sure.*

Teresa Colson (Ashbaugh) - March 16, 2017 at 12:00 AM



“ *Mary, I am so sorry to read about Joe in today's paper. My love goes out to you and yourfamily as you follow God's path in life. It's 11 years, today, since Walt made his way to heaven. Life, friends, love and believing have a great way to heal the heart over time. Memories of all the years you two spent together will flourish. If there is anything I can do please call me at 9414971831. Love, Eddy Boynton Davenport*

Edalenia Davenport - March 16, 2017 at 12:00 AM

RD

“ Ray & I have wonderful memories of being your friend. The fun trips we took together and the wonderful Godly advce you gave. We will always cherish your love and sense of humor

Ray & faye Durrett - March 16, 2017 at 12:00 AM

SB

“ Mary, Jeremy, Philip and family- I can't find the words that I want to say, so I'll just say "Thanks for the memories"!
Susan and Don Bennett

Susan Bennett - March 15, 2017 at 12:00 AM