



Deacon Cleave Whitby Jr.

September 26, 1959 - June 20, 2023

If you wish to show your support by sending flowers you can contact a local florist directly: Debbie's Flowers (870) 633-2225, ROOTS (870) 270-9964, or ROYAL DESIGN FLOWERS (870) 735-2000, or by visiting www.etsy.com/shop/ShopYABAS

Cleave Whitby, Jr. was born September 26, 1959, to Cleave Whitby, Sr. and Ullar Marie Sparkman Whitby in Forrest City, Arkansas, the oldest of his siblings, Charley Earl Whitby and Eunice Whitby Crawford.

Cleave received his high school diploma from Forrest City High School (Class of 1977) in Forrest City, Arkansas. He later joined The United States Marine Corps from 1977-1980. He was a 32nd degree Mason and attended Crowley's Ridge Vocational Technical School with a focus in Carpentry. He later owned his own lawn care business. He served in many roles at Cedar Grove Church of Jesus Christ in Round Pond, Arkansas. He served as a Deacon and Sunday School Teacher. He was an Alderman on the Widener City Council where he served over 20 years. On the council he was the epitome of a servant leader. In his work and in his actions, it was apparent to all the love he had for the community. He had the biggest servant heart of anyone.

Cleave married Dorothy Mitchell Whitby (who preceded him in death), in 1994 to this union Cleave Dewayne Whitby was born. He later married Ruthie A.

Burgess Whitby in 1996 and to this union Rosie Marie Whitby Clinkscale was born. He departed this life on June 20, 2023, at Baptist Memorial Hospital-Memphis.

He leaves to cherish his memories of 27 years, his loving wife, Ruthie A. Burgess Whitby; children, Cleave Dewayne Whitby and Rosie Marie Whitby Clinkscale (Nicholas); stepchildren he loved as his own, Felicia Mitchell and Yolanda Mitchell; one sister, Eunice Whitby (Don) Crawford; three sisters in law, Roberta (Robert) Echols, Nancy Ann (Archie) Butler, and Bernice (Kenneth) Word; four brothers in law, Amos (Doris) Burgess, Jr., Terry (Pauline) Burgess, Sr., David (LaSonya) Burgess, Sr., and Elbert (Debra) Burgess; one special nephew, Andros (Leigh) Whitby; a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, other relatives, and friends.

Previous Events

Visitation

JUN **23**. 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM (CT)

Miles J. Kimble Mortuary & Cremation
1900 South Washington Street
Forrest City, AR 72335
(870) 633-1914
mjkimble@yahoo.com
<http://www.mjkmortuaryandcremation.com>

Service

JUN **24**. 11:00 AM (CT)

Cedar Grove Church of Jesus Christ
187 SFC 503
Widener , AR 72394

Repast

JUN **24**. 1:30 PM (CT)

Widener Community Center
200 E Main Street
Widener , AR 72394

Tribute Wall

CF

“ Deacon Cleave Whitby will forever be remembered as a dedicated member of Cedar Grove Church Family. He was loyal, dedicated and humble. We loved him dearly and knew he loved us. Rest on Deacon Cleave Whitby.

Cedar Grove Church Family - July 07, 2023 at 11:14 AM

EH

“ Eddie Hodges lit a candle in memory of Deacon Cleave Whitby Jr.



Eddie Hodges - July 04, 2023 at 01:15 PM

LH

“ Lovie A. Hardrick lit a candle in memory of Deacon Cleave Whitby Jr.



Lovie A. Hardrick - June 24, 2023 at 04:19 AM

EH

“ Our condolences to the Whitby Family. May God strengthen you all.



Elise Wilburn Hunter - June 23, 2023 at 06:56 PM

JB

“ Cleave was a great person I spent a lot of time with him doing our tour in the Marine Corp which we were overseas in Japan and I just now moved back to the area and I had an opportunity to spend a couple of days with him and it was just like old times he will be missed.
Rest in peace my friend.

James Brown - June 23, 2023 at 04:49 PM

TW

“ Trent Walton lit a candle in memory of Deacon Cleave Whitby Jr.



Trent Walton - June 23, 2023 at 03:48 PM



“ Lee Williams lit a candle in memory of Deacon Cleave Whitby Jr.



Lee Williams - June 23, 2023 at 01:05 PM

BB

“ Sincere condolences to the Whitby family



Brenda Brown - June 23, 2023 at 10:12 AM

CW

“Dad I miss you I cried all day yesterday for you with doing to and the stuff we went to together I'm always Love you forever I keep in Yard Service also going and going memory of you Dad came dad and this coming football season Two if my Teams the Dallas Cowboys my Monday night and Friday night will never be same without you love you always number one friend Cleave Dewayne Whitby forever in my heart



Cleave Dewayne whitby - June 22, 2023 at 06:08 PM

KL

“Katherine Lyons lit a candle in memory of Deacon Cleave Whitby Jr.



Katherine Lyons - June 22, 2023 at 03:32 PM

IM

“Irene Moore lit a candle in memory of Deacon Cleave Whitby Jr.



Irene moore - June 22, 2023 at 08:41 AM

FG

“ *Francine Garry lit a candle in memory of Deacon Cleave Whitby Jr.*



Francine Garry - June 22, 2023 at 12:18 AM

KW

“ *You are forever in our hearts!*



khalia Word - June 21, 2023 at 10:46 PM

MG

“ *“A word of comfort and of hope, that in your deepest sorrow, you will find new strength and peace of mind and courage for tomorrow.” Please know that you are in our prayers.*



Sending condolences to the family of Cleave Whitby on behalf of The Lincoln High School - Maroon & Gold National Alumni Association, Inc. (MGNAAI), Forrest City, Arkansas. Cleave was a member of the Forrest City High School Class of 1977”

*Delores Farr Morelon
MGNAAI President*

MGNAAI - June 21, 2023 at 09:16 PM

SM

“ Shonda & Randy Moore lit a candle in memory of Deacon Cleave Whitby Jr.



Shonda & Randy Moore - June 21, 2023 at 08:01 PM

KA

“ Kathy Atwater lit a candle in memory of Deacon Cleave Whitby Jr.



Kathy Atwater - June 21, 2023 at 06:19 PM

ST

“ Shirley W. Thorn sent a virtual gift in memory of Deacon Cleave Whitby Jr.



Shirley W. Thorn - June 21, 2023 at 06:19 PM

DB

“ David And Lasonya Burgess lit a candle in memory of Deacon Cleave Whitby Jr.



David and Lasonya Burgess - June 21, 2023 at 05:44 PM

L(

“ Thank you for treating me like a niece! I will miss you greatly Uncle Cleave!❤️



Loretta J. Wilburn (LoLo) - June 21, 2023 at 05:11 PM

DS

“ DIANNE SHINE lit a candle in memory of Deacon Cleave Whitby Jr.



DIANNE SHINE - June 21, 2023 at 05:00 PM

SM

“ Sending Sincere Condolences To The Family & Friends. 🙏🙏🙏



Sandra Mcmillion - June 21, 2023 at 04:56 PM