



Dewey E. Cato, Jr.

February 16, 1932 - March 29, 2016

Dewey E. Cato, Jr., was born Feb. 16, 1932, and died March 29, 2016, joyously united with his Savior and Lord and reunited with his wife of sixty years, Janice. It was a great day indeed! He was released from the brokenness of body and spirit and clothed in the glorious garments of everlasting peace and wholeness. Though he now has unspeakable joy, we acknowledge his passing with sadness tempered with gratefulness, as we know he will ultimately hear the words 'Well done thou good and faithful servant.' Affectionately known by family as "Little Dewey", he may have grown up a poor country boy, son of Dewey E., Sr. and Lida Flora Barnwell Cato, but he achieved a high school education, served his country in the U.S. Navy and worked 50+ years to support his wife and four children - retiring at the age of 72. He sang in the adult choir at Orange Hill Baptist in Austell, Georgia as well as Gardendale's First Baptist Church. A member of Gardendale FBC since 1968, he served as a Sunday School teacher in a variety of age groups, and was an ordained deacon on the active board well into his 70's. While in their 60's, he and his wife served cheerfully in the "toddlers" nursery at Gardendale First Baptist. His only claim to fame was that of bearing a striking resemblance to former Alabama Governor Albert Brewer. He is survived by his four children: Rev. Richard Cato (Essie), Rebecca Cato Sharritt (Ramon), Barry Cato (Vicki) and Kevin Cato (fiancé Samantha Milam), three grandchildren (Kelly Sharritt Belcher, Brandon Cato and Mallory Grace Cato), five great grandchildren (Josie, Judah, Jana-Klaire, Shiloh and Amos Belcher), one

grandson-in-law Jeff, and his sister, Frances Cato Horton of Trafford. The family will welcome visitors at the Gardendale Funeral Home from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. Thursday, March 31, 2016. His son, Rick, will officiate the graveside service on Friday, April 1, at 11:00 a.m., at Oakwood Memorial Gardens.