



## Jim Houston Day, Sr. O.D.

June 25, 1928 - April 6, 2019

Jim Houston Day, Sr., O.D. of Gardendale, Alabama, passed away April 6, 2019 at the age of 90. He was a member of the Cathedral Church of the Advent in Birmingham. Born in Griffin, Georgia, he moved to Birmingham as a child. He attended Edgewood School and Phillips High School before joining the United States Army, where he was promoted to the rank of sergeant and stationed in San Antonio, Texas, and Greenland. In 1950, he graduated from Northern Illinois College of Optometry in Chicago, Illinois, and married his wife, Mildred Leake Day. They celebrated their 68th wedding anniversary on November 18, 2018.

Himself the son of an optometrist, he practiced optometry alongside his brother, son, and daughter-in-law in North Birmingham, Montevallo, Columbiana, and Gardendale. His practice in Gardendale, Day Optometry Clinic, continues to operate today as Day Eye Care. In 1972, he served as President of the Alabama Optometric Association and earned the President's Award in 1979. He was appointed by the governor of Alabama to the State Board of Optometry twice, serving from 1980–81 and 1982–86. For his service to the profession, he was recognized as Optometrist of the Year in 1992. After practicing for 48 years and serving thousands of patients in North–Central Alabama, he retired in 1998.

Outside of work, he found joy leading his church and his local Boy Scout Troop. He served as an Elder of Sixth Avenue Presbyterian Church and Mountain Brook Presbyterian Church. He was a member of Gardendale

Civitans and Scoutmaster of BSA Troop 266 in Gardendale. In 1975, he was recognized as a Leader of Distinction for his service to scouting, and in 1976, he was awarded Scoutmaster of the Year. He also loved his adopted home of Gardendale, which recognized his service to the city with Man of the Year in 1977 and a Beautification Award in 1990. In his free time, he enjoyed photography and traveling the world with his wife, as well as spending time with his five children, numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren. He is preceded in death by his parents, Francis Jasper (F.J.) Day and Della Sliger Day; his brother, Francis Day, Jr.; and his daughter, Adele Day. He is survived by his wife, Mildred Leake Day; his children, Marjory (Nelson) Cooper, Jim (Cindy) Day, Susan (Karl) Kling, Howard (Sharon) Day, and Roger (Jodie) Day; his grandchildren, Crystal (Jeff) Dickerson, Wes (Jerri) Day, Sarah (Steve) Smith, David (Alison) Kling, Michael (Samantha) Kling, Margaret (Jon) Elsner, Will Cooper, Russell Day, Thomas Day, Marjory Day, and Jacob Day; his great-grandchildren, Ella Dickerson, Eli Dickerson, George Kling, Cooper Smith, and Michael Smith; and his step-great-grandchildren, Peter Marvin and Lance Gilbert, and two nieces, Della Davis and Dorothy Kiker.

A visitation will take place at The New Gardendale Funeral Home in Gardendale (2214 Decatur Highway) on Friday, April 12, from 5:00–7:00 PM. The funeral will take place at The Cathedral Church of the Advent in Birmingham on Saturday, April 13, at 12:00 PM with a graveside service at Elmwood Cemetery to follow. In lieu of flowers, donations be made in memory of Jim Houston Day, Sr. to the Cathedral Church of the Advent (2017 6th Avenue N, Birmingham, AL 35203).

# Previous Events

## Visitation

APR **12**. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Gardendale Heritage Funeral Home  
2214 Decatur Highway  
Gardendale, AL 35071  
(205) 631-8810  
gardendalefuneralhome2@gmail.com

# Tribute Wall



“ Dr. Day and family always welcomed me into their home so warmly while Roger and I were friends in high school together. He raised a wonderful family - they have been friends and people I admire always since we met. I am grateful that they welcomed me and our group of friends to spend quality time together in their home on so many occasions. I cherish my memories of time spent in their home and the special friendships that resulted from that time. May the whole family find comfort during this time of loss.

Warmly,  
Carol Anderson Andrews

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Carol Andrews - April 12, 2019 at 09:07 PM



“ Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Jim Houston Day, Sr. O.D..



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April 12, 2019 at 05:16 PM



“ Una Jackson lit a candle in memory of Jim Houston Day, Sr. O.D.



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Una Jackson - April 12, 2019 at 03:17 PM

DJ

“ He had a funny saying. If you got it Flaunt it.  
Laugh. Laugh. Laugh.

Darrell Jones - April 12, 2019 at 09:00 AM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for  
the family of Jim Houston Day, Sr. O.D..



April 11, 2019 at 09:11 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for  
the family of Jim Houston Day, Sr. O.D..



April 10, 2019 at 10:57 AM

WF

“ With sympathy, your Vision America Family  
purchased the Joyful Memory for the family of  
Jim Houston Day, Sr. O.D..



With sympathy, your Vision America Family - April 10, 2019 at  
09:52 AM

BH

“ I am so sorry to hear this. Dr. Day was a fine person and a wonderful neighbor for many years. There are so many fond memories and I was so fortunate to have known such a fine man. He will surely be missed.

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**Bart Headrick** - April 07, 2019 at 11:56 PM

 Karin  
Elsner

“ I remember meeting Jim at our son Jon and Margaret's wedding. My husband and I had a wonderful time that day talking to Mildred and Jim. As we talked at the reception, you could hear the love he had for Margaret, my son; and his family. Even though we only spent that one day with Jim, we have that memory of sharing that special day with him. Prayers for you Mildred and your beautiful family.



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**Karin Elsner** - April 07, 2019 at 04:00 PM

PT

“ Being your neighbor has been the best. We have had many conversations in our yards about our plants. I will miss those. Our grandchildren could always count on some candy at Halloween. I'm glad we had the neighborhood Christmas party and you and Mimi were able to attend. My last memory of you was just before you fell this last time you were on your riding lawn mower checking out all the flowers and shrubs in your yard and particularly the space we shared between our yards. I think you had some particular ideas about that space. Rest in peace my friend. You will be missed.

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**Patricia Tate** - April 06, 2019 at 07:51 PM

RS

“ Jim took great care of my eyes for many years and we worked together as Boy Scout leaders for seven years. I learned many life lessons from Dr Jim.  
He loved his family and cared for his mother’s needs during her last years living in his home.  
Mimi was his life partner and they had so much fun together.  
His motto was, as Boy Scouts we never let a little rain or snow keep us from our monthly camping and hiking trips; and it never did.  
Dr. Day will be missed.

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Ronald Travis Sr. - April 06, 2019 at 07:19 PM

PT

“ Thank you Dr. Day for being our very special friend and neighbor for so many years. You and your sweet family were like family. Roger was like the other son, spending much time at our home with son Chuck. We love you and will always have a special place in our heart. Our prayers are with your sweet family during this very sad time of their lives. Thank you for being such a wonderful community servant, you always found it in your heart to help the many organizations that ask you for donation. A big servants heart describes you.



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Peggy Tumlin - April 06, 2019 at 06:56 PM