



MR. TRUITT D. BREAZEALE

September 11, 1940 - January 20, 2021

Graveside services for Mr. Truitt D. Breazeale will be held at 12 PM Tuesday, January 26, 2021 at MS Veterans Cemetery in Newton, MS. John E. Stephens Chapel Funeral Services in charge.

Truitt Dewane Breazeale was born on September 11, 1940. At age 80, and due to complications related to COVID-19, he died on January 20, 2021. Truitt had a myriad of names that described him so well: “Colonel Breazeale, Sergeant Major Breazeale, Daddy, and Papa” just to name a few.

Truitt was a true-bloodied American who was universally known for his service to others and his bedrock integrity. In his famous military manner, he showed love for others by unwavering and selfless service to all. He adored his family.

Truitt is survived by his wife, Vonnell Burks Breazeale. They married on August 18, 1960 and had three children: Christopher Dewayne (Starla Austin) of Vicksburg, MS, Dr. Gwendolyn Vonita Breazeale Alexander (Tony) of Columbus, GA, and Jeffery Allen (Pamela Waggoner) of Rogers, AR. Truitt had seven grandchildren and three great-grandchildren, and numerous nephews, nieces, and cousins. He also considered his JROTC students to be his very own – as well as the numerous foreign exchange students that he and Vonnell hosted in their home.

Truitt also leaves two younger brothers - Paul and Sherrell. It is an understatement to say that his brothers always looked up to Truitt. Together, the three boys grew up poor, often sleeping in the same bed. Over the years, they have remained closely knit.

In 1959, Truitt graduated from Neshoba Central in its first graduating class. He received his college degree from Columbus College. He was a Sunday School teacher at Old Pearl Valley Baptist Church. He was a believer in Jesus Christ - loaded with faith.

Truitt was a soldier to the very bone. He began his military career on July 13, 1959. In total, he served 54 years - 32 years of active duty and 22 years teaching high-school Army JROTC. His service included tours at Forts Benning, Jackson, Riley, Bragg and Greely. He had three tours in Korea, two tours in Vietnam and a short time in Germany.

Truitt was an Infantry Company Commander in Vietnam. He was wounded in combat and received the Purple Heart. He was also awarded the Bronze Star Medal for heroism. He was Airborne.

After Vietnam, the Reduction in Force (RIF) forced Truitt from his rank of Captain to that of Staff Sergeant. The army, however, allowed Truitt to keep his commission for the purpose of retirement. So, on the day of his retirement, his Sergeant Major stripes became the silver oakleaves of a Lieutenant Colonel. Early in his career, Truitt marched in the Inaugural Parade for President John F. Kennedy. The Army was his life. He served with magnificent bearing.

In their home, Truitt and Vonnell were continually hosting exchange students from all over the world. As a couple they were like roving ambassadors for our

great country. In short, they permanently changed the lives of so many.

In teaching high school JROTC, Truitt served children of every background imaginable. One of his students earned an appointment to West Point. She now calls him “Papa.” Soon, she will be a medical doctor. Truitt was a big supporter of every single one of his students. He loved all of them.

At the time of his death, Truitt was President of the Mississippi Military Order of the Purple Heart – a position in which he served for seven years. Although he jumped out of planes as a paratrooper, he preferred taking long car trips instead of flying – a practice that drove his family crazy.

There are tons of stories of how Truitt reached out to help others. One day he flew his JROTC students to Chicago on a military airplane. The JROTC program in Meridian flourished under his leadership. To this day he remains a legend there.

Truitt loved America. He wrote, “I love this country. We are not perfect, but this is the most perfect country that I have ever seen - and I have been in many.”

His passing leaves a big void in so many lives. Truitt did so much for so many. It is hard to accept the fact that he is now gone. He lived with no regrets. He once said, “I would do it all again.” Truly, he was “bigger than life.”

Truitt’s wishes were to be buried in the Mississippi Veterans Memorial Cemetery at Newton -alongside his fellow soldiers.

You may honor Truitt’s life with contributions to the Mississippi Baptist Foundation or Military Order of the Purple Heart, care of Edward Buckman, PO Box 229, Carthage, MS 39051. Truitt also loved flowers or many other

wonderful service organizations that you may choose.

Thank you so much for your prayers. They sustained him.

Also, our family will be forever grateful for Truitt's amazing caregivers while he was hospitalized. We love them so much.

Tribute Wall



“ *MR. TRUITT D. BREAZEALE*

November 16, 2022 at 12:23 PM



“ *We were so sorry to hear the sad news about Mr. Truitt. The entire Bradshaw family is praying for you all during this time. Jack & Becky Bradshaw*

Jack & Becky Bradshaw - January 26, 2021 at 07:09 PM



“ *He was respectfully known as Colonel or "Sir" to us for those who committed to the MHS J.R.O.T.C program for the full four years of high school. His guidance and wisdom molded so many of us into disciplined young adults. It has been so nice to have been able to keep in touch with him through Facebook after graduating nearly 15 yrs ago and see him enjoy his retirement and family. He will be missed but his deeds on earth remain as his legacy within each student whose life he impacted. The fond memories of him during inspection, Camp Binachi, field trips to Six Flags, and Drill Meets will linger with many of us for a lifetime as we continue to hold him dear and near to our hearts. To be absent in the body is to be present with the Lord and I am quite sure the Lord has said, "well done my good and faithful servant" to him as his many works on earth have come to an end and he has gone from labor to reward.*



To his wife, children, and siblings, my deepest prayers and sympathy go out to you. Thank you for sharing him with us! May God be with you all!

Alesha Horne - January 25, 2021 at 09:35 AM



“ *Red & White Standing Wreath was purchased for the family of MR. TRUITT D. BREAZEALE.*



January 25, 2021 at 09:17 AM



“ *We are so sorry to hear about Mr. Truitt. We know that he will be greatly missed. Prayers for all of the family.*

Arvest and Janet Warren

Janet Warren - January 25, 2021 at 08:36 AM



“ *Healing Tears - All White was purchased for the family of MR. TRUITT D. BREAZEALE.*



January 25, 2021 at 07:28 AM



“ *Healing Tears - Blue and White was purchased for the family of MR. TRUITT D. BREAZEALE.*



January 24, 2021 at 10:23 PM



“ *Blue & White Sympathy Floor Basket was purchased for the family of MR. TRUITT D. BREAZEALE.*



January 24, 2021 at 09:22 PM



“ *Truitt will be missed I called him my friend such a great man, and leader. He all ways supported me when I was the region four moph commander. A true hero American has lost I will see him again on the other side. James Miller Dept of South Carolina.*

James Miller - January 24, 2021 at 04:12 PM



“ *OUR CONDOLENCES AND PRAYER TO THE BREAZEALE FAMILY.
FROM THE MILITARY ORDER OF THE PURPLE HEART OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI AND CHAPTER 677 WHOM TRUITT WAS A MEMBER OF. AND AS OUR STATE COMMANDER.
MAY THE LORD BLESS YOU AND GIVE YOU PEACE AT THIS TIME.*

*YOURS IN PATRIOTISM
ONEIL BUCKMAN*

o bockman - January 24, 2021 at 12:31 PM

Step
Taylor

“ *Step Taylor purchased the Peace, Prayers & Blessings - Blue and White for the family of MR. TRUITT D. BREAZEALE.*



Step Taylor - January 24, 2021 at 11:48 AM

Step
Taylor

“ *For the Meridian High School JROTC program, not only was Colonel Breazeale the cook during winter and summer camp, the bus driver to drill meets, a teacher, an emotional councilor, and physical training coach...he was a father figure to lots of students and showed tough love when he knew we were not being the best version of ourselves. His reference for a leadership scholarship, helped me secure my finances to pay for undergraduate studies. For that and many other instances that I could literally write a novel about, I am forever grateful ❤️ Rest in Heaven Colonel Truitt Breazeale
Prayers for your family.*

Step Taylor - January 24, 2021 at 11:39 AM

JH

“ *Judy Huddleston*

I did not get the pleasure of meeting Mr Breazeale. But I do know his daughter Gwen. After reading his obituary I see why Gwen was always taking about her Dad. He sounds like a man you could just sit and hear story after story. I'm so sorry for your loss of this great man.



Judy Huddleston - January 23, 2021 at 11:05 AM

JR

“ *Judy Robertson lit a candle in memory of MR. TRUITT D. BREAZEALE*



Judy Robertson - January 23, 2021 at 08:09 AM

JH

I did not get the pleasure of meeting Mr Breazeale. But I do know his daughter Gwen. After reading his obituary I see why Gwen was always taking about her Dad. He sounds like a man you could just sit and hear story after story. I'm so sorry for your loss of this great man.

Judy Huddleston - January 23, 2021 at 09:42 AM



“ *Garden Accent Stone - "Wherever a Beautiful Soul..." was purchased for the family of MR. TRUITT D. BREAZEALE.*



January 22, 2021 at 08:09 PM

GT

“ *Greg Smith & the Supply Chain Leadership Team purchased the Blue & White Sympathy Floor Basket for the family of MR. TRUITT D. BREAZEALE.*



Greg Smith & the Supply Chain Leadership Team - January 22, 2021 at 05:40 PM

DC

“ *Very sorry for your loss. While I did not know Colonel Breazeale, I have worked with his son Jeff for some time. Sometimes it is through your children that you are best seen to others. In this truth, Jeff represents a morally centered, just leader that has exemplified the best in what it means to be a good son. God bless the family and all that his passing has touched.*

Donnie Chester - January 22, 2021 at 01:03 PM

DC

“ *Donnie, Sonia, Megan, & Joshua Chester purchased the Springtime Wishes for the family of MR. TRUITT D. BREAZEALE.*



Donnie, Sonia, Megan, & Joshua Chester - January 22, 2021 at 12:55 PM

TP

“ *So sorry for your loss. Praying for your sweet family.*

Teresa Price - January 22, 2021 at 12:50 PM

GB

“ *So sorry to hear of the death of Mr. Breazeale. I did not know Mr. Truitt. But I do know his two younger brothers. And I feel like I know him through the many posts on Paul's pages. I graduated with Sherrell. My thoughts and prayers are with all of the family at this time. May God give all of you peace and know that Mr. Truitt is now Walking those heavenly streets of gold.*

*Prayers,
Gaynell Singleton Bozard*

Gaynell Bozard - January 22, 2021 at 12:11 PM

JC

“ Colonel Rreazeale was a loyal friend and an inspiration to all. He was always fun to be around, always laughing and talking. I will truly miss his friendship,

Jayson Chisolm - January 22, 2021 at 06:45 AM



“ Red, White & Blue Large Sympathy Vase Arrangement was purchased for the family of MR. TRUITT D. BREAZEALE.



January 21, 2021 at 08:04 PM

KA

“ So sorry for your loss. Prayers for you all

Kathy - January 21, 2021 at 08:03 PM

GG

Neshoba Co. Retired Teachers group will really miss Truitt. He was always willing to serve as president. He always had a smile and an outwardly expression of love for his country and his God. Prayers for his family. May God give you the comfort and peace that you need at this time.

Gaynell M Gentry - January 22, 2021 at 03:42 PM