

Active Pallbearers

Jackie Clayton Jr.
Andre Price
Patrick Jackson

Kendrick Price.
Ed Jackson

Steven Clayton Jr.
Kendrick Clayton
Michael Ellis

Honorary Pallbearers

Jackie Clayton
A.C. Clayton.
Esiah Clayton

Steven Clayton
George Price

James T. Clayton
Levi Rivers
Kreed Clayton-Ellis

Acknowledgment

We acknowledge with sincere appreciation the many acts of kindness shown to us during our time of bereavement. Thank you for your prayers and loving support. Your thoughtfulness will always be remembered.

The Clayton Family

Interment

Kilgore Memorial Garden
Kilgore, TX

I'm Free

Don't grieve for me, for now I'm free
I'm following the path God laid for me.
I took his hand when I heard him call;
I turned my back and left it all.
I could not stay another day,
To laugh, to love, to work and play.
Tasks left undone must stay that way;
I found that place at the close of day.
If my parting has left a void,
Then fill it with remembered joy.
A friendship shared a laugh, a kiss;
Ah yes, these things, I too will miss.
Be not burdened with times of sorrow
I wish you the sunshine of tomorrow.
My life's been full, I savoured much;
Good friends, good time, a loved ones touch.
Perhaps my time seems all too brief;
Don't lengthen it now with undue grief.
Lift up your heart and share with me,
God wanted me now,
He set me free



"No Service Can Compare"

CUNNINGHAM FUNERAL HOME, LLC

600 E. MAIN ST. KILGORE, TX 75662
903-984-2072

RENEE' CUNNINGHAM & JESSICA CUNNINGHAM-JAMES
LICENSED FUNERAL DIRECTORS

www.cunninghamkilgore.com

Like us on facebook: @Cunninghamfuneralhome

Honoring the Life of



Sunrise:
January 28, 1944

Sunset:
December 29, 2022

James L. "Sleepy" Clayton

Service

Saturday, January 7, 2023 - 2:00 P.M.

Faith Tabernacle O.G.I.C.

1207 State Highway 31 E.
Kilgore, TX 75662

**Pastor T.A. Kenney- Pastor
Elder James Elder-Eulogist**

Life Reflections

Those we love don't go away, they walk beside us every day, unseen, unheard, but always near, still loved, still missed, and very dear.

James (Sleepy) Clayton was born to proud parents, Calvin and Florence Clayton on January 28, 1944 in Troup, TX.

James accepted Christ as his savior as a young child and was a member of "Freewill Church of God." James attended C.B. Dansby of Kilgore. He was employed in the oil field until he retired. December 29, 2022, God in His infinite wisdom reached in His garden and picked another flower.

James was preceded in death by his father: Calvin Clayton; mother: Florence Herndon; daughter: Crystal Clayton; brothers: Willy "Po Farmer" Jean and Bill Clayton; sisters: Clemmie Lewis, Annie Mae Smith, and Florence (Hackie) Clayton.

James leaves to cherish his precious memory to his wife Patricia Ann Clayton of Kilgore, Texas; sons James Terrance and Steven Clayton of Kilgore, Texas; son Jackie Clayton (Catina) of McKinney, Texas; daughter Brittany Clayton of Kilgore, Texas; sisters Dorothy Clayton of Kilgore, Texas, Vernell Kennedy of Henderson, Texas, and Essie Williams of San Bernadino, California; brother A.C. Clayton of Kilgore, Texas. A host of grandkids Krystal, Nykia, Brianna, LaKaedria, Sheondra, Shanydria, Steven Jr., Jackie Jr., Keymiah, and Levi; great-grandkids Demi, Kreed, Esiah, and Naomi and many relatives and friends.



Loving

Sleepy,

I was sitting by your side. You were gone before I knew it. A million times I will miss you. A million times I will cry. In my head you will always hold a special place. It broke my heart to lose you, but you didn't go alone for a part of me went with you the day God took you home. We will meet again someday. I know you are in a better place. I thank God, He made you, my husband.

Always and Forever in my heart! ~Your wife Patricia

James Clayton,
My son, I love you!

O Lord, our Lord how excellent is your name. In all the earth who have set your glory above the Heavens out of the mouth of babes and nursing infants. O Lord, our Lord how excellent is your name in all the earth I love the Lord, I will praise you O Lord with my whole heart, I tell of all marvelous work I will be glad and rejoice in You. I will sing praise to your name O most high

He will never leave you... the Lord is good all the time.

God loves you and He will watch over you James Clayton. ~Your mom Louise Wallace

We'll Always Love You, Dad!

Each day you strived to live; your body too weak to be.
Your love will live forever since your heart had set you free.

Now you walk so bravely, you feel the pain no more.
Angels have come to guide you and bring you to Heaven's door.
Memories we'll hold so dearly, your smile, warmed our hearts.
And through our lives you'll live, you've touched so many parts.

Hard days may be before us, it's all a part of God's plan.

Why you left so soon, we may never understand.

You'll be alone no longer, and you'd tell us, "Don't be sad."
Please believe, you were no burden, we'll always love you, Dad!
Our lives have changed forever since the day you passed away.

In Heaven you'll be waiting to meet us again someday. ~Jackie, Steve, and James

Daddy,

I really don't know what to say I know that I can't believe that the day finally came that I would lose you and not be able to hear your voice or see you sitting over in your favorite spot watching your westerns. Daddy, I miss you even more as the days pass. I'm so thankful to have had you in my life, and even more grateful to have you as my father who not only raised me but was there to help raise both my babies Keymiah and Levi since day 1 of their life. Daddy, I wish this wasn't true and I was still able to call out "daddy" and hear you say, "Whatever." Just know that I thank you for everything and all the love you gave and showed me and my family. This is the hardest part to do, but I know I have to, and that part is to say, "I

love you and goodbye Daddy." ~Love your daughter, Brittany

Father-In-Law,
Deep in my heart
You will always stay
Loved and missed
Everyday. ~Tina

Now the barn will no longer echo of your hymns and songs.
we'll no longer be able to hear your voice or see your smiling face, we know deep down in our hearts that you'll forever stay.

They say there's a reason, they say that time will heal, but neither time nor reason, will change the way I feel. A thousand words won't bring you back, I know because I've tried, neither will a thousand tears, I know because I've cried. so, if roses grow in heaven Lord, please pick a bunch for me. Hand them to my grandpa and tell him they're from me. Tell him I love him, and I'll forever miss telling him, papa get out that tractor and when he turns to smile, place a kiss upon his cheek and tell him it's from his grandchild. -Krystal Clayton

Tributes

To my Papa Sleepy in Heaven, it's not easy not having you here, and it's not easy seeing the reminders of your absence. But I carry fond memories of you in my heart, and know you are with me in some way. I will forever miss the big smile, hug and kiss that came with seeing you, as well as the old westerns on the tv, but know that I cherish and adore every moment we've spent together. To my Papa Sleepy, thank you for your everlasting love. You will forever be in my heart.

~Shanydria

Dear papa, I will never forget the moments we spent together, and the life lessons you taught me at such a young age that I am still deciphering til this day. I thank you for raising the man that made me the man I am today and the principles that you instilled into him that he instilled into me. I now have a son of my own that I am now able to pass down this knowledge to. Your legacy will live on until the end of time, love your grandson. -Jackie Jr

This is a hard pill to swallow... You are supposed to live forever. I never imagined having to let you go. They say time heals all wounds but it's going to take some time with this one... The first thing I look for going into the house is you sitting in your chair watching western, and the big smile you have when you see your granddaughter... you're the glue that holds us together. I have so many precious memories with you that I will forever treasure. Sitting on the porch with you, or just following you around outside. Always asking where Paw Paw and the response was, he out there on the tractor. I will continue to make you proud I love you always and forever your girl. -Kadria

Papa, on this earth they're so many papas but you stood out from most of them ALL. In my eyes, papa you stood 100 feet tall strong, fearless, and brave than them ALL. Always smiling and caring with a heart as pure as gold. The good Lord must have needed you more. I know you would be telling us to stop crying and it's going to be okay. I know that you're spreading your wings and flying away throughout hayfields and green pastures full of hay. I feel your presence all the way throughout Granny and your sons. Naomi and I love you forever plus more. See isn't goodbye but see you later which we all adore. Keep that tractor seat warm and we'll see you soon. -Kia

Dear papa, you will greatly be missed, someone so special can never be forgotten. I will forever cherish the memories that we shared together. You were a great man that took care of his family. I will miss walking in seeing you sitting in your chair watching westerns. God has gained another angel, continue to watch over us. I love you papa. -She She

We'll always remember that special smile, that caring heart, that warm embrace, you always gave us. You being there for Grandma and us through good and bad times, no matter what. We'll always remember you Grampa because there'll never be another one to replace you in our hearts, and the love we will always have for you. -Stevie

It will never be the same walking in that front door, and not seeing your smiling face sitting in your recliner. I will now only have the special memories we made. I remember you used to bounce us on your knee like a horse, and we'd laugh so hard. I cherish every minute I've had with you whether it was watching you work in the barn, ride with you to the fires after listening to the scanner, watching your westerns, etc. No matter what, it was always fun with papa Sleepy. My heart aches so badly right now, and I know it's all in God's plan and I trust him. God needed you home right now, and now you can rest. No more pain, no more suffering, no more sadness. You were our patriarch, and this changes everything. "...my eyes are dim with grief. I call to you, Lord, every day; I spread out my hands to you." - Psalm 88:9. I pray for your children, and I pray for granny and the strength for her to carry on. Thank you for blessing us with the gift of your life, and God allowing us to have you as our papa. We may weep tonight, but joy will come in the morning. Fly high our angel, and I will see you again. -Brianna Clayton

Dear Papa,

It's sad to see you go but you are now in a better place. You showed us so much love and I thank you that even though you are not here you will always be in my heart forever.

Love Always,
Keymiah & Levi



Order of Service

Processional
The Ministers, Pallbearers, & Family
Cunningham Funeral Directors in Charge



Soft music

Scriptures

Old Testament Rev. Marvin Taylor

New Testament Rev. Raymond Cross

Prayer of Comfort.....Bro. Kenneth Ray Palmer

Musical SelectionElder James Elder

Special Remarks.....Bro. George Price

Family Tribute.....Sis. Brenda Johnson

Solo.....Sis. Ivie Sue Abron

AcknowledgementsFree Will Church of God

Resolutions.....Church Clerk

Life Reflection..... Read Silently-Soft Music

Solo.....Rev. Marvin Taylor

Eulogy..... Elder James Elder

Presentation.....Cunningham Directors

Final Glimpse to Glory.....Cunningham Directors

Recessional