



Mr. Ronnie Lawrence "Rabbi" Bethay

December 15, 1954 - January 14, 2021

Ronnie Lawrence "Rabbi" Bethay, 66, passed away Thursday, January 14, 2021, at UMMC, Jackson, MS. He was born on December 15, 1954, in Tupelo, MS, to Longino Lawrence Bethay and Esta Marie Duncan Bethay. Ronnie was a 1972 graduate of Booneville High School. After graduation, he continued his education at Baylor University for one year before returning to the University of Mississippi. He entered The School of Business Administration and received an MBA in Finance during the years of 1973-1977. After college, he began his career in Jackson, MS, with Deposit Guaranty National Bank, where Mr. Bethay served as Senior Vice President from 1978-1998. While working, he also taught at Belhaven University in Jackson. He taught Economics, Finance and Commercial Banking. In 1999, Mr. Bethay began his career with Trustmark National Bank in Jackson, MS, where he served as First Vice President of the Credit Analysis Department until his death. Ronnie was member of St. Andrews Episcopal Cathedral Church. He loved to read, enjoyed music, loved animals, was an avid Ole Miss fan and loved to tailgate in the Grove. Mr. Bethay was an active Alumni of Beta Theta Pi Fraternity.

He is survived by his mother, Esta Marie Bethay of Booneville, MS; brother, James H. Bethay (Carlie Sue) of Booneville, MS; three sisters, Judy Bethay Rogers of Rogers, AR; Nancy Gearhart of Cold Springs, KY; Wanda Flick of Lexington, KY; nephews, Kenneth Lee Bethay (Lydia); James Larry Bethay (Sandi) all of Booneville, MS; Christopher Myers (Cassie); and Blake Myers

(Julie) both of Rogers, AR; Mark Mackey (Susan) of Lexington, KY; nieces, Jill Schmidt (Nicholas) of Rogers, AR; Melissa Ratcliff (Chris); Amanda Stamper (Ray) of Covington, KY; host of great-nephews and great-nieces, James Kyle Bethay (Stephanie); Ryan Nelson Bethay (Tucker); Alex Bethay; Harper Myers; Collins Myers; Jack Myers; Mason Schmidt; Drake Schmidt; Dylan Schmidt; and Millie Schmidt; Allison Mae Mackey; Sean Mackey; Logan Ratcliff; Blake Ratcliff; Joshua Walk; Josiah Walk; Hannah Stamper; William (Midori) Stamper; Emma Stamper; Reuben Stamper; Caroline Stamper; and great-great nieces, Elliot Ry Bethay; Abigail Walk; Elizabeth Walk; Sarah Walk; great-great nephew, Cadel Wright Bethay; cousins, Carolyn Duncan Whipple of Tupelo, MS; and Bettye Johnson of Booneville, MS.

He is preceded in death by his father, L. L. Bethay; sister, Betty Mae Bethay and niece, Robin Mackey Walk.

Funeral services will be private, and will be held on Thursday, January 21, 2021, at Booneville First United Methodist Church with Bro. Mike Campbell and Bro. Tim Sisk officiating. Burial will be in Lee Memorial Park in Verona, MS. Booneville Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

Pallbearers will be Chris Myers, Kyle Bethay, Blake Myers, Ryan Bethay and Alex Bethay.

Memorial requests may be made to St. Andrews Episcopal Cathedral Church, P.O. Box 1366, Jackson, MS, 39215-1366.

Condolences may be extended to the family at boonevillefuneralhome.net.

Tribute Wall

FF

“ Rabbi and I worked together at Deposit Guaranty Bank. He was an awesome, fun and unique guy! He will be truly missed!

Frank Fair

Frank Fair - January 21, 2021 at 06:26 PM

LP

“ Rabbi - what a special friend you were to all who knew you! When we were at Deposit Guaranty, you would always pop in to say hello or visit for a few minutes. When I was sad, you always had a kind word and encouragement for me. When I was happy, you made me even happier. Your smile was contagious and your humor had me crying with laughter SO many times! You will never be forgotten and I can't wait to see you again! You are and always will be "one of a kind." Rest in peace, my friend. Lu Poole

Lu Poole - January 20, 2021 at 09:39 AM

PS

“ I met Rabbi when he was my professor at summer school at Belhaven. I really enjoyed his class and after that semester he offered me a job at Deposit Guaranty, my very first “real job”, after I graduated from Ole Miss. I owe everything to him for believing in me and getting me started on my career. He was a great mentor, tutor and most of all a friend. He was always fun, never boring, and yet very serious when it came to work. One of the first lessons he taught me was there are only 2 rules...#1, The Rabbi is always right, and #2, in case of any questions or doubts, refer to rule #1. He will be terribly missed. Eternally grateful Rabbi. Hotty Toddy!

PJ Stevens - January 20, 2021 at 08:43 AM

BE

PJ - Our Deposit Guaranty family was special, and Ronnie was a huge part of that. He set the bar really high for us all. Miss you!

Beverly - January 20, 2021 at 01:36 PM

CW

“ *Carolyn and Wayne Whipple purchased the Blue & White Sympathy Floor Basket for the family of Mr. Ronnie Lawrence "Rabbi" Bethay.*



Carolyn and Wayne Whipple - January 19, 2021 at 11:22 AM

BM

“ My deepest sympathy to Ronnie’s mother and family. Ronnie (I was one of the very few that couldn’t call him Rabbi) and I met in 1983 and worked together at Deposit Guaranty. We were close friends for many years until our paths diverged to different banks in 2004. At work, he mentored numerous young bankers in the Credit Department who furthered their careers in the financial world. His business acumen was exceptional, and he approached every situation fairly and head-on. Personally, Ronnie and I shared many fun suppers together and Christmas Eves with my family and friends. He was most generous to others, and so humble that few knew of his many kindnesses. His sharp sense of humor could leave you in laughing tears, but he could be deadly serious when the situation required it. As a musician, Ronnie could wow you while playing intricate piano/organ pieces, and he attributed his piano teacher’s insistence on scales and chords for this ability. He loved Ole Miss and often retold the stories of his time there and of his fraternity brothers. Later, when Ronnie interviewed at Ole Miss the banking/finance majors for possible positions at the bank, many of his professors remembered him from his outstanding grades. Ronnie was a unique individual in every good way. He will be missed by all of us friends whose lives he touched. May God’s loving grace and our memories of Ronnie help to ease this heartbreaking loss. Beverly Milam

Beverly Milam - January 18, 2021 at 11:49 PM

PS

Was nice to hear from you Beverly. Miss you and thank you too for getting me started on a great career. Hope you are doing well. Just found out about Rabbi this morning.

PJ Stevens - January 20, 2021 at 08:46 AM



“ *Rabbi, what a great friends.*

We had unforgettable days tailgating at the grove. We spent so many hours setting up that tent.

It was a pleasure to learn from you the art of tailgating. You truly enjoyed making other people happy.

You are already missed.

Love,

Giovanni L.

Giovanni Lavermicocca - January 18, 2021 at 07:15 PM



“*My deepest condolences to the Bethay family and especially to his mother Mrs. Bethay in these difficult times. I have known Ronnie "Rabbi" from my time at Belhaven college in the early 1990's and we have been staying in contact ever since. He has been a true friend of mine over the years. I came back to visit him several times in Brandon, I remember our trips to the Ole-miss football games setting up the tents and enjoying the company of friends, because everybody knew the "Rabbi". You loved showing me around Oxford, showed me Ole Miss campus we went to baseball games. We "talked" every day how work was going that you were taking another trip up to Booneville and I did notice the trips were making you tired but you loved spending time with your mom and then you would go to your favorite new Mexican restaurant in town. Last week Friday you send me a picture of your Church in Booneville, that is the first time you share that picture with me, maybe you had a feeling about things. I replied back to you and I never got an answer until I got the bad news out of Jackson, you were hanging in there but the Lord had other plans for you. Rabbi my friend, I am going to miss our talks our messaging and all you stood for, may your soul rest in peace."*

*Ronnie Agterberg
Amsterdam, The Netherlands*

Ron Agterberg - January 18, 2021 at 02:42 AM