

WALTER JUNIOR BOATRIGHT



Walter Junior Boatright, 60, of Callahan, peacefully went home to be with the Lord and his beloved Mama Jean and Papa Gene, Wednesday, December 12 surrounded by family.

Junior was born October 28, 1958 in Alma, Georgia. He moved to Callahan in 1969 and Nassau County was forever changed for the better. Junior was a proud graduate of West Nassau High School in 1976. While in school he met the love of his life, Tonya Bunting. On November 4, 1977 he married Tonya and began a 41 year romance that was truly inspirational. Junior retired from Jacksonville Electrical Authority (JEA) with 31 years of dedicated service. Retirement did not last long as Junior was compelled to run and serve as Nassau County District 5 Commissioner for two successful terms (2008-2016). While serving as Commissioner, Junior had the innate ability to bring people together and make things happen. He was the epitome of a true public servant. Junior enjoyed the outdoors and was an avid sportsman. Most days Junior could be found surrounded by people laughing and telling his infamous 'Junior' stories or jokes. He also enjoyed spending time with his boys and grandsons cheering on the Georgia Bulldogs.

Junior is survived by his beautiful wife Tonya; two handsome and intelligent sons Jeremy and Steven (Melanie); and two loquacious grandsons Brock and Cooper; his siblings Mike Boatright, Jerry (Myra) Boatright, Terri Riley and Jennifer (Russell) Geiger; his favorite father and mother in-law Jack and Shirley Bunting; along with many brother & sister in-laws, nieces, nephews and countless friends. He was preceded in death by his parents, Walter Boatright; Jean Williams and Thomas "Gene" Williams.

Pallbearers were Jeremy Reynolds, Lester Smith, Cole Shannahan, Jay Sriratana, Steven Payne, Ryan Brown, Travis Stevens and Matthew Nobles. Honorary pallbearers were Phillip Self, Ricky Musslewhite, Gus Stearn, Brian Swilley, Dwight Griffis, Micheal Wingate, Charlie Gressman, David Hicken, Raymond Fachko, Tony Federico, Bobby Winkleman, Judge Robert Foster, Glenn Whiddon, Danny Leeper, Mike Hickox, Jimmy L. Higginbotham, Pat Edwards, Mike Mullin, John Drew, Adam Brown, Scotty Murray, Ray West and Ronnie Fussell.

The family received friends Monday, December 17 at the First Baptist Church of Callahan. A celebration of Junior's life was held Tuesday, December 18 also at First Baptist Church of Callahan with Pastor Keith Foskey officiating. A graveside service followed at Jones Cemetery.

Friends and family gathered following the graveside service at Cottonwood Ranch in Callahan for lunch and a continued celebration of Junior's life.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests to register as an organ donor or make a monetary donation to Donate Florida Life.

Condolences may be expressed at www.nassaufh.com.

Arrangements under the direction of Nassau Funeral Home, Callahan, 904-879-1770.