



THE LIFE & LEGACY LESTER EPTING

Mr. Lester Epting was born to the union of L.P. Epting and Hattie Shelby Epting on February 17, 1950, in Smith County. On February 14, 2025, he tragically passed away in a motor vehicle accident on Highway 15 in Stringer, Mississippi, which led to a cardiac arrest. Following the accident, Lester made his final phone call to his beloved wife, reassuring her of his love and his belief that everything would be alright. He was known for praying the Lord's Prayer every night with his wife.

Lester was preceded in death by his father, L.P. Epting, his mother, Hattie Ruth Epting Cooper, his stepfather, Lavern Cooper, his son, Lester Jermain Epting, four brothers—Eddie, Leon, Dale, and James Epting—his sister, Nancy Ann Payton Campbell, and four nephews: Keith Payton, Salento, Wendell, and Milo Epting.

Lester was a member of Hopewell Baptist Church in Raleigh, Mississippi. He graduated with honors from Turner Chapel High School in Raleigh in 1968. Raised in Hopewell Sylvarena by his grandparents, Hardell and Nancy Shelby, Lester married Mary Helen Hamilton in 1968. Together, they shared 56 years of love, memories, and companionship. From this union, they were blessed with two children: Marion and Lester Jr.

Lester devoted 35 years of his career to Northern Electric Company (NECO) as a supervisor. He was also skilled in carpentry, electrical work, and plumbing. A true jack of all trades and master of many, Lester had a passion for building, designing, and creating things with his hands. He generously used his talents to serve his community, assisting neighbors and friends with carpentry, electrical, and plumbing services. Throughout his career, he mentored many young men, teaching them trades that would benefit them for years to come. Known for his cheerful and caring nature, Lester was an outgoing, loving, and selfless individual who never complained. He earned the admiration and affection of many, touching the lives of all who knew him. He wore the titles of husband, father, grandfather, uncle, and friend with pride. To his family, he was more than just a father and grandfather; he was a true patriarch. Friends affectionately called him "Uncle Luck" or "Pawpaw." Lester leaves behind a legacy of love and service.

He is survived by his wife, Mary Helen Epting, of Raleigh, MS; his daughter, Marion Washington, of Raleigh, MS; son, Leonard Terl Epting (Theresa) of Meridian, MS; his granddaughter, Jo'Ashley Tribble (Eric R. Gammage) of Bay Springs, MS; special grandchildren; Jraven Tribble Sr. (KeAreona) of Lawrence, MS; Jamiracle and Janiya Tribble of Lawrence, MS, and Santoya McGowan (Derrick) of Raleigh, MS, and Tiara (Brandon) Bender; three great-grandsons, Jaylen Flowers, Eric, and Lester, of Bay Springs, MS; two sisters, Andrea Laboy (Jimmy) and Michelle Cooper (James), of Las Vegas, NV; one brother, Mitchell Shelby (Sherry); six sisters-in-law, Vickie Epting of Raleigh, MS; Lester Epting of Joliet, IL, Dr. Doris McGowan of Jackson, MS, Mary Dove Dyes, Gracie Epting of Bay Springs, MS, and Cora Torrance (Ervin); brother in law, Jerry Hamilton Windham of Raleigh, MS; God daughter, Roger Payton (Steve) of Bay Springs, MS; close friends, Charles McDonald and Robert Strong of Raleigh, MS, and Charles Millsap of Bay Springs, MS; as well as a host of nieces, nephews, Godchildren, cousins, relatives, and friends who will forever cherish his memory. Lester's life will be remembered for his unwavering love, dedication, and the indelible mark he left on his family, community, and all who had the privilege of knowing him.