

- UNTIL WE MEET AGAIN -

Those special memories of you
Will always bring a smile,
If only I could have you back
For just a little while.
Then we could sit and talk again
Just like we used to do,
You always meant so very much
And always will do too.
The fact that you're no longer here
Will always cause me pain,
But you're forever in my heart,
Until we meet again.

Love, Greg and Stacee

- ACKNOWLEDGMENT -

The family of the late Mr. Tommy James "Boonie" Nelms acknowledges Dr. Shields and Josh in ICU at East Alabama Medical Center, Harris Funeral Home Staff for providing outstanding care and also for his nephew and niece, Gregory and Stacee Nelms. We deeply appreciate the many expressions of love, concern, calls, and kindness shown to us during our hour of bereavement.

IN MEMORIAM

May we take this opportunity to express sincere and deep appreciation for allowing us to serve you during this most difficult period. It is our constant aim to afford to the people of this community a service completed in all details and faultlessly executed with sympathy and understanding.

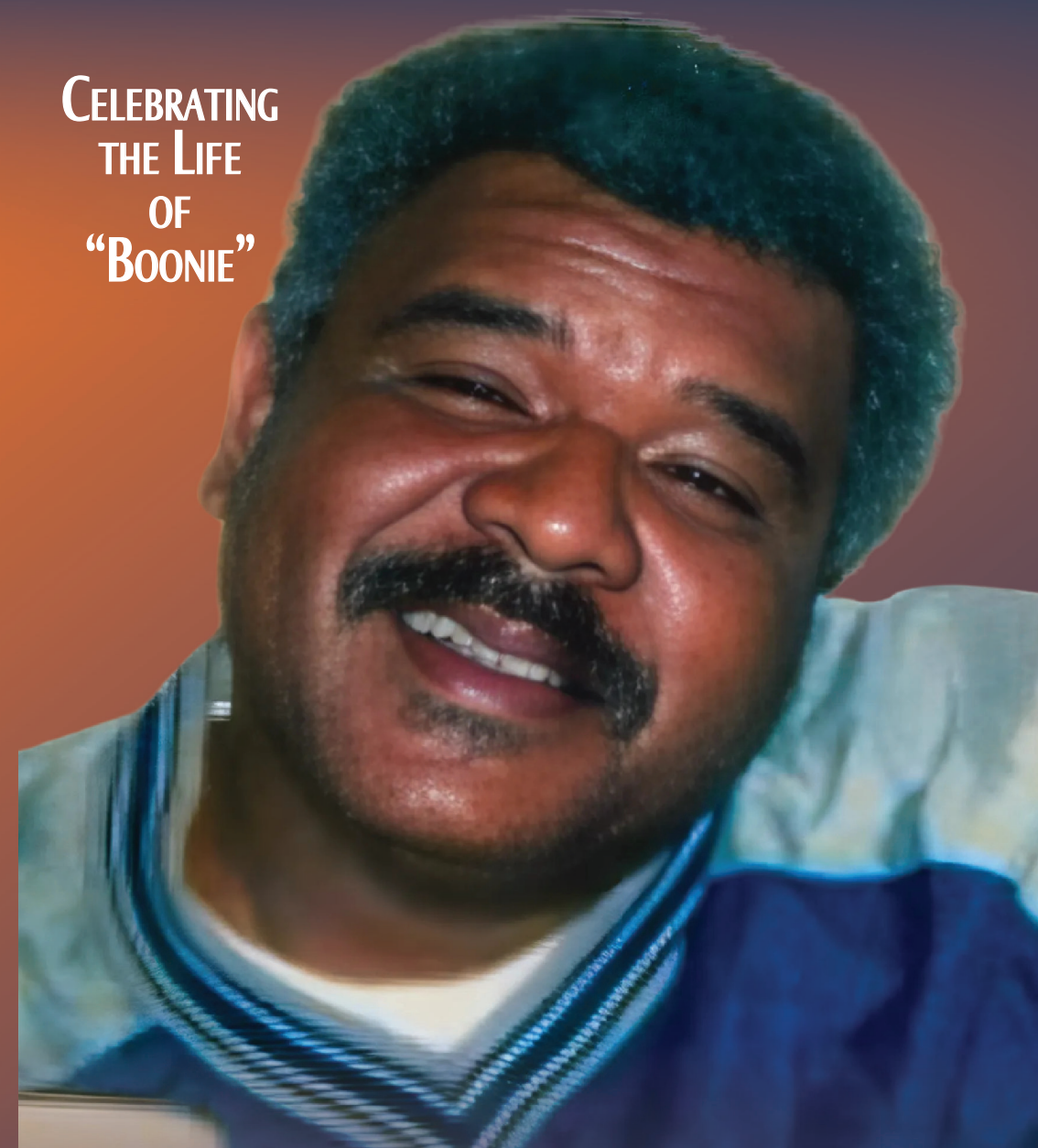
Final Arrangements Entrusted to:



Harris Funeral Home
Sympathetic, Courteous & Professional Service

515 South Sixth Street
Opelika, Alabama 36801
(334) 749-6583 Fax (334) 759-7018
www.harrisfuneralhomeinc.com

CELEBRATING
THE LIFE
OF
"BOONIE"



TOMMY

JAMES NELMS

GRAVESIDE SERVICE
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 21, 2024 | 1:00 P.M.

EVERGREEN CEMETERY
1409 Monroe Avenue | Opelika, Alabama 36801

REVEREND MICHAEL STRICKLAND, OFFICIATING

- OBITUARY -

Tommy James Nelms, affectionately known as “Boonie,” was a beloved son, brother, uncle, father and friend whose vibrant spirit left an indelible mark on all who knew him. Born on June 24, 1953, in Lee County, Alabama, Boonie’s journey through life was one marked by a deep love for his community, a passion for conversation, and an enduring loyalty to his family and friends.

On Saturday, December 14, 2024, Boonie departed this earthly home for eternal rest at East Alabama Medical Center in Opelika, AL. His passing was a solemn moment for the many lives he touched, yet it is with a profound sense of gratitude that we celebrate the seventy-one years of joy, laughter, and kindness he shared with us.

Boonie’s life was a testament to the value of hard work and dedication. He spent many years contributing to the local economy through his service at the Opelika Mill. When the plant closed, Boonie’s resilient spirit led him to A-O Rents, where he continued to work until his health began to decline. Despite the challenges he faced, Boonie’s resolve never wavered, and his work ethic remained a source of inspiration for all who had the pleasure of working alongside him.

A man of great passion, Boonie’s love for the Auburn Tigers was more than just a pastime—it was a part of his identity. Rain or shine, victory or defeat, he stood by his team with a fervor that was both endearing and infectious. His enthusiasm for the game was only matched by his willingness to share it with others, ensuring that Auburn spirit was felt far and wide.

Boonie’s love extended beyond the football field and into the hearts of his family and friends. He is now having a grand reunion with his beloved family members who preceded him in death: his parents, the late Mr. Roy Floyd and Ms. Frances Mae Ward; his sisters, Dorothy Ann Nelms and Telethia Denise Dooley; and his nephew, Kendall Ward. The bond he shared with each of them was unbreakable, and there is comfort in knowing that they are reunited once more.

Those who had the pleasure of knowing Boonie will remember him for his warmth and the genuine interest he took in the lives of others. His presence at Magnolia Haven Nursing Home in Tuskegee, AL, was a beacon of friendship, as he would often engage in long, enriching conversations with visitors. Boonie’s ability to make each person feel valued and heard was one of his most remarkable qualities.

Memories will forever be cherished by: special nephew and niece, Gregory and Stacey Nelms of Opelika, AL; daughter and son, Tiffany and Tommy Ambus; four grandchildren, Garrien, Verlearya, Alillian “Lilly” and Cornell all of Opelika, AL; one brother-in-law, Gilbert Dooley of Opelika, AL; two special friends, Anthony “Gump” Johnson and Mike Heard; a host of nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends.

- WHEN TOMORROW STARTS WITHOUT ME -

When tomorrow starts without me
And I’m not here to see
If the sun should rise and find your eyes
All filled with tears for me
I wish you wouldn’t cry
The way you did today
While thinking of the many things
We didn’t get to say
I know how much you love me
As much as I love you
Each time that you think of me
I know you’ll miss me too
When tomorrow starts without me
Please try to understand
That an angel came and called my name
And took me by the hand
The angel said my place was ready
In Heaven far above
And That I would have to leave behind
All those I dearly love
But when I walked through Heaven’s Gates
I felt so much at home
When GOD looked down and smiled at me
From his golden throne
He said This Is Eternity
And all I promised you
Today your life on earth is done
But here it starts a new
I promise no tomorrow
For today will always last
And since each day’s the exact same way
There is no longing for the past
So when tomorrow starts without me
Do not think we’re apart
For every time you think of me
Remember I’m right here in your heart.

- THE ORDER OF SERVICE -

Processional..... Clergy and Family

Scripture Readings:
Old and New Testament..... Reverend Michael Strickland

Prayer of Comfort Reverend Michael Strickland

Reflections..... Two Minutes (Please)
As a Friend Mike Heard
Anthony “Gump” Johnson

As a Family Member Greg Nelms

Musical Selection Ramon Harris

Eulogy..... Reverend Michael Strickland

Committal

Benediction

Recessional

