



Waller Funeral Home
"An Oxford Tradition"

SEASONS

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CANCER

In mid-November a routine mammogram showed abnormalities in my left breast, and an additional mammogram and an ultra sound showed a lump. A biopsy of these tissues confirmed breast cancer and cancer in lymph nodes. I immediately saw a surgeon who performed a mastectomy on December 2. As soon as the pathology report from the surgery was available, I saw an oncologist who advised chemotherapy followed by radiation. After further scans and tests, I had my first chemotherapy on January 6. I am thankful that the tests, chemotherapy, and radiation can be done within 10 miles of our home; it was not always so.

Since that very first day of hearing the dreaded word **cancer**, I have somehow had a feeling of complete peace. I have been told that I have the most common kind of cancer and that it is treatable and curable. (How different is the outlook for cancer patients now than when my mother was diagnosed in 1956!)

I refuse to be dismayed. I firmly believe that with the completion of the chemotherapy and radiation I will be cancer free. I have felt confidence in and compassion from the doctors and other medial personnel who have ministered to me, and I have relied heavily on a loving and thoughtful husband and family and on the encouraging words of friends, some of whom have gone through similar experiences. I have truly felt myself being carried on "the wings of prayer" of the many people who have been praying for me.

The trip through chemotherapy is not easy, and I covet continued prayers for

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Our coach is shown with the seal of the U.S. Army. We also have seals for the other branches of service.

WALLER FUNERAL HOME HONORS VETERANS

Waller Funeral Home has a sincere commitment to honoring deceased veterans whose families we serve. We do a variety of things to show this commitment.

Along with the American flag, which we always fly, we fly the flag of the branch of service of the veteran during the time we serve the veteran's family. We like to have this flag flying when the family comes to make arrangements and keep it flying until after the funeral service. We look at and talk about the flag with the family and give each family a picture of the flag with a statement of our appreciation for the veterans of that branch of the service. We include a statement about the flag when we email

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A TRIBUTE TO OUR ARMED FORCES

The **United States Army** is the largest branch of the United States Armed Forces and has primary responsibility for land-based military operations. As it has always been, Soldiers, both active and reserve, are the heart of the Army. Our Soldiers are "Warriors of Character" whose seriousness and sense of urgency are characteristic of an Army at war. Our Soldiers will always place the mission first, never accept defeat, never quit, and never leave a fallen comrade.

To Americans, a **Navy** is a symbol of our sovereignty, our national maturity, and our determination to fight for control of our seaboard frontier. Throughout our history, the United States has had a Navy for all but nine

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"DON'T LET THE SONG GO OUT OF YOUR LIFE"

*Don't let the song go out of your life
Though it chance sometimes to flow
In a minor strain; it will blend again
With the major tone you know.*

*What though shadows rise to obscure
life's skies
And hide for a time the sun,
The sooner they'll lift and reveal the rift,
If you let the melody run.*

*Don't let the song go out of your life;
Though the voice may have lost its trill,
Though the tremulous note may die
in your throat
Let it sing in your spirit still.*

*Don't let the song go out of your life;
Let it ring in the soul while here;
And when you go hence, 'twill follow
you thence,
And live on in another sphere.*

-Author Unknown

How quickly and easily we can lose the song from our lives! Not only in times of grief at death and the experiencing of critical illness but other conditions enter our lives which bring feelings of devastation and heartbreak.

Psalm 137 vividly describes the children of Israel as they continued to wander in their captivity. How homesick they must have been! How they must have longed to be once again a free people able to live in one place in peace! They were so tired from their wanderings that when they stopped for rest they hung their harps on the willow trees. Perhaps there were times when they sang of their past and homeland. However, at this time when they were ordered by their captors to sing "the happy songs of Zion," they cried, "How can we sing in this foreign land?" Many years and more and more sad times would pass before they would be able to feel like singing their happy songs once more.

Have you ever come to a "foreign land" in your life? Did you find it difficult to sing your song? Especially your song of happier times?

Today many families must make moves and changes in location and lifestyle at crucial points in their lives. Children must change schools, going into new settings of many unknowns. They must leave **their** places and **their** crowds and be confronted with

completely new groups. The songs which came easily among well known friends and environments escape. Becoming part of a new place requires time.

Some individuals look forward to the years of retirement only to find the days are long and empty, and adjusting to a nonscheduled and nonstructured life is difficult. This change may also have brought about relocation in a new place or in a place which has changed tremendously since it was home years ago. Decreased income may also be a part of the change. The song grows faint. Much effort must go into making a new life and once again feeling a song in the heart.

The list of circumstances which may rob us of our song is long and varied—death of one we love, critical illness, family crisis, deception by friends, the cruelty of being ignored, disappointment in one we love, loss of employment or other changes in the work place, broken relationships. Each person could add their own personal robber. It isn't wrong that we become depressed and despondent at these times. The error comes in permitting ourselves to remain so when help is available. Whatever may be taking the song out of our lives cannot separate us from God. He will sustain and bring joy in the morning after the night of tears.

When it seems our song will never return, God may lead us to another person or source of help or comfort. Joni Erickson Tada, in *The Glorious Intruder* suggests, "If you're hurting today, don't immediately grab the phone to call a friend. Seek the everlasting arms of the Spirit. He is many things but most importantly to you today, He is your Comforter. He has a ready embrace. . . . You say it's been a while since you've sensed that holy hug? Maybe it's been a while since you've asked."

One of the greatest reasons to sing is to bring glory to God. We might remember:

*Oh, let us rejoice in the Lord
evermore,
When the darts of tempter are flying,
For Satan still dreads, as he did of
yore,
Our singing much more than our
sighing.*

-Author Unknown

When evil forces take a Christian's

song, the influence of that one has been hurt and, much more importantly, God's role in our lives has become questionable to others.

Recently late in the afternoon I heard the most beautiful song of a mocking bird. (Yes, to my amazement that clear tone came through with perfect clarity in spite of my hearing impairment.) I searched and located him on the highest perch of the housetop. He needed no audience. He was not being recorded. He was simply doing what God gave him to do—singing. "Others may do greater work, but you have your own part to do and no one in all God's heritage can do it as well as you." (*Streams in the Desert*)

Our song may escape us during the trials and darkness each life experiences, however, we find the truth in Hebrews 13:5: "I will never leave you nor forsake you," is more meaningful even then. We often come back from the dark valleys stronger than we went in.

Ours may be the only song someone hears. "Let us sing when we do not feel like it for thus we may give wings to leaden feet and turn weariness into strength." (J. H. Lovett)

When we can keep the song of truth and mercy in our hearts, we keep the song of joy and peace on our faces and in our lives.

*Sincerely,
Patsy*

CANCER

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me and my family as we continue down the road many of you and/or your family and friends have traveled. My own prayer is for continuing faith to maintain the positive attitude that has followed me thus far: *Faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see.* Hebrews 11:1.

*Sincerely,
Patsy*

Note: Since writing this message about her cancer diagnosis and treatment, Patsy Waller has had a serious setback in her treatment—possibly as a side effect of the chemotherapy which weakened her immunity. Surgery was performed to remove an infection in her hip joint, the hip joint replacement made 17 years ago was removed, and she is now recuperating from that surgery in Baptist Memorial Hospital-North Mississippi.

VETERANS

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obituaries of veterans. We give the spouse and children Honor Pins to wear.

We have recently acquired magnetic seals of the various branches of service, and we place the appropriate seal on the funeral coach during funeral processions.

We help organize full military funerals, which include a military honor guard, "Taps," and flag folding, or, for families who prefer, we can just play "Taps" at the cemetery or at the funeral home before folding the flag and presenting it to the next of kin. We give a plastic case for storing the flag; wood display cases are available for purchase.

We offer free grave space at Eastover Memorial Cemetery for any veteran.

After the funeral service, we include a "flag card" about the branch of service of the veteran in the collection of items (the register book, extra memorial folders, etc.) given to the family.

We order and install the marker for the foot of the grave provided by the Veterans Administration.

We file the paperwork necessary to apply for death benefits for those who are eligible.

Our community is grateful to our veterans for the sacrifices made for all of us, and Waller Funeral Home provides these special symbols and services to express our gratitude and respect at the time of their funeral services.

FEELINGS. . .

Much has been written about men being unable to reveal their true feelings. Should men keep a tight rein on their emotions, or should they loosen up?

It's important for men to be willing (and able) to cry and love and hope. We need more tender men who are not ashamed to weep. On the other hand, there are dangers in permitting emotions to rule our mind. Feelings must not dominate rational judgement, especially in times of a crisis, nor should we allow the minor frustrations of living to produce depression and despair.

Both men and women must learn to ventilate their feelings and be "real" people without yielding to the tyranny of fluctuating emotions.

-Dr. James Dobson

Focus on the Family Bulletin

FUNERALS A TIME TO REFLECT, MOURN

[The following thoughts are excerpts from a column by Chris Peck, in *The Commercial Appeal* of January 11, 2009, in which Mr. Peck reflects on the funeral of Mike Rose, the son of a prominent Memphis family, who was killed in an automobile accident a few days before his 20th birthday. Also included are some comments on *The Commercial Appeal* obituaries. Chris Peck is Editor of *The Commercial Appeal*.]

Funerals are for the living. They are a way for family, friends, and peers to wonder why bad things happen to good people—but, because we are human beings, we can't know why. Bad things in life are inevitable and universal. That is why funerals matter. People are there to grieve, support, and show solidarity with a family—and with all humanity, really.

Funerals don't distinguish between rich and poor. Grief melds into the grief felt for loved ones lost everywhere from the powerful, wealthy, and notable to the most hardscrabble families of inner cities.

Is there such a thing as a good funeral?

Of course. The somber pageantry, the soaring music, the visible family that grieves for all to see, made every person there aware of the fragility and beauty of life.

The power of presence ripples through a good funeral. You are close to other people at an achingly emotional time. You hear the rustling tissues. You view heads bowed deeply in thought and prayer. You hear people say "amen."

The gist of a person emerges at such a time. The complexities and contradictions of a life get boiled down to a few images, words, and memories.

We cannot help but think of our own death.

The circle of life eventually engulfs us all. One day we will be separated by time and space and breath from our families and friends.

We can hope, or as we say in the South, be blessed, that a good funeral will carry us on to our final exit.

This year, *The Commercial Appeal* will publish about 18,000 obituaries, death notices, and memorials.

The obits remain the best-read items in the newspaper, both in print and online.

Obituaries, like funerals, capture the lasting memories of loved ones.

Mementos of funerals and clippings of obituaries often are saved away in a sacred family place.

Years later, the program of the funeral service and obituary for the newspaper can remind us, whenever we come across the faded paper clipping, that a loved one once was here.



BARRON/ROSSON WEDDING

Brett Rosson and Kate Barron were married on November 29, 2008. Brett, a licensed funeral director and embalmer, continues to work at Waller Funeral Home and assists Don with all areas of work on the Waller cotton farm. Kate operates an event-planning business—A Bash Events. Congratulations, Brett! Welcome to the family, Kate!

In Memoriam

We dedicate this issue of *Seasons* to those who died and whose families we served from November 20, 2008, through February 7, 2009.

Mr. Walter Brooks McMahon, Jr.	November 20, 2008
Mr. Lee Price Evans	November 22, 2008
Dr. Edgar Wallace Wood.	November 24, 2008
Mrs. Esther Lenore Lewis Ethridge	November 26, 2008
Mrs. Elizabeth Crockett Smith	November 30, 2008
Mrs. Lila Mae Tidwell Tarver	December 3, 2008
Rev. Lloyd Eugene Metts	December 4, 2008
Mrs. Hazel Pierce Flanagan.	December 9, 2008
Mrs. Lottie Faye Bass Whitten.	December 18, 2008
Mrs. Mildred Bowles Baggett.	December 20, 2008
Mrs. Elizabeth Anne Duke Jackson	December 21, 2008
Mr. Todd Robert Tacke	January 3, 2009
Mrs. Ramolia Threlkeld Lawrence	January 7, 2009
Mrs. Mary Ethel Callahand Williams.	January 11, 2009
Mr. William Eugene Smith	January 13, 2009
Mr. John Peter Piotrowski	January 13, 2009
Mrs. Evelyn Alice Stewart Tatum	January 13, 2009
Mrs. Catherine Lavonne Evans Tidwell	January 14, 2009
Mrs. Sue Norsworthy Vernon.	January 15, 2009
Mr. George Michael Arnold	January 18, 2009
Ms. Susan Ann Hundley Whitaker.	January 22, 2009
Mrs. Alice Irene Aires Gould	January 29, 2009
Mr. Herbert Harold Lewis.	January 31, 2009
Dr. Robert Byron Ellis, Sr.	February 1, 2009
Mr. John Kenneth "Buddy" Gresham.	February 2, 2009

Mrs. Francile Fay Trotter Kirkpatrick	February 5, 2009
Mrs. Mary Ann Cappleman.	February 6, 2009
Mr. Bolivar Burns "B.B." Bowen, Jr.	February 7, 2009

TRIBUTE

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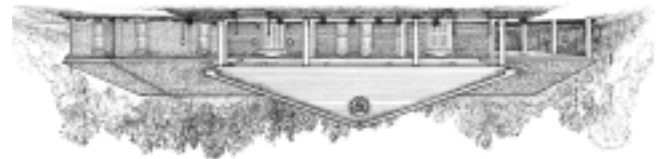
years. The stated mission of the Navy is "to maintain, train, and equip combat-ready Naval forces capable of winning wars, deterring aggression, and maintaining freedom of the seas."

Since its inception, the **Marine Corps** has celebrated a legacy unlike any other. Its force is rich in history and traditions-upholding three core values that are at the soul of its institution: honor, courage, and commitment. "First to Fight" is a long-standing Marine axiom and refers to the traditional Marine role of being among the first to see action when a defense call is initiated. The Marines have been involved in some of the most important battles in the history of the United States and the world.

Today it is hard to imagine a world without the **Air Force** protecting us in the skies above. Over the past century, manned flight has gone from the dream of two brothers working in an Ohio bicycle shop to an indispensable tool in our nation's arsenal. Every day in times of war we depend on the skill and determination of the men and women of the Air Force. Every man and woman who has worn the Air Force uniform, all who have climbed sunward and chased the shouting wind, your service and sacrifice will be remembered forever.

We salute the men and women who serve now and who have served in the past in all branches of military service! Our community is forever grateful!

2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008
NFD A Pursuit of Excellence



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