

Life's Journey

Mr. Joseph Rudolph Stinchcomb was born in Fayette County, Georgia on January 4, 1925 to the late Eddie Cann Stinchcomb and the late Carene Thompson Stinchcomb. The Lord called his "Big Marine" off the front line to his place of rest on June 1, 2016 surrounded by his family.

As a young man, he met Sara Elizabeth Flemister; they married in 1947. To that union, two daughters were born: Linda McCoy Robinson and Virginia (Dot) Jordan.

In 1949, he married Elizabeth Harris. From this union, came seven children: Cynthia, Cheryl, Angela, Melody, Scarlett, Donna and Wayne.

He served faithfully at Edgefield Baptist Church as Sunday school teacher and Deacon as long as his health permitted. He was an avid student of the Bible, which was his favorite topic of discussion. If he ever cornered you with a word from the Bible, you might as well take your shoes off and sit a spell! He would not stop until he made his point, whether or not anyone was listening. He was a man of great faith and prayer. He trusted God and took Him at his word.

He joined the United States Marine Corps during World War II in May of 1943. He served with the Montford Point Marines and was trained at the Montford Point Camp in New River, North Carolina. He served in the 3rd Ammunition Depot and the 262nd Platoon. This camp was located about 12 miles from Camp Lejeune, one of the largest Marine Corps training facilities on the east coast. These Marines were, of course, not wanted in the Corps, but became outstanding soldiers that received their training in "boot camp" under the most horrible, racist and segregated conditions. Nevertheless, these men, when called overseas in WWII, performed their duties bravely, performing in every major battle that was fought in the isles of the South Pacific. Mr. Rudolph served in the Solomon and Gilbert Islands and on Guam. In 2012, the Montford Point Marines were awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor for their service and dedication shown in World War II. He attended Fayette Grammar School and was later extensively trained as a small engine repairman. After working with his brother Curtis, who taught him the art of brick laying, he started his own business in the early 50's. He remained self-employed until his retirement in the early 90's. He employed a great number of the young, black men living in Fayette County throughout the years; many of which were trained and inspired to start their own successful construction/building companies. He operated in a spirit of excellence which led to him being much sought after in the county. Many of his works remain standing to this day, including the brick house which he and his wife built on Church Street, on the land they cleared in the mid 1950's. His family still lives in the house today.

Rudolph was affectionately known as Daddy, Granddaddy, Pop Pop, and Mr. Rudolph. He was passionate about everything he did, which included fishing, hunting, gardening and engine repair. He inherited his green thumb from his mother, Carene. He often called on his family, friends and neighbors to come and partake of his bountiful harvest of tomatoes, cucumbers, okra, squash and watermelon. He and his wife Elizabeth often fished together until he got tired of her "out fishing" him! Many times he would go to Lake West Point and fish all day and into the night. In addition to fishing, he enjoyed hunting small game, especially rabbit, which he usually cooked himself. He was the family go-to mechanic. He could repair anything! After retirement he could usually be found in his yard tinkering with his vast collection of lawn mowers, weed eaters and cars! He loved spending time with his children and grandchildren. His grandsons still tell the story about fishing on what granddaddy called "Patience Creek," which was really Lake West Point where he would keep them from sunup to sundown to teach them a lesson in patience. And because of those excursions, neither of them will eat sardines or Vienna sausages to this day! He had a very unique sense of humor and was a fascinating storyteller. He would usually laugh until he cried at his own stories.

He leaves to cherish his memory, six children: Linda McCoy Robinson, Virginia (Dot) Jordan, Cheryl Cooper (Anthony), Scarlett Moten, Donna Clark, Aaron Wayne Stinchcomb (Carol); one sister, Hazel Askew (Cornelius); two sisters-in-law, Patricia Keys and Evelyn Gilliam; 26 grandchildren, 44 great-grandchildren, 17 great-great grandchildren, and a host of nieces, nephews, and cousins.

Preceding him in death were three daughters: Melody Eloise Stinchcomb, Cynthia Lorraine Smith and Angela Chennelle Stinchcomb-Laster.