

## Clarence Albert "AL" Padgett Jr.

July 14, 1926 - July 29, 2014

CLARENCE ALBERT "AL" PADGETT, JR.

July 14, 1926 – July 29, 2014

Faith, family, friends, sports and music enriched the life of Al Padgett. Al was born and raised in Marianna and became a star wingback for the Marianna High Bulldogs. He was awarded a full football scholarship to the University of Tennessee but shortly afterward drafted into the Army and served with the U.S. occupation forces in Japan. Back home, Al attended Florida State University, where he majored in physical education, minored in journalism, and played starting shortstop on FSU's first baseball team. He married Suzanne McCaskill and returned to his hometown to teach English and coach both football and basketball at Marianna High.

Al's career in journalism started as Editor of the Jackson County Floridan and continued as Sports Editor for the Pensacola News Journal. His daily column "The Wise Ol' Al" was peppered with human interest and always closed with "Good Morning Wherever You Are" to someone he knew. Al never hesitated to use his local fame to promote causes that he believed in – especially quality education and the civil rights movement. As a Methodist lay witness, he was invited to speak in churches throughout North Florida and Alabama to share his strong belief that life was good with Jesus as your best friend.

Al was recruited into the insurance business and joined American Family Life Assurance Company (AFLAC) in its startup years. When offered the

opportunity to lead AFLAC's expansion into the state of Massachusetts, the Padgett family of five children picked up and moved to Wellesley. Exactly one year later, mission accomplished, they moved back to warmer weather □ this time to Tallahassee, where Al has lived since. He passionately took up tennis as his "main sport" and later passionately took up golf as his "main sport". His devotion to the 'Noles and the Chicago Cubs was equally enthusiastic.

Much to everyone's surprise, Al developed a strong interest in music later in life. He practiced faithfully, but by his own admission was more of an entertainer than a musician. He especially enjoyed performing with The East Hill Baptist Church and North Florida Parkinson's Choirs and in Dr. Alice-Ann Darrow's "Rock of Ages" annual concerts. A lifelong goal was accomplished in 2012 when he published "A Near-Memoir Novelette: Written by the Seat of My Pants!", stories from his life in the Florida Panhandle.

Thirty-five years ago, Al and Billie Lee Sauls were married. Together they have traveled, laughed and cried with their eight children and eight grandchildren, both of their mothers always invited and usually present! The combined circle of family and friends grew over the course of their marriage. That circle has been as strong and present as ever in the last few months and meant the world to Al and his close family – his wife Billie; Hal Padgett; Susan and Dave Shipman; Sarah, Larry and Larry "Peanut" Meisner; David, Janine, Jeffrey and Rebecca Padgett; Bonnie and Richard Bevis; Wendy, Dan and Casey Johnson; Cindy Elliott and Heather Grant; and Angie, Chris, Holden and Jameson Adams. Al is together in heaven with his parents, Clarence Albert and Ann Stanley Padgett, Billie's Mom "Peanut" Sauls and son "Bucky", and his grandchildren Chris Blackburn and Jenny Johnson.

The family will be at East Hill Baptist Church to receive friends on Friday, August 1, 2014, at 1:30 pm. The celebration of Al's life will begin at 2:30 pm. Expressions in Al's memory will be kindly received by East Hill Baptist Church (912 Miccosukee Rd, Tallahassee, FL 32308) and The National Parkinson Foundation North Florida (P.O. Box 14722, Tallahassee, FL 32317-4722). Kelly Barber of Bevis Funeral Home ([www.bevisfh.com](http://www.bevisfh.com), 850.385.2193) is

assisting the family with arrangements.

# Previous Events

## Celebration of Life

AUG 1. 2:30 PM (ET)

East Hill Baptist Church  
912 Miccosukee Road  
Tallahassee, FL 32303

# Tribute Wall



“ *Bevis Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Clarence Albert "AL" Padgett Jr.*



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**Bevis Funeral Home** - August 03, 2014 at 04:25 PM



“ *1 file added to the tribute wall*



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**Susan Shipman** - August 02, 2014 at 03:33 PM



*One of many happy times with Dad! -- Susan*

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**Susan Shipman** - August 02, 2014 at 03:34 PM



“ *Sending love and prayers to all the Padgett family. Love you all.  
Catherine Higgins Crossley and family*

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**Catherine Higgins Crossley** - August 01, 2014 at 09:04 AM

Cindy Elliott

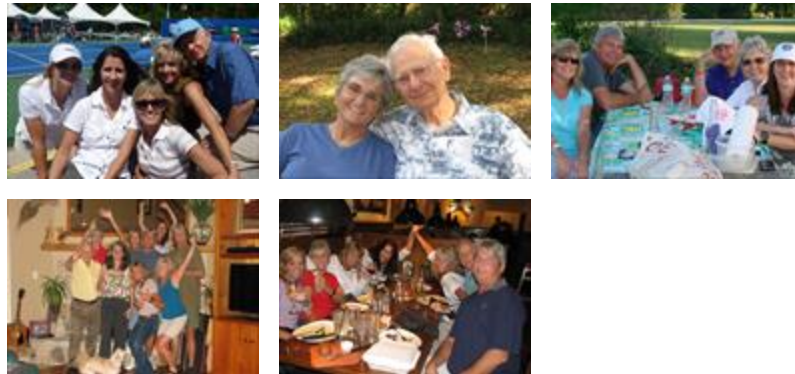
“ 1 file added to the album *New Album Name*



Cindy Elliott - July 31, 2014 at 09:11 PM

Cindy Elliott

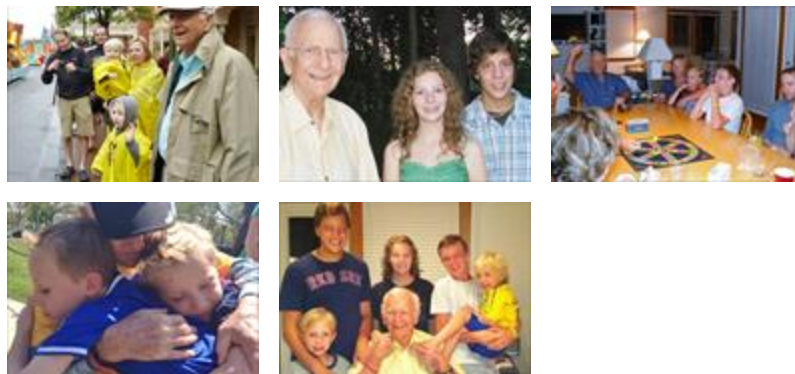
“ 8 files added to the album *New Album Name*



Cindy Elliott - July 31, 2014 at 09:10 PM

DA

“ 21 files added to the album *Dad*



David - July 31, 2014 at 11:28 AM

LW

“ Mr. Al, you made me smile every time I was in your presence! You quickly learned the sport your family loved and I loved talking about the game with you. You will be greatly missed by my family and I. Your always warm words of encouragement and support will always be in my heart. Rest in peace my friend!

Latoya Washington - July 31, 2014 at 08:40 AM

CB

“ Al always had a smile on his face; always happy and welcoming. My heart is heavy this morning reading of his passing. He was a wonderful stepfather to my dear friend Wendy and her sisters. He and Billie are the heart of a very special family. The family pictures that have been posted here show the beautiful life and bond they all share. He will be missed by all who knew him but I can't help but think that he is so happy to be in Heaven right now and holding baby Jenny. Sending my love to the whole family. xo



Christine Brasher - July 31, 2014 at 07:42 AM

Cindy Elliott

“ 7 files added to the album New Album Name



Cindy Elliott - July 30, 2014 at 09:00 PM

GB

“ Grace Brattain lit a candle in memory of Clarence Albert "AL" Padgett Jr.



grace brattain - July 30, 2014 at 07:42 PM

WE

“ 15 files added to the album New Album Name



Wendy - July 30, 2014 at 05:13 PM

WE

“ 1 file added to the album New Album Name



Wendy - July 30, 2014 at 05:11 PM