



## Edwin Lee "Ed" Mason

November 6, 1916 - May 27, 2016

On May 27, 2016, Edwin Lee "Ed" Mason peacefully went to be with his Lord and Saviour. Ed was born to Alice Carrie and Clay Showalter Mason on November 6, 1916, in Portsmouth, Virginia. At an early age Ed moved to Miami, Florida, where he attended public school and graduated from Edison High School. He attended Stetson University and Law School where he played football on the only Hatters football team to defeat the University of Florida. After law school, he returned home to Miami to practice law as a Special Assistant in the Office of the U.S. Attorney.

When WWII began, Ed enlisted in the U.S. Navy. He served as Commanding Officer of both a sub chaser/minesweeper in Europe and a patrol craft in the Pacific. While in the European Theater, he was awarded the Bronze Star for meritorious achievement prior to and during the Amphibious Invasion of Southern France, in August 1944. While serving in the Pacific, he met and married his wife, Violet, in Hawaii in 1944. Upon completion of active duty in 1946, he returned to Miami to practice law. Ed began his political career in 1948 when elected as the Justice of the Peace, Judge of Small Claims Court and Legal Coroner of Dade County. Later he was elected to the Dade County Commission. In 1959 Governor LeRoy Collins appointed him to fill a vacancy on the Florida Railroad and Public Utilities Commission. Ed won statewide elections for two more terms on what is now the Florida Public Service Commission, serving until 1969. He then returned to the practice of law.

In 1976 Ed and Vi began missionary work overseas, spending five years in Ethiopia, two years in Kazakhstan, and six months in Albania. After returning home to stay, their heart for service continued in working with Campers on Mission, volunteering at Ridgecrest Baptist Assembly, delivering Meals on Wheels, and visiting shut-ins from their church, First Baptist Church, Tallahassee. Ed served as a Deacon and Sunday Morning Bible Study Leader. In 1979 he was elected to serve as President of the Florida Baptist Association as the first layman elected to this position. For their efforts in the delivery of meals to the elderly, Ed and Vi received the 2008 Silver Star Award from Tallahassee Senior Center and Foundation.

Ed Mason was a true man of God. He loved his Lord, his wife and his family. He loved all people and life in general. He was a prayerful man and often said "prayer is not a fringe benefit, but an absolute necessity."

Ed was preceded in death by his parents, his brothers Earl and Paul Mason, and his sister Gladys Van Dusen. To cherish his memory, he leaves behind his loving and devoted wife of 72 years, Violet; his children: son, Roger (Carolyn) of Ocala, son, Clay (Tina) of Tallahassee, daughter, Candice Moore of Damascus, Arkansas, and son, Bruce (Lynn) of Marietta, Georgia; twelve grandchildren and 13 great grandchildren.

A service will be held at The Tallahassee National Cemetery, 5015 Apalachee Pkwy, Tallahassee, at 10:00 a.m. on Friday, June 10, 2016. A memorial service is scheduled at 1:00 p.m. at First Baptist Church, 108 W. College Ave., Tallahassee, FL 32301 with a reception following. In lieu of flowers the family requests donations be made to First Baptist Church, Big Bend Hospice, or Tallahassee Elder Care Services. Susie Mozolic of Bevis Funeral Home is assisting the family with their arrangements. (850-385-2193, [www.bevisfh.com](http://www.bevisfh.com))



# Previous Events

## Graveside Service

JUN 10. 10:00 AM (ET)

Tallahassee National Cemetery  
5015 Apalachee Parkway  
Tallahassee, FL 32311

## Memorial Service

JUN 10. 1:00 PM (ET)

First Baptist Church of Tallahassee  
108 West College Avenue  
Tallahassee, FL 32301