



## Emory Lawson Mayfield, Sr.

September 12, 1944 - June 5, 2023

Emory Lawson Mayfield, Sr. passed away peacefully at home on June 5, 2023 surrounded by his family after complications from a series of infections and pneumonia.

Emory was born in Grady County, Georgia on September 12, 1944 to Marjorie and Judson Mayfield and spent his childhood between Cairo and the family farm in Calvary. He worked alongside his father farming tobacco throughout his teens and twenties, always remaining a Georgia boy at heart.

Emory found his true calling in business after moving to Tallahassee in 1978 to start his own road construction company, M of Tallahassee, Inc., which he would tirelessly grow and expand for decades together with his wife Cathy, his nephew William Mayfield and his son Henry. Emory took immense pride in projects and jobs that modernized Tallahassee's roadways and helped build a more navigable city while always retaining its southern beauty. His professional legacy will continue on in the streets, roads and highways Tallahassee drivers use every day and in M, Inc.'s employees and crews he had the honor of working with.

Emory's first priority was to surround himself with family, friends and laughter. He and Cathy bought a beach house on Alligator Point in the 1980s, which became the family's weekend getaway. Emory's Saturdays were deep sea

fishing days, beginning at sunrise on his boat filled with friends. The day ended with fresh grilled grouper and even more friends gathering at sunset, usually to watch FSU football. When not at Alligator Point, his four kids kept him busy traveling to hundreds of baseball games and horseshows. Always ready to jump on a plane or boat, Emory filled family vacations to the Bahamas and Costa Rica with laughs and nonstop adventure.

In 2009, Emory's heart was broken when his daughter Lawson lost her life to bacterial meningitis. He and Cathy poured their energy into honoring her and building awareness around meningitis prevention. In the years that followed he gave his laughter and love to his seven grandchildren and became their "Big E," the grandfather who tickled, loved to go out to dinner, and always put a little "walking-around-money" in their pockets. Whether on a boat ride at Alligator Point, or on a tractor ride at Buck Lake Road, he loved having a kid on his lap. Until his last day, he kept everyone laughing with his antics and charm.

Emory is survived by his wife, Cathy, his daughter Jenny Mayfield Blackstone (Brian Blackstone, grandson Grady and granddaughter Compton) his son Emory Mayfield, Jr. (wife Autumn Barnes Mayfield, granddaughters Emerson, Hadley and Windsor), his son Henry Mayfield (wife Brittney Raehn Mayfield, granddaughter Regan and grandson Marshall), his sister Marjorie Taylor of Thomasville and in-laws, Fred, Doug, Dwight Dickinson and their families. He is preceded in death by his daughter Lawson, his brothers Jud and Lee Mayfield and his parents Marjorie and Judson Mayfield. He leaves countless friends, cousins, nieces, nephews and colleagues, all of whom he adored. The family would very much appreciate that no flowers be sent, but instead donations made to the Everhart Excellence Foundation <http://www.everhartexcellencefoundation.org> in special honor of Emory and his grandson Marshall Mayfield.

Services will be held on Thursday, June 8, 2023 at 2:00pm at Faith Presbyterian of Tallahassee. The Mayfields invite all family and friends to join them at their home for a reception following the service, 377 High Hill Ranch Lane Tallahassee, FL 32317.

Rocky Bevis of Bevis Funeral Home (850-385-2193 or [www.bevisfh.com](http://www.bevisfh.com)) is assisting the family with their arrangements.

# Previous Events

## Memorial Service

JUN 8. 2:00 PM (ET)

Faith Presbyterian Church  
2200 North Meridian Rd.  
Tallahassee, FL 32303

# Tribute Wall

BC

“ Kathy, so sorry to hear the news about Emory, he was a good one and will be missed. Bill & Bonnie Cowart

Bill Cowart - June 07, 2023 at 10:03 AM

DS

“ I have worked for M-Inc for almost 20 years, during that time I can say that it has been one of the best working experiences ever. Big M was a great person and thanks to him, his family and the M-Inc staff we've completed some great projects in and around tallahassee. I have nothing but respect for a man that started a company and then grew into one of the if not the best excavation and utility companies in Florida.. Henry has carried on his legacy and my condolences go out to them in this hard time. We have lost a good one but look around and see what he has accomplished. He will be missed!

David Strubble - June 06, 2023 at 06:21 PM

BS

“ Brad Swanson planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Emory Lawson Mayfield, Sr..

Brad Swanson - June 06, 2023 at 02:19 PM

BS

“ Brad Swanson purchased the Heavenly Light for the family of Emory Lawson Mayfield, Sr..



Brad Swanson - June 06, 2023 at 02:19 PM

JB

“ To the family of Emory our sincerest condolences. Our company partnered with M of Tallahassee on one of the Blairstone Pkwy projects and had a great and rewarding experience working with Emory, Henry and their company. Truly a fine gentleman, father, husband and family man. - Francesco, Joe & Ramona.

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**Joseph M Beaird** - June 06, 2023 at 11:18 AM

JD

*Kathy and family I was saddened by the passing of Emory. He truly was one of a kind it was my pleasure to have known him and call him a friend.*

*JW DuBose*

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**john dubose** - June 06, 2023 at 05:13 PM

SR

“ To the family, I am so very sorry for this. What a great man, he will always be remembered as that. I am so glad I got to sit with him briefly while he was in the hospital months back. Cathy, if you need anything I am here, Henry, Emory, I am so sorry guys, and Jenny, I know this is so hard for you as well. Your father loved you all so very much. I will pray for you all to have comfort.

*Sean Rayborn*

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**sean rayborn** - June 06, 2023 at 08:00 AM

VD

*Emory and Cathy Mayfield have been a huge presence in Tony and my lives. Tony was Emory's other brother they joked sometimes. Tony had many loving and interesting stories to tell of all their many many times together since they first met in 1978 at the back of Tony's office in Emory's mobile office (a used Centel pickup truck). Their friendship and business relationship grew by leaps and bounds after that. I was first introduced to Emory in 1990 when Cathy was pregnant with sweet Lawson. Lawson was my first grandchild experience. We had many special times together. I will miss Big M as Tony used to call him and I hope that he and Lawson and Tony and Pearly are having a hell of a time somewhere. All my love to all the family. Venita*

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**Venita Dorsey** - June 06, 2023 at 08:45 AM

RB

“ So very sorry to hear the news of Emory Mayfield's passing. My deepest condolences to his entire family. Emory, who I addressed as 'BIG M' was a very special friend indeed! He thrived on helping folks in need! At Alligator Point many times after a road destroying hurricane passed, BIG M would show up with his equipment to clear debris and make passways for resident victims of those storms so they could get back to their property in expedient fashion. Emory thrived on helping folks....that was his makeup! He will be missed by many indeed. Rest in Peace BIG "M".....I will never forget you my longtime friend! GOD BLESS!  
Ronnie Boyce. , "FireFox"

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**Ronnie Boyce** - June 06, 2023 at 12:13 AM