



A J Brightwell

April 7, 1929 - March 30, 2016

AJ Brightwell, 86 of Rogers, went to his heavenly home Wednesday, March 30, 2016 at Circle of Life in Bentonville, Arkansas. He was born April 7, 1929 to Elgan and Minnie Brightwell in Newport, Arkansas. He married the love of his life, Helen Teters on August 19, 1954.

AJ served in the United States Army earning the rank of Sergeant as a tank mechanic during the Korean War. Upon his discharge he and Helen married in Lynwood, California where he worked in the grocery industry before returning to Springdale, Arkansas in 1962. AJ and Helen bought and ran the Nob Hill Grocery for 8 years before selling it. He then began his career at Harps Food, Stores Inc. as a store manager in Springdale. He retired after 23 years.

While growing up in Newport, Arkansas AJ developed a love for boxing which continued throughout his life. He was known as the "Arkansas Flash". He fought as a semi-pro boxer in the welterweight division while in California.

After retiring AJ and Helen enjoyed traveling, especially to Laughlin and Las Vegas, Nevada. He and Helen moved to Rogers in June of 2009. AJ loved spending time with his family and grilling out. Everything he cooked was well done!

AJ accepted Jesus as his savior later in life and was a faithful member of New

Hope Fellowship Church of Springdale. He loved attending Sunday services and Tuesday Seniors Bible study.

AJ was preceded in death by his parents, Elgan and Minnie May Brightwell; two brothers, Cecil and Powell Brightwell and one sister, Grace Lowery.

He is survived by his wife Helen, of the home; one son, Arthur "Art" and wife Jackie of Sacramento, CA; daughters, Anita Brightwell and Annette Brightwell both of Rogers, AR; and Angela Ariola and husband Robby of Fayetteville, AR ; five grandchildren, Chrissy Jackson and husband Bernard, Cole Brightwell, Christopher, Chelsea and Cameron Ariola and 6 great grandchildren, Aaleyah Carson, Emma Grace Jackson, and Elijah, Malachi, Israel and Emory Ariola; one sister Pauline Sena of Oceanside, CA; and honorary daughter, Patti Jennings of Rogers, AR; as well as many nieces and nephews.

Services will be Monday, April 4, 2016 at 10:00 a.m. at New Hope Fellowship Church in Springdale with Rev. Cliff Jenkins and Rev. Joe Layman officiating. Burial with Military Honors will be in Bluff Cemetery in Springdale.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to New Hope Fellowship Church of Springdale or Circle of Life Hospice Care at Legacy Village in Bentonville.

Online condolences may be left at www.siscofuneral.com

Cemetery Details

Bluff Cemetery

795 N. Shiloh Street
Springdale, AR 72764

Previous Events

Funeral Service

APR 4. 10:00 AM (CT)

New Hope Fellowship
850 S 56th St
Springdale, AR 72762
(479) 750-4673

Tribute Wall



“ *A J Brightwell*

January 21, 2023 at 02:29 PM



“ *Vivid Recollections was purchased for the family of A J Brightwell.*



April 04, 2016 at 06:55 AM



“ *Not going to lie, when I first started working for A.J. at the North store, he intimidated the heck out of me; especially when I had only been working there a few months and he stood behind my register and watched me work! Needless to say, I soon came to realize how fortunate I was to have A.J. as my first manager. He definitely knew how to bring out the best in people, and he was always fair. He gave me several opportunities to move up in the store, and because he believed in me, I believed in myself. A.J. was a special man, and we are all blessed to have had him in our lives.*

Michelle Wilson Thomasson - April 03, 2016 at 07:30 PM

CJ

“ There are too many memories I have of my Papaw. He taught me to work hard, be humble, care for others, and most of all to put my family first. I'll miss him so much, he's my hero. I know I have the best guardian angel watching over me.



Chrissy Jackson - April 02, 2016 at 07:28 PM



“ I can still remember when myself and Chrissy would make grandpa happy b day banners on his very old printer, in the basement, and computer. It would sometimes take an hour or more for that printer to get print one long banner. I hope all of us are lucky enough to live a very full life as AJ did.

Cole Brightwell - April 02, 2016 at 10:17 AM

CJ

Haha...I remember that!

Chrissy Jackson - April 02, 2016 at 07:28 PM

RB

“ Don't know of anyone I respected more than A.J. He taught me many things not only at work, but about life. He and Helen were true friends. My condolences to the family. Ron Bowman

Ron Bowman - April 01, 2016 at 03:45 PM

SM

A.J. Brightwell was one of the most consistently friendly, good-natured men I have ever known or worked with. He was one of the building blocks of Harps Foods success over the years. Heaven sure got a good guy.

Sharon McGuire - April 01, 2016 at 04:49 PM

AB

Thank you so much Ron and Sharon for your lovely memories of dad. He spoke so highly of everyone at Harps and how grateful and appreciative he was...even in his last few days. ❤️

Anita Brightwell - April 01, 2016 at 08:10 PM

SK

“ *Sending my sympathies to your family. Hugs and prayers! Love, Shelli Kerr*



Shelli Kerr - April 01, 2016 at 03:05 PM

AB

Thank you so much, shelli ❤️

Anita Brightwell - April 01, 2016 at 08:12 PM

PH

My condolences to the Brightwell family, AJ was always such a happy pleasant person, it was always such a joy to be around him, he was always smiling.

Pat Hritz - April 01, 2016 at 10:48 PM