

Clyde B. Skidmore

Clyde B. Skidmore, our loving husband, father and grandfather went home to be with the Lord at 1 p.m. on Tuesday, February 19, 2008 after a long battle with Alzheimer's and Parkinson's disease. He was born in Grapeland, Texas on April 12, 1921 to Thomas Edward and Bennie Elizabeth Skidmore.

Clyde had eight siblings, only one still living. He attended Sam Houston State Teachers' College in Huntsville, Texas and left there to begin working in the Control Lab of Shell Oil Company in Houston, Texas. He then volunteered for the United States Marine Corps during World War II and served in combat in the Bougainville, Guadalcanal, and Guam campaigns. He was wounded as his regiment went in on the island of Guam. So many Marines were killed as they made the beachhead that they had to hold up and call for more help. It was then that Clyde made a commitment to the Lord just before being wounded. He promised the Lord that if He would let him get home safely and give him a good wife he would go anywhere and do anything He wanted him to do. After Japan surrendered he received his Honorable Discharge and returned to his job with Shell Oil Company. He had ten years seniority before resigning to pursue his education at Baylor University. In 1991, Clyde was privileged to return to Guam as a guest in the Governor's home and was honored to serve as Honorary Grand Marshall of their Liberation Day Parade. He also returned in 1995 for the 50th anniversary of their liberation.

Clyde married Marjorie L. Skeen on May 4, 1946. Three daughters were born before he left Shell Oil to attend Baylor University where he received his BA degree. After graduation he came to California to attend Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary where he earned his Master's Degree in Ministry. He was later awarded an Honorary Doctor's Degree by California Baptist University in Riverside and earned his Doctor's Degree in Theology at California Graduate School of Theology in Glendale, Calif. Two other daughters were added to the family in California, Clyde served as a pastor for 50 years and was honored with many places of leadership within the California Southern Baptist Convention. He served as President and Vice President; on the Executive Board four years, one of which he served as Chairman and The California Baptist Foundation 4 years, serving as Chairman the last year. He was California's representative on the

Radio and Television Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention in Ft. Worth, Texas eight years. Churches he served as Pastor included First Baptist, Glidden, TX, Horn Hill Baptist, Groesbeck, TX; Bethel Baptist, Concord, CA; First Southern Baptist, Costa Mesa, CA; First Southern Baptist, Bakersfield, CA and First Southern Baptist, Reedley, CA. In retirement he served as Interim Pastor for Temple Baptist in Palmdale, CA, First Southern Baptist in North Edwards, CA and Faith Baptist Church in Santa Barbara, CA. He also supplied in many other churches. His ministry touched many lives. His heart's desire was to minister to those that God had called him to lead. He was a great witness for the Lord and in retirement received many calls expressing appreciation for his visit to their home and leading them to accept Jesus as their Lord and Savior.

He is survived by Marjorie, his loving wife for 62 years and five very special daughters: Sandra Allen and her husband Brandy of Anchorage, AK; Gloria Richardson and her husband Wayne of Yakima, WA; Linda Skidmore, Marsha Skidmore and Mary Lynn Skidmore of Bakersfield, CA. He also leaves behind seven dearly loved grandchildren: Steve Walters of Anchorage, AK, Carren Walters of Seattle, WA, Christa Brown of Anchorage, AK, Michael Jones of Woodstock, AL, Josh Richardson of Yakima, WA, Jennifer Richardson of Boulder, CO, and Norman Dillinger Skidmore of Bakersfield, CA; and seven great-grandchildren. He is also survived by one brother, John E. Skidmore of Houston, TX, and many nieces and nephews who loved him. Services were held at Valley Baptist Church, 4800 Fruitvale Ave., at 11 a.m., on Tuesday, February 26, and graveside services followed at Hillcrest Cemetery.

The family wishes to express our gratitude to Pastors Roger Spradlin, Phil Neighbors and Larry Wood at Valley Baptist Church; Dr. Denis Maddox, Dr. Gregario Pineda, Dr. David Dougherty, Dr. Todd Farrar, Dr. Kerry Oliver and a host of friends who ministered to us. Special thanks go to Hoffman Hospice and the many caregivers who served with us, especially Annette Pellen and all her caregivers at The Westchester Home on Spruce Street who tenderly loved and cared for Clyde as he walked the last mile of the way.

Donations can be made to Valley Baptist Church Building Fund and Hoffman Hospice.