



## Dewey Ratcliff

April 9, 1946 - March 12, 2009

Barney "Dewey" Ratcliff, Jr. Age 62 and a lifelong resident of Springfield, Dewey spent his entire life in public service; simply because he loved to serve. He passed away Thursday, March 12, 2009 at Regency Hospital in Covington. When Dewey was elected Mayor of Springfield, at the age of 22, he made history by being the youngest Mayor in the United States of America at that time. After holding the position of Mayor for over eighteen years, he was elected as a Police Juror for the Livingston Parish Police Jury. He was later elected as the first Livingston Parish-Parish President serving two terms. Dewey was a member of the Electrical Union #1077 of Bogalusa. In addition to being a volunteer firefighter for the Springfield VFD, he also served as president of the Springfield Fire District 2. He was one of the founding members of the Livingston Parish Tourism Commission. During his time in public service, Dewey was able to touch the lives and help numerous people, many of whom have reached out to the family to share stories and memories of his life. Dewey is survived by his devoted wife of 44 years, Helen Ivanyisky Ratcliff; three loving daughters, Michelle Kling and husband John, Tracy Bryson and husband Thomas "Bruiser", Kim Hymel and husband Mike as well as his mother, Etna Easley Ratcliff. He was blessed with six grandsons, B.J., Matt and Jacob Savoy; Justin and Chad Bryson and Dalton Kling along with three granddaughters, Korey and Kasey Hymel and Rachel Kling; one great-granddaughter, Emma Marie; three brothers, Gary, Darryl and Dawes Ratcliff and two sisters, Jackie Wall and Mildred Cowsar along with numerous

nieces, nephews, great-nieces and great-nephews. He was preceded in death by his father, Barney Ratcliff, Sr.; nephew, Donnie Cowsar; maternal grandparents, Drew Easley and Vinnie Easley Legette and his paternal grandparents, John Ratcliff and Laura Palmer Ratcliff. Relatives and friends of the family are invited to attend the funeral services from the Unity Prayer Center, 28145 Frost Rd (Hwy 63 S)-Livingston on Monday, March 16th at 2:00 p.m. The family requests that visiting hours be observed at the church on Sunday, March 15th from 5:00 p.m. until 10:00 p.m. and again on Monday from 11:00 a.m. until the service time officiated by Rev. Delmas Taylor. Interment will follow in St. Margaret Catholic Church Cemetery in Albany. Serving as pallbearers are B.J., Matt and Jacob Savoy; Justin and Chad Bryson; Jay Wall; honorary pallbearers are Ryan, Brett, Chris and Josh Ratcliff; Timmy and Harlon Cowsar. The family would like to say "thank you" to the staff of ICU at North Oaks Medical Center and to the staff at Regency Hospital in Covington. They express deep appreciation to all family members and friends for their support and prayers. Special thanks to Br. Delmas Taylor, Pastor John Raymond, Br. Wayne Mack and Br. David Theriot for their prayers and comforting words given to the family during their time of need. Condolences and other information available online at [www.bgthompsonfuneralhome.com](http://www.bgthompsonfuneralhome.com) Arrangements were entrusted to Brandon G. Thompson Funeral Home of Hammond.