



Wayne Erwin Blackwell

October 3, 1952 - September 19, 2024

Wayne Erwin Blackwell of Albany, Louisiana went to be with his Heavenly father on Thursday, September 19th, 2024, surrounded by his loving wife and family. He was born October 3rd, 1952 in Bogalusa, Louisiana and graduated from Istrouma Senior High School in 1971 where he met his high school sweetheart, Madeline Crochet. Wayne and Madeline were married on August 14th, 1971. They had three daughters and five grandchildren and were married 53 years. Wayne served his country in the United States Navy before joining the City of Baton Rouge Fire Department, fulfilling his life-long dream of becoming a firefighter. He bravely served the people of Baton Rouge as a firefighter until a hunting accident left him paralyzed in 1989. Wayne continued his career with the Fire Department as a communication officer until he retired in 2003 with over 25 years of service.

After paralysis changed his life forever, Wayne's sister Patti introduced him to a group of veterans, who met annually to participate in The National Paralyzed Veterans Wheelchair games. Wayne competed and earned many gold, silver, and bronze medals in various sports and events. Upon retiring from the Fire Department, Wayne became very active in the Paralyzed Veterans of America (PVA). There he served over the years in several positions including Sports Director, President, and ultimately Executive Director for Bayou Gulf States – a tri state chapter of PVA. He was appointed by the Governor to serve on the Governor's Council for Disabilities. In 2004, he was awarded the prestigious Pathfinder Award by Safari Club International

for his work encouraging disabled individuals to continue to enjoy the outdoors and overcome their physical limitations.

Wayne served as a Deacon at Bethlehem Baptist Church where he was an active member for over 45 years, taught 4th grade boys at Vacation Bible School, and was an RA Leader. There he sought to pass down to future generations his love of Christ and the role of a Christian man. Wayne began a masonic journey as a Demolay in high school, eventually attaining the position of Worshipful Master of the Albany Masonic Lodge #466 in 2013. Wayne worked tirelessly, often multiple jobs simultaneously, throughout his life to care for his family and serve his community. He took great pride in putting his three daughters through college and instilled the importance of integrity, character, a high moral code, the value of a job well done, and love for family, country, and God. His courageous and tenacious drive to overcome the ongoing and unimaginable obstacles of being paralyzed from the waist down for 35 years inspires us all to press on through whatever we may face.

Wayne was a fun-loving jokester, who lit up a room, livened up an event, and made deep long-lasting friendships in the first few minutes. He and Madeline enjoyed traveling the world ranging from roughing in on road trips to Alaska, to sky-high hotels in Dubai, to safaris in Africa. His favorite past times were playing with his grandchildren, hunting, fishing, and enjoying the outdoors with his bride of 53 years. Wayne frequently said that he could never have done the things he did nor even survived this long without the strength, dedication, and love of Madeline.

He is survived by his wife, Madeline Crochet Blackwell; daughters, Laura Brown (Rodney), Sara Bezou (Jason), Cary Clark; sisters, Cathy Holland (Ardell), Patricia Scurlock, Margaret Blackwell; brothers, Willis Blackwell (Sheila), Wilfred Blackwell; grandchildren, Zachary Earnest Brown, Jillian Nicole Brown, Isabella Anne Theard Bezou, Elizabeth Crochet Bouligny Bezou, and Katherine Plauche Beauregard Bezou; nieces and nephews, Chris Blackwell (Ria), Tammy Kennair (Bruce), AJ Holland (Amanda), Jonathan Holland (Brittany), Kelli Watford (Jason), Kacey Pourciau; and

numerous great nieces and nephews.

Wayne was preceded in death by his parents, Willis and Evelyn Blackwell; infant brother, Eugene Wallace Blackwell; and brother-in-law, John Scurlock. Special gratitude to his sister, Dr. Cathy Holland, whose medical knowledge and tireless dedication and prayers helped to navigate through Wayne's complex medical care. Also thanks to his sister Margaret Blackwell, who was always just a phone call away to help; his brother Willis who helped him facilitate his endeavors; his sister Patti Scurlock, who was one of his most dedicated cheerleaders and supporters; and his younger brother, best friend, and invaluable hunting buddy, Will Blackwell; and the countless doctors, nurses, and medical staff who kept him active and alive for 35 years post injury.

Relatives and friends of the family are invited to attend a memorial service on Monday, October 21, 2024, at 12:00 p.m. at Bethlehem Baptist Church at 29350 S. Montpelier Rd, Albany LA 70711 with a Celebration of Life to follow at the Cedar Post Barn at 30648 LA Hwy 43 Albany, LA 70711 from 3:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m.

Previous Events

Memorial Service

OCT **21**. 12:00 PM (CT)

Bethlehem Baptist Church
29350 S. Montpelier Rd.
Albany, LA 70711

Celebration of Life

OCT **21**. 3:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Cedar Post Barn
30648 LA Hwy 43
Albany, LA 70711

Tribute Wall

YF

“ Your Uprising family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Wayne Erwin Blackwell.

Your Uprising family - October 21, 2024 at 08:44 AM

YF

“ Your Uprising family purchased the Enchanted Cottage for the family of Wayne Erwin Blackwell.



Your Uprising family - October 21, 2024 at 08:44 AM

ET

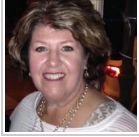
“ Eddie T. planted a grove of 3 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Wayne Erwin Blackwell.

Eddie T. - October 20, 2024 at 05:14 PM

CH

“ I will always miss and love you you. See you in heaven. " I love you " The last words you said to me. What an inspiration you were to so many people. Cathy

Catherine Holland - October 19, 2024 at 10:04 AM



“ Praying over your family.
met Wayne when he was first injured at OLOL Rehab. He was one of my first SCI patients. I remember he was such a joy and brought a smile to everyone whenever he would enter the room.
May the peace of the Lord surround you.
Roxane B

Roxane Bingham - September 25, 2024 at 09:01 AM

EH

“ My sincere condolences to Sara and family. 🌸 May God wrap His loving arms around you all and bring you comfort & peace in your time of grieving. I never met Mr. Wayne, but it sounds like he was a wonderful man with a beautiful soul! Also, hugs to my young 2nd cousins, Jason & Sara's girls. ☐ 🌸 🌸 🌸

Erin Husley - September 24, 2024 at 10:27 PM

FL

“ From Ryan and Elise Lee planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Wayne Erwin Blackwell.

From Ryan and Elise Lee - September 24, 2024 at 06:20 PM

FL

“ From Ryan and Elise Lee purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Wayne Erwin Blackwell.



From Ryan and Elise Lee - September 24, 2024 at 06:20 PM

SB

“ Hey Dad! Missing you! Thankful you are now running through those fields in Gloryland and done with that wheelchair, but sad you are gone from my sight.. You fought an amazing fight! Talking to us until the day you passed, you were a pillar of strength. Stories of your perseverance, tenacity and ability to overcome the impossible will be passed down in stories to future generations. I will miss your good cooking, sense of humor, off the cuff jokes, candidness, listening ear, discussions, history lessons, looking at the stars and moon with you and treks through the woods. Your strength and advice will be missed! May you rest in eternal peace, you've earned it! Love, Your Middle Daughter, Sara Bezou

Sara B Bezou - September 24, 2024 at 12:35 PM

MB

*I only met him twice but was always impressed with his positive attitude and the way he worked with disabled people.
Sara, my prayers got out to you, Jason and the host of chillens!*

Mark bezou - September 24, 2024 at 07:39 PM