



Hugh Jarrett

October 11, 1929 - May 31, 2008

JARRETT – Mr. Hugh Thomas Jarrett, 78, died Saturday May 31, 2008, as the result of injuries sustained in an auto accident. Hugh was a world-renowned singer/actor and on-air radio/TV personality who had permanently settled in the Metro-Atlanta area in the 60's following outstanding success in Nashville and Los Angeles. He was inducted into the GA Radio Hall of Fame in its inaugural ceremony and was previously inducted into the GA Music Hall of Fame and well as the Gospel Music Hall. From 1954-1958, Hugh was the bass singer for "The Jordanares" who provided vocal backing to Elvis Presley in recordings and tours, as well as for other famous recording artists. Eddy Arnold featured them on his weekly TV show filmed in Chicago. Elvis has nine records ranked in the "All Time Top 100" and Hugh is the bass singer on six of them. On the first leg of Elvis' first road tour following military service, "The Hugh Jarrett Singers" provided the back-up vocals. Hugh last appeared with "The Jordonaires" in August 1997 at the first of the "Elvis In Concert" shows staged in Memphis. He was also a member of the Statues who had a Top 20 hit in 1959. While at WLAC, Hugh began "The Big Hugh Baby" record hops that featured top recording artists of the day. After his move to Atlanta he continued the "hops" with great success. For several years he was also the singing-emcee for the shows at Lanierland. For a while, he was affiliated with the late Bill Lowery and his publishing and music interests and held on-air positions locally at WPLO, WFOM, WSB, Channel 11 and, more recently, with Christian music station WWEV. He was also heard on numerous commercials,

nationally, as well as locally. His movie work included three films starring Elvis, as well as TV-movies starring Johnny Cash, Andy Griffith and Carroll O'Conner. Hugh, a native of Nashville, TN is survived by his wife Jean, son Jeff and his wife Eileen, a surviving grandson and great-granddaughter. Funeral Services will be on Friday June 6 at 11:30 AM from the funeral home chapel with the pastor Don Munn officiating. Interment will follow at Big Springs Cemetery. The family will receive friends on Thursday from 6-8 PM at the funeral home.

Previous Events

Visitation

JUN **5**. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Northside Chapel Funeral Directors and Crematory
12050 Crabapple Road
Roswell, GA

Service

JUN **6**. 11:30 AM (ET)

Northside Chapel Funeral Directors & Crematory
12050 Crabapple Road
Roswell, GA

Tribute Wall



“ God Blessed HUGH JARRETT in many ways - I can never forget those deep bass notes DOO DOO DOO DOO - WOW - HE was / is one of the great bass men vocalists of all time - Listen to " I WAS THE ONE " Elvis with the Jordanaires January 11 1956 RCA studios recording - Love to HUGH JARRETT from your pal forever , Hollywood Joe (Joe Nania)

Joe Nania - June 20, 2024 at 12:43 AM



“ *Hugh Jarrett*

October 08, 2022 at 11:37 AM



“ *I worked with Hugh at a little radio station in Austell in the 80's. He was the "air personality". I was a sold ads. I told him I grew up in College Park listening to "Big Hugh Baby". He got a kick out of that.*

Hugh was very gracious to me and shared his memories of his time with the Jordanaires and on the radio. He as a good man.

Lance Holmes

Lance Holmes - July 23, 2021 at 03:12 PM



“ I was so sorry to hear the news of Hugh's death.I first met Hugh years ago in our Atlanta SAG/AFTRA drama class.I will miss the Picadilly Days of seeing him and his family, at the eye doctor, just around Roswell.Thank you Hugh for your kindness and many years of talent of singing backup for Elvis.You will be missed so much!##imported-begin##Dianne McPherson##imported-end##

February 23, 2009 at 02:03 AM



“ On behalf of all pop and rock lovers, and many of Hugh's fans in Toronto, Canada(Elvis and Hugh performed here on 3 occasions in 1957) We all will surely miss his keen wit and tremendous talent. I am a Funeral Director up here in Toronto,and on many occasions when were slow I would put on an Elvis c.d. and of course his early rock songs all featured Hugh's deep baritone voice. Sleep well my friend,you are now with your buddy Elvis.##imported-begin##J. P. Biancofiore##imported-end##

June 11, 2008 at 05:47 PM



“ What an honor and great priviledge to have known and worked with Hugh.For over a decade at Victory 91.5 - WWEV, I often produced his Sunday morning program. Hugh truly blessed us with his warm personality, his big smile and encouraging words for everyone he met. I am a better person for having know him and will always have many fond memories. I know one day we will meet again, this time, at that great reunion with all belivers who have gone before us. I pray comfort to Hugh's wonderful family. May God wrap his loving arms around them and hold them close. May we all be found faithful. Larry##imported-begin##Larry Grover##imported-end##

June 08, 2008 at 07:02 PM



“ I had the wonderful privilege of working with Hugh at FM91.5. He was the Sunday morning announcer and I would see him before my Sunday afternoon shift began. Hugh would share stories about his experiences on radio, television, movies, and commercials, the awards that he received, the celebrities he knew, and his musical experiences with Elvis and the other Jordanaires. Hugh always had a rich and distinctive voice, a great sense of humor, and a tremendous love for his family. He will be greatly missed. My prayers are with Jean, Jeff, and his entire family during this time.##imported-begin##Margaret Cheeley##imported-end##

June 05, 2008 at 09:50 PM



“ Hugh was one of a kind, and will be fondly remembered. Our thoughts and prayers are with Jean, and his family.##imported-begin##Cole##imported-end##

June 05, 2008 at 04:56 PM



“ I had the privilege of working with Hugh at WWEV radio. He always radiated a warmth and sense of humor that made him a joy to work with. He was a very special man and will be greatly missed.##imported-begin##Bonnie McCormick##imported-end##

June 05, 2008 at 02:12 PM



“ In the 60's Atlanta had only two top 40 stations. Big Hugh Baby and Skinny Bobby Harper were the biggest things happening. Ardice fondley remembers sitting on Hugh's lap while he was on the air. She lived across the street from WFOM as she was growing up.

I was twenty when I first met him and was in awe of someone who had actually known and sang with Elvis although he did not talk about it unless I brought it up. Hugh was a modest man who did so much for Cobb County teens with his teen age night club "Big Hugh Baby's Hop-a-Roonie on the "four lane" and through the many teen friendly concerts that he sponsored.

The Big Hugh Baby will be missed!##imported-begin##Paull and Ardice Saffold##imported-end##

June 05, 2008 at 12:54 PM



“ So many memories, so many years of laughter, and now such sadness..there are no more words, just a prayer that serenity will be sooner than later.##imported-begin##Jeannie and Wayne Smith##imported-end##

June 05, 2008 at 11:49 AM



“ I am so saddened to learn of Hugh's passing. I met Hugh while he was working at a radio station in Gainesville, Georgia back in the late 1970's and we became good friends. Hugh was someone I respected and looked up to.

One of my fondest memories of Hugh was his reaction to a Christmas stocking I made for him. The stocking had toes in it and he thought it was the cutest thing he'd ever seen. He hung it up at the radio station where he was working at the time and always pointed to the toes and laughed every time he walked by it.

RIP my dear friend Hugh Baby...keep the angels laughing till we meet again.##imported-begin##Rhonda Collins Moser##imported-end##

June 04, 2008 at 11:58 PM



“ Jean, Jeff & Eileen and Dylan, to have it on record... Your Dad was one that we all wished we had. You all have been so lucky to have lived your life with a man like Hugh. We love you all and share your loss. With much sorrow,

Love, Lynn & Bill
Lynn Rose-Kitchens Dawsonville##imported-begin##Lynn & Bill
Kitchens##imported-end##

June 04, 2008 at 11:08 PM



“ hawnkbo fqkluiv dhouy nlzitshwo lcenuxriq elgvzr
vqaobnj##imported-begin##mvsrgytda xuhdptcq##imported-end##

June 04, 2008 at 04:44 PM



“ *fioqbv slupz zvxxhjo sprjv rqzav yspwogt mryusb##imported-begin##zqnukpt lhzjois##imported-end##*

June 04, 2008 at 04:38 PM



“ *I worked with Hugh at WFOM and WPPI. I will never forget a Christmas gathering at Lamar Canup's house where we talked Hugh into singing "Green green grass of Home". We were all mesmerized by his professionalism and stage presence. He will be missed.*

Mark McCain##imported-begin##Mark McCain##imported-end##

June 03, 2008 at 07:52 PM



“ *I had a great admiration and respect for Hugh. My condolences to all.*

Eddy (former co-worker at WWEV)##imported-begin##Eddy Seals##imported-end##

June 03, 2008 at 02:25 PM



“ *I sat across the window from Hugh doing the news for him from 1970-1977 at WPLO. I have often thought about him, and followed up on his career. He was an inspiration and always willing to talk (no matter how new you were). I will always have our memorys.##imported-begin##Mitch Leopard##imported-end##*

June 03, 2008 at 01:32 PM



“ You were a distant cousin of my mother, Martha Harmon in Nashville, TN. We are thinking of your family during this time.##imported-begin##Regina Norvell##imported-end##

June 03, 2008 at 12:08 PM



“ Mrs. Jarrett and family,

I can't tell you how sorry I am for your loss. I remember Hugh from the "Big Hugh Baby Hop" days (dances I went to as a teen-ager). But came to know him through acting and singing. We used to do a few "scales" together about thirty years ago. I always enjoyed visiting with him at SAG meetings. He was a wonderful man and I know you will miss him terribly. I will keep you in my prayers for the loss of both of your family members.

Love,

Sharon (Sherry) Blackwood##imported-begin##Sharon Blackwood##imported-end##

June 03, 2008 at 11:02 AM



“ I worked with Hugh at WWEV FM 91.5 and enjoyed being associated with him for many years. I am deeply saddened by his death and am in prayer for the family.##imported-begin## Renee Bullard##imported-end##

June 03, 2008 at 10:42 AM



“ I have had many special memories in my long career as a guitarist, and I am grateful. I am sincere when I say that some of my most rewarding and fulfilling times were spent with Hugh, in the recording studio; on his wonderful morning TV show, and more gratifying, as a friend. I am equally sincere when I say that Hugh Jarrett was absolutely one of the most talented, knowledgeable and kind people I have ever met. My heart has a big hole in it now. The good news is that we will meet again. God Bless Jean and family.##imported-begin##Sid Manley##imported-end##

June 03, 2008 at 07:51 AM



“ Hugh was, without a doubt, the kindest man I have ever known. My heart goes out to Jean, Jeff, Eileen and Dylan.##imported-begin##Cheryl Flynn##imported-end##

June 02, 2008 at 09:32 PM



“ I consider it an honor to have personally known Hugh. During his days (and nights) at WLAC, I would listen in the wee hours from South Georgia to "Hugh Baby" spinning the "rocks".

Years later, as Lead Coordinator for the start-up of WWEV, my wife and I invited our "support team" to our home... and Hugh was a part of this team. I had the pleasure of introducing to the group "Hugh Baby Jarrett!!".

Truely, this is a sad day for Radio and the Gospel Music world; and doubly sad for the Greg Jarrett family.

May God Bless you,
Jim Pennington##imported-begin##Jim Pennington##imported-end##

June 02, 2008 at 07:15 PM



“ you can replace some things and some people but you can't replace Hugh Baby! Always up always with that smile. we've lost a good man.##imported-begin##red jones##imported-end##

June 02, 2008 at 05:17 PM



“ I never knew Hugh Baby personally, but I have for many years thought of him as a friend. I met him once in Cumming at a drug store. Before that he was the voice that came from my radio. I used to listened to WLAC before we had FM. you could pick it up late at night in Cumming. Many are the nights he road with me in my '55 chevy. It was Hugh Baby and John R. Thanks Hugh for the memories and say hellow to John and Elvis for me. May God bless his family##imported-begin##william pugh##imported-end##

June 02, 2008 at 03:14 PM



“ *What a sweet, gentle man. He was a great co-worker in the radio and mobile DJ business, and one of the nicest guys I ever knew. I'm so glad I got to hug his neck at the Georgia Radio Hall of Fame banquet last fall. I will always remember Hugh Baby most fondly.*##imported-begin##*Connie Prichard Aylor*##imported-end##

June 02, 2008 at 01:48 PM



“ *I had the rare opportunity to work with Hugh when he was on the air at WQXI-AM with Russ Spooner. He was always happy and it was a pleasure to be around him. He will be missed.*##imported-begin##*Scott Trask*##imported-end##

June 02, 2008 at 01:45 PM



“ *I know the Father, Son, Holy Spirit and all the angels (as well as all those who have gone before us) are already laughing at the fun stories Hugh Baby is telling!*
I met him as an 18-year-old dj in Gainesville, GA where we worked together at WLBA and then later crossed paths at WVEV. He nicknamed me "Buff Wormwood" and we shared snacks every afternoon while he was on the air.
What a precious man and sweet friend.
Thank you, Jean and family for sharing him with all of us. Heaven is a happier place today now that he is there.
My family's prayers are with you for God's peace for you as you grieve the great loss of Hugh Baby and Greg.
Love, "Buff"##imported-begin##*Beth Smallwood Maranville*##imported-end##

June 02, 2008 at 01:42 PM



“ So sad to learn of Hugh's passing. It was a joy to be in his presence and I'll miss him greatly. His wide smile and quick wit were always so warming in any gathering. On behalf of Georgia Backroads magazine please allow me to extend my condolences to Jean and the family. Hugh's at peace now and smiling down upon us. The angels are rejoicing.

Olin Jackson###imported-begin##Olin Jackson###imported-end##

June 02, 2008 at 01:17 PM



“ It was "Big Hugh Baby" who taught me that being on the air wssn't enough. He was always an entertainer. He was always aware of the influence he had and never abused it. He will be missed greatly. Class acts always are.

Jim Vann###imported-begin##Jim Vann###imported-end##

June 02, 2008 at 07:47 AM



“ I was honored to work with Hugh at WWEV radio in Cumming, Georgia. He was such a special man and I always thought of him as a great big teddy bear. I loved to hear his stories. He always had a big smile on his face and was full of joy and happiness. I'll always remember that Hugh let the news out when I was expecting my second child before I could tell the station manager. But, he was so happy for me. And, Hugh ALWAYS made me feel special. My thoughts and prayers are with Jean. Thank you for sharing Hugh with us. You too, are a very special lady.###imported-begin##Patricia Shadburn###imported-end##

June 01, 2008 at 10:04 PM



“ *The angels must have rejoiced when they saw my friend Hugh Baby coming.##imported-begin##Ludlow Porch##imported-end##*

June 01, 2008 at 08:16 PM



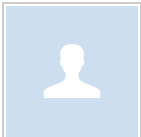
“ *Words cannot express the sadness we feel in our hearts today. Hugh and Jean have been cherished friends for the last 45 years. Hugh has touched and brightened so many peoples, lives including ours. We will miss him so much. Jean, Jeff, Eileen and Dylan, We pray God will give you peace and comfort during this tragic time.##imported-begin##Linda & Lamar Canup##imported-end##*

June 01, 2008 at 03:24 PM



“ *I would like to express my sincere condolences to the family. He will be missed by them and his legion of fans.##imported-begin##Michael Godin##imported-end##*

June 01, 2008 at 01:58 PM



“ *On behalf of the members of the Georgia Radio Hall of Fame, condolences to Hugh's family. We are saddened by the loss of one out most cherished members and inductees.##imported-begin##John Long, President##imported-end##*

June 01, 2008 at 09:17 AM



“ *A more caring, witty, personable and generous friend we have never known. His extraordinary talents have won for him acclaim all over the world. Doing a Google search this morning, I find reports of his death from Canada, Australia and The Netherlands, even before it is mentioned in the "Atlanta Constitution".*

Our hearts ache for Jean, Jeff, Eileen and the extended family after the loss of Hugh and Greg.

Love, /s/ Sam & Carolyn##imported-begin##Sam and Carolyn Hale##imported-end##

June 01, 2008 at 08:07 AM