



## Mr. James "J.O." Brownlee

December 20, 1919 - February 11, 2012

BROWNLEE, James "J.O.", 92, was born on December 20, 1919, in Mississippi. He passed away on February 11, 2012, at his home in Plant City, Florida. He graduated with the Turkey Creek Class of 1938. He was a veteran of the United States Navy having served in WWII from 1941 to 1945. He married the former Vera Nell Caldwell of Keysville, and remained married for 65 years until her death in November 2011. He was a licensed citrus fruit dealer for the State of Florida 49 years until his retirement in 1980. He was the current president and active player with the Men's Ridge Pro-Am Golf Association. He helped build the First Church of God in Plant City, where he taught Adult Sunday School Class and was a chair member for 40 plus years. He was integral in bringing Babe Ruth baseball to Plant City. He enjoyed coaching youth baseball and adult softball and bowling, and drinking coffee with his buddies. He was preceded in death by his wife Vera Nell Brownlee. He is survived by children Lynett Griffin (Robert), and son Ray Brownlee (Patti); grandchildren Trina Jent (Wayne), Bobby Griffin (Sarah), Josh Griffin, Jamie Sweat (James) and Rebecca Guthrie (Jason); great grandchildren Jake, Wyatt and Kaycee Jent, Jacob and Jared Sweat, and Halie Guthrie and Harlow Griffin; and sisters Reverend Inez Yarbrough, Ada Mae Ballard, and Melanie Groome. The family will receive friends on Wednesday, February 15 from 6-8:00 P.M. at Hopewell Funeral Home, 6005 CR 39 S, Plant City. A Celebration of Life will be held on Thursday, February 16 at 11:00 A.M. at Hopewell Funeral Home. Interment at Memorial Park, Plant City. Memorial

contributions may be made to Sydney First Church of God, P.O. Box 3,  
Sydney, FL 33527. Expressions of condolence at [www.hopewellfuneral.com](http://www.hopewellfuneral.com).

# Cemetery Details

## Memorial Park Cemetery

2401 North Paul Buchman Hwy  
Plant City, FL 33563

# Previous Events

## Visitation

FEB **15**. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Hopewell Funeral Home  
6005 County Road 39 South  
Plant City, FL 33567  
(813) 737-3128  
[office@hopewellfuneral.com](mailto:office@hopewellfuneral.com)  
<http://www.hopewellfuneral.com>

## Celebration of Life

FEB **16**. 11:00 AM (ET)

Hopewell Funeral Home  
6005 County Road 39 South  
Plant City, FL 33567  
(813) 737-3128  
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# Tribute Wall



“ Hopewell Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Mr. James "J.O." Brownlee



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**Hopewell Funeral Home** - February 11, 2012 at 12:00 AM



“ A few of my husbands former co-workers were able to have breakfast with Mr. Brownlee on Friday mornings. He was always encouraging and had some good memories to share. He inspired us each week with his consistent routine and demeanor. He will be missed but we are confident he is with our Savior. Tony and Sherry Smith

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**Sherry and Tony Smith** - February 19, 2012 at 09:36 AM



“ Mr. Brownlee was one of the most positive, up-lifting people I have known. He was always smiling and joking around. I remember him from Little League years and on through the past few years. He was an inspiration to everyone. My condolences to Ray and Lynette and their families,

*Linda Jo McDonald*

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**Linda McDonald** - February 16, 2012 at 09:22 AM

DV

“ Ray & Family we are so sorry for your loss. Had the privilege of talking with Mr. Brownlee at the memorial garden last spring for a good 15 minutes. He was a very interesting person.

*Don & Juanita Vaughan*

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**Don & Juanita Vaughan** - February 16, 2012 at 08:26 AM

SB

“ We were so sorry to hear of your loss. J.O. and my father, Ted Purvis, were old friends as well as cousins, and used to enjoy reliving the summer they spent working together on my grandfather's house in Dover. James was so wonderfully kind and a real gentleman.

*Shelley and Dan Blood*

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**Shelley Blood** - February 14, 2012 at 03:03 PM

PH

“ P.T. & Shirley Holley lit a candle in memory of Mr. James "J.O." Brownlee



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**P.T. & Shirley Holley** - February 14, 2012 at 01:29 PM

KR

“ What a sweet, sweet man! He was a great neighbor and I will miss seeing him in the mornings as he was getting ready to go golfing.  
*Karen Herold Romero*

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**Karen Herold Romero** - February 13, 2012 at 03:38 PM

LH

*So very sorry for your loss...coming so soon after losing your mother makes this terribly hard to bare.Rudy and I loved them both and know that the memories of your father and grandfather must be many pleasant ones...May God grant you peace and the joy of knowing you will see him again..*

*Blessings,  
Lorraine and Rudy Harrison*

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**Lorraine Harrison** - February 13, 2012 at 07:04 PM

TG

“ Terry & Penny Groome lit a candle in memory of Mr. James "J.O." Brownlee



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**Terry & Penny Groome** - February 12, 2012 at 08:55 PM

TG

*Our deepest sympathy to the family! We will miss Uncle Jim. He was a wonderful man. You are in our thoughts and prayers. All our love  
Terry& Penny*

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**Terry & Penny Groome** - February 12, 2012 at 08:58 PM