



## Willie J. "Cotton" Collins Jr.

August 15, 1924 - April 15, 2013

Willie J. "Cotton" Collins Jr. was born on August 15th, 1924 and went to be with the Lord on April 15th, 2013 at the age of 88 years. Mr. Collins was the son of Willie J. Collins Sr. and Eupha Haddox Collins. The eldest of five children, Cotton and the Collins family resided in Dilley, TX. where he graduated with honors from Dilley High School. Following graduation, he entered the United States Army Air Force. Loyally serving his country by playing numerous instruments, Cotton was a member of the 597th AAF band in USO shows to raise money for war bonds. After completing his service, Cotton was honorably discharged in August of 1945. On June 22nd, 1946 Cotton married Patricia June Knight. He is survived by his beloved wife of 66 years, and their four children and spouses: Candace Hester, Chris and Bruce Woodgate, Jay Collins, and Marjory and Harvey Cohen. Their grandchildren are Greg and Stephanie Hester, Jeremy and Anastasia Woodgate, Stacey and Corey Baker, Micah and Kelly Lindner, Janna Woodgate, and Michelle Lindner as well as 10 treasured great grandchildren: Kate, Callie, Maggie, Elijah, Karissa, Abigail, Gideon, Caedmon, Seth, and Barrett. Cotton and June lived most of their married lives in Uvalde, TX as well as San Antonio, TX. Cotton Collins served as Deacon and Chairman of the Deacons for over 20 years at the First Baptist Church of Helotes including being a member of the choir. He dedicated his life to the service of the Lord, humbly leading by example what a true man of God and father should be. Always putting his faith and family first, his joyful heart and love of life, created many cherished

memories for all that knew him. He left behind a legacy of love and will be dearly missed. The family requests that any memorial gifts in honor of Cotton Collins will be given to the First Baptist Church of Helotes.

#### Services

A memorial service will be Friday, April 19, 2013, at 11:00 AM, at the First Baptist Church in Helotes.