



## Mr. M L Brackett

July 4, 1933 - June 30, 2015

Funeral will be at 2 p.m. Friday, July 3, 2015, at Village Chapel for M L Brackett, age 81, of Gadsden, who passed away June 30, 2015. Reverends Daniel Pope and Harris Hand will officiate. Interment will follow at Crestwood Cemetery. Village Chapel Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

Born in 1933 in Attalla, Mr. Brackett played for the legendary Jim Glover at Etowah High School. Mr. Brackett was a two-way tackle for the Blue Devil varsity from 1949-1951. He and his teammates won 22 straight games from Sept. 29, 1949 to Sept. 21, 1951, while the 1950 squad was named the state champion by the Birmingham News.

Etowah went another 49 years before bringing home another state title. The 1950 team included Bobby Gargus, John O'Barr, Wyman Townsell, James Campbell and Robert Hammonds. Mr. Brackett was named to the all-county and all-state teams that season. He was one of only two players to have their numbers retired at Etowah.

One of his many claims to fame was that he was Ralph "Shug" Jordan's first ever recruit at Auburn. Mr. Brackett was a four year starter for the Tigers, one season with the freshman team and three with the varsity. Auburn went 7-3-1 during his sophomore year of 1952, the most wins by a Tiger team since 1931. Auburn posted an 8-3 record in 1954 and went 8-2-1 in 1955. Mr. Brackett was named to the Collier Magazine All-American team his senior year and to the Atlanta-Journal Constitution All-Conference team three straight years.

Among his college teammates were Vince Dooley, Bobby Freeman, Fob James, Frank D'Agostino, Joe Childress, and Red Phillips. Auburn went to the Gator Bowl all three years M L played on the varsity team.

Mr. Brackett started as a rookie for the 1956 season under coach George S. Halas. He played at weak side linebacker and long snapper on a Chicago Bears team that went 9-3-1 and lost to the New York Giants in the league championship game. M L soon had a change of venue, as the Giants needed a long snapper. Chicago traded him to New York just prior to the 1958 season, giving him an up close taste of the Big Apple, where he played in the first sudden death overtime NFL Championship Game on Dec. 28, 1958 at Yankee Stadium between the Giants and the Colts. At that time Vince Lombardi was the offensive coordinator and Tom Landry was defensive coordinator His 1958 teammates included a who's who of NFL legends- Andy Robustelli, Roosevelt Brown, Frank Gifford, Charlie Connerly, Sam Huff, Jim Catcavage, Dick Modzelewski, Jim Parker, Don Maynard, Emlen Tunnell, Jim Taylor, Jack Kemp, Rosie Grier and Kyle Rote.

Football wasn't the only sport M L achieved notoriety. He played fast-pitch softball for six years and was a softball umpire for 30 years, nine of which he was the State Umpire in Chief of the state softball association. He was inducted into the Alabama Amateur Softball Hall of Fame in 1994 and the Etowah County Hall of Fame inaugural class. Field one at the Gadsden Softball Complex is named in his honor.

He later went on to work at LTV Steel until his retirement after 22 years service.

He is survived by his wife of 57 years, Carolyn Brackett; children, Joni Brackett of Auburn, Carol Brackett of Gadsden, Scott (Katie) Brackett of Southside; grandchildren, Blake DeVine and Evan Kell; several aunts and cousins; special pets, Tiger, Boomer, Fluff and Buck.

The family will receive flowers or donations may be made to the American Kidney Foundation or the American Heart Association in his honor.

Pallbearers will be Evan Edge, Chuck Medders, Ricky Armstrong, Greg

Logan, Blake DeVine and David Bruce.

Honorary pallbearers will be all former teammates, players and umpires.

The family wishes to express a special thanks to Dr. Takeshian, Dr. Snoddy and all the nurses and staff of St. Vincent's East.

The family will receive friends this evening from 6 until 8 p.m. at the funeral home.

# Cemetery Details

**Crestwood**

## Previous Events

### Visitation

**JUL 2.** 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Village Chapel Funeral Home  
101 Vandell Blvd  
Gadsden, AL 35904  
(256) 547-5557  
<https://villagechapelfuneralhome.com>

### Service

**JUL 3.** 2:00 PM (CT)

Village Chapel Funeral Home  
101 Vandell Blvd  
Gadsden, AL 35904  
(256) 547-5557  
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# Tribute Wall

JW

“ I am a co-worker of Katie Brackett and never had the honor of meeting Mr. Brackett. As an Auburn graduate, it is always sad to see a member of the Auburn family leave us much too soon. This is especially true with Mr. Brackett, someone that added so much to the fabric of the University. My deepest condolences to Mr. Brackett's entire family...his was a life to remember and cherish!

Jeff Wheeler - January 14, 2016 at 01:58 PM

ES

“ Our condolences to the family of Mr. M L Brackett.

Earl and Virginia Saxon - July 02, 2015 at 12:56 PM

BH

“ Carolyn, my thoughts and prayers are with you and your family. ML was a joy to talk to and be around. He will be missed!! Bob Haller

Bob Haller - July 02, 2015 at 12:48 PM

WF

“ Wendell and Cindy Dishman and Family purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Mr. M L Brackett.



Wendell and Cindy Dishman and Family - July 02, 2015 at 10:17 AM

RH

“ *Though I never got to meet this great man ! I have heard so many wonderful sweet stories from my mother his cousin Beckie Jo Brackett She was talking about him just this past week Im am so sorry for your loss We have lost another great Brackett man I only wished I could have known him . You will all be in my prayers Robin Winn Hennon*

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**Robin Hennon** - July 02, 2015 at 04:29 AM

EJ

“ *Great Auburn man !!!  
Overachiever on Coach Jordan's teams of 1953-1955  
Thoughts and prayers to his wonderful family*

*Mary and Earl Jackson  
Auburn, Alabama*

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**Earl Jackson** - July 01, 2015 at 04:19 PM