



## Samuel Earl Niven Sr.

July 22, 1943 - July 16, 2025

Samuel Earl Niven, Sr., a devoted husband, father, grandfather, great-grandfather, and cherished leader of the Chelsea, Alabama community, passed away peacefully on July 16, 2025, just shy of his 82nd birthday. Born on July 22, 1943, Earl lived a life defined by faith, service, and love—a legacy that will endure for generations.

He is survived by his beloved wife, June Chesser Niven, whose steadfast marriage of 59 years was the foundation of their family. Together, they raised two sons, Samuel Earl Niven, Jr. and Chesley Brandon Niven (Brandy), who carry forward his values of integrity, compassion, and civic duty.

Earl was a proud “Papa” (grandfather) to Ashleigh Niven, Caroline Sellers (Drake), Denise Sumrall (Carl), Sam Niven (Madeline), Parker Barnes (Madison), Kelli Barnes, Courtney Harris (Peyton), and Kaitlynn Easlick. His joy multiplied with the arrival of his great-grandchildren: Chesley Hairston, Logan Donaldson, Layla Hairston, Ellie Sellers, and Wren Sumrall.

He is also survived by his brother, Charles Niven, and sister, Claudia Taylor, and was preceded in death by his parents, Albert Parnell Niven and Nannie Fulgham Niven, as well as siblings Francis Thurmon, James Niven, J.W. Niven, Myrtle Mooney, and Louise Morris.

## A Life of Purpose and Service

Earl's faith was the cornerstone of his life. A devoted member of Liberty Baptist Church, he served for over 50 years as Deacon Emeritus, and held roles as Treasurer, Sunday School Director, Training Union Director, and Senior Adult Leader. His spiritual leadership and compassion touched countless lives and strengthened the church community.

He also served his country with honor in the Alabama National Guard from 1966 to 1972, exemplifying patriotism and duty.

Earl's life was a shining example of servant leadership. A lifelong resident and fifth-generation member of the Chelsea community, he was deeply rooted in its history and growth. As the Founding Mayor of the City of Chelsea, he served from 1996 to 2016, guiding the city through two decades of transformation with wisdom, humility, and unwavering dedication.

His commitment to education was evident in his role as a Trustee of Chelsea High School, and his professional journey included service at Southern Company, Moore-Handley, and the Shelby County Board of Education. In recognition of his contributions, he was honored as a member of the Chelsea High School Hall of Fame.

## A Legacy of Love

Earl will be remembered not only for his accomplishments but for the quiet strength, wisdom, kindness, and faith he shared with everyone he met. His legacy lives on in the family he loved, the church he served, and the city he helped shape.

His life was a beacon of faith, family, and civic pride—a life well-lived and deeply loved.

Funeral services will be held at Liberty Baptist Church on Saturday, July 19, 2025.

- Viewing: 10:00 AM – 11:00 AM
- Service: 11:00 AM – 12:00 PM
- Graveside Service to follow

Location: Liberty Baptist Church, 11050 Chelsea Rd, Chelsea, AL 35043

In lieu of flowers, the family kindly requests that donations be made to the Immeasurably More

Fund at Liberty Baptist Church, honoring Earl's lifelong commitment to the church and its community.

# Cemetery Details

## Liberty Cemetery

11050 Chelsea Rd  
Chelsea, AL 35043

# Previous Events

## Visitation

JUL 19. 10:00 AM (CT)

Liberty Baptist Church  
11050 Chelsea Rd  
Chelsea, AL 35043

## Funeral Service

JUL 19. 11:00 AM (CT)

Liberty Baptist Church  
11050 Chelsea Rd  
Chelsea, AL 35043

# Tribute Wall

PS

“ Earl was a classmate - SCHS '61. He was such a good guy! I have fond memories of him. He possessed all the good qualities that we all strive to attain.

Patricia Mooney Shaw - July 27, 2025 at 06:39 PM

CA

“ Carissacook113@icloud.com lit a candle in memory of Samuel Earl Niven Sr.



carissacook113@icloud.com - July 21, 2025 at 09:54 PM

AE

“ Amy, Christi, Billy, Kyle, Saleem, Earl purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Samuel Earl Niven Sr..



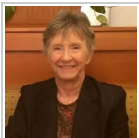
Amy, Christi, Billy, Kyle, Saleem, Earl - July 18, 2025 at 02:58 PM



“ *The Niven family was our neighbor and my sisters and I spent as much time as possible with them. We loved them all so much. Earl was called Sammy back then and he would ride me on his bicycle and he became my hero .When he went to college I was determined I would go too. I doubt he knew how much he influenced me all those years ago.*  
*Carol Moore Alford*

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**Carol Alford** - July 18, 2025 at 07:10 AM



“ *French Ell Lansford lit a candle in memory of Samuel Earl Niven*



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**French Ell Lansford** - July 17, 2025 at 04:59 PM