

# The Monticello News

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Funeral services for Sergeant Major Holsey "Brother" Tinsley, Jr. were held Monday at St. John C.M.E. Church with burial in South View Cemetery. The Rev. Marcus J. Rogers officiated. He died April 8, 2004 following an extended illness.

Mr. Tinsley was born August 17, 1917 to the late Holsey and Susie Tinsley, Sr. of Monticello. He graduated from the Jasper County Training School and attended Xavier University before enlisting in the U.S. Army and serving throughout World War II.

At the end of his enlistment he returned to Xavier University to complete his Bachelor of Arts degree. He then re-enlisted in the Army and served with honors in both the Korean War and in Vietnam. Mr. Tinsley achieved the rank of Sgt. Major in the United States Army (Top Sergeant), the highest noncommissioned officer's rank.

Retiring after 33 years in the Army, he returned to Monticello and became active in the community. At St. John C.M.E. he served as Sunday School Superintendent. In 2002 he was recognized as the Outstanding Citizen of the Year by the Monticello-Jasper County Chamber of Commerce.

Though he never had children of his own, Mr. Tinsley worked tirelessly for the community children which included selling hot dogs at athletic events in addition to planning and participating in summer camps.

He was a charter member of the Bonner Street Civic Club.

In 1985 he married his high school sweetheart, Chase Funderburg, who preceded him in death. He was committed to his family throughout the years, caring for his mother following the death of his father in 1943.

Survivors include his step-children, Patricia Chase and Thomas McJunkins, both of Atlanta; six nieces, Susie Andrews of Washington, D.C., Ruth Jordan and Erica Grant, both of Atlanta, Dorothy Tinsley, Beverly Nesbitt, Marsha Bass, all of Macon; three nephews, Robert Tinsley of Eatonton, Randy Holsey Tinsley of Monticello, and Michael Zanders of Warner Robins; a sister-in-law; two brothers-in-laws; two special friends, Troy Johnson and Dorothy Johnson; and a number of other relatives and friends.

Smith & Sons Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.