

## *A Farewell From The Zachry Family*

Thomas E. "Preacher" Thornton worked for H. B. Zachry Company for 54 years. He was a legend throughout the Company. During his career as a long-haul truck driver, Preacher logged in excess of three million miles and won a 30 year safe driving award in the process. He spent the last four years in his special pickup truck as safety escort for large, oversize loads traveling the highways and by-ways of the country. Everywhere he went his exuberance and friendliness was a constant. Preacher was everyone's friend.

Preacher's work was always excellent. He did what was asked of him and then some. One of his more joyous tasks was helping set up the bonfire at Texas A&M. For the last 27 years he hauled a crane to Texas A&M University to set up the annual bonfire that precedes the Texas-Texas A&M football game. He spent four to six weeks on campus helping set up for the occasion. He became such a part of the festivity, that Aggies say "It's bad luck to even set up the center pole for the bonfire without Preacher being here."

Thomas "Preacher" Thornton was an advisor and mentor to hundreds of Zachry Company employees, including the Zachry Family, over the years. He loved his job and the Company and shared that love with his unusual generosity. He was known and loved by virtually everyone at Zachry Company. He was a special person. He will be missed.

The family, friends and co-workers would like to express their gratitude and deepest appreciation to the Staff of the Intensive Care Unit at Southeast Baptist Hospital for the care provided to Mr. Thornton.

*In All Thy Ways Acknowledge Him,  
And He Shall Direct Thy Paths.  
Proverbs 3:6*

Mr. Thomas "Preacher" Thornton was born December 10, 1924 in Fairfield, Texas to Charlie and Mary Thornton.

He was united in marriage to Mrs. Mattie Thornton on May 4, 1955 in Seguin, Texas. She preceded him in death. No children were born to this union. He was also preceded in death by four sisters and two brothers.

Bro. Thornton became a member of New Light by Christian Experience on February 24, 1957. He was a quiet, unassuming and humble Christian who was faithful to his church. Bro. Thornton was also a member of the Blue Bonnet Lodge # 192.

He passed from this life on February 24, 1997 leaving to mourn his passing: a stepson - Leroy Joshua and wife Betty; one sister - Katie Mae Dickens (Quanah, Texas); a brother - Charlie Thornton (Fairfield, Texas); three grandchildren; seven great-grandchildren, nieces, nephews, other relatives and many friends.

*File*

## *In Loving Memory of Bro. Thomas "Preacher" Thornton*



*Saturday, March 1, 1997  
10 O'Clock in the Morning*

*New Light Baptist Church  
607 Piedmont Avenue  
San Antonio, Texas*

*Dr. J. S. Smith, Pastor  
Officiating*

## Order of Service

Processional  
Organ Medley

Scripture                      *Rev. Ralph Ross*  
Prayer                         *Rev. James McNeil*

Congregational Song

Resolution     *New Light Baptist Church*  
                         *Sis. Willie M. McVea*

Remarks                      *(Limit 2 minutes please)*

Solo                              *"Amazing Grace"*  
                                     *Bro. Darryl Collins*

Eulogy                         *Pastor Smith*

Recessional

### Acknowledgement

*The family of the late Thomas "Preacher" Thornton wishes to acknowledge with sincere gratitude and appreciation the many acts of kindness, expressions of sympathy, cards and visits, florals and prayers during the loss of our loved one. We appreciate your attendance at this service and shall always cherish the memory of your kindness.*

### Active Pallbearers

*Bob Moody*  
*Sherman Henson*  
*Tommie McVea*  
*Norris L. McVea*  
*Walter Wagner*  
*Bartel Zachry*

### Honorary Pallbearers

*Charles Jackson*  
*Andre' Underwood*  
*Joe Williams*

*Interment*  
*Mission Valley Cemetery*  
*Victoria, Texas*

*Arrangements*  
*The Lewis Funeral Home*



*I have fought a good fight*  
*I have finished my course*  
*I have kept Faith.*

*II Timothy 4:7*