February 2012 – In Memoriam

Jo Betty Aldy Cawthon ’61, of Sallis, on January 20.

Patricia K. Montesi ’72, of Boyle, on January 20.

Louise Tilghmon ’64, of Greenwood, on January 21.

William Allen Pepper, Jr. (friend), of Cleveland, on January 24.

- U.S. District Judge W. Allen Pepper Jr. of Cleveland died Tuesday, January 24, 2012. Services will be under the direction of Ray Funeral Home. The visitation will be held in the fellowship hall of the First Baptist Church in Cleveland on Saturday, January 28, 2012, from noon until 2 p.m. A celebration of life service will be held next door at the First United Methodist Church in Cleveland, the Pepper’s family church, at 2:30 p.m. Pepper was born in Greenwood in 1941 and graduated from Belzoni High in 1959. He made his home in Cleveland with his wife Virginia “Ginger” Brown, whom he married in 1967, and their son William “Will” Allen III. He took the oath of office as a district judge for the Northern District of Mississippi on July 21, 1999, having received the nomination on March 8. A graduate of The University of Mississippi, he was a member of the Sigma Nu Fraternity and received a bachelor of arts degree in 1963. Pepper served for two years as an officer with the 101st Airborne Division of the U.S. Army. Pepper received his Juris Doctor degree from The University of Mississippi School of Law in 1968 and maintained a solo law practice for 30 years prior to his appointment to the bench. The pallbearers for Judge Pepper will be the men and women who spent their lives protecting his life: his Federal Court Security. They include (in no particular order): Tommy Williams, Will Jacobs, Hazel Provis, Ricky Spratlin, Melvin Steadman, Charlie Murrah, Wayne Allen, US Marshall Hugh McClendon, US Marshall Dwight Smith and R. D. Williams. Honorary pallbearers include (in no particular order): Butch Caston, Kent Wyatt, Bill Hardin, Mike Sanders, Bob Reagan, Robert Kestler, Ed Kossman, Ned Mitchell, Bill Marchant, Joe Glenn Peeler, Butler Denton, Bob Wilbanks, Charles Fioranelli, Homer Sledge, Guy Hovis, Galen Roberts, Billy Nowell, Nott Wheeler Jr., Jack Keen, Trent Lott, Bud Whetstone, Carlisle Meek, Beau Gregory, Jimmy Heidel, Jim Steen, Stacy Davidson, Jr., Harry Flowers, Parker Howard, Rod Brasfield, Eckward McKnight, Steven Clark and Bennie Wright. He was preceded in death by his parents, Elizabeth Love Pepper and William Allen Pepper. He is survived by his wife of 44 years Virginia Brown Pepper; son William Allen Pepper III; daughter-in-law Samantha Minga Pepper; and his sister Louanne Pepper Cossar and her husband George Payne Cossar Jr. He is also survived by Louanne and George’s children: George Cossar III, Pepper Cossar and Anne Love Cossar Perry; their respective spouses: Betty Cossar, Angela Cossar and Joe Perry; and their children: Mary Chandler Cossar, Chip Cossar, Eliza Cossar, Pepper Cossar Jr., Jessica Hartzog, Colton Musgrove, Anna Lee Cossar, Joseph Perry Jr., Elizabeth Perry and Kristen Louanne Cossar. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the following: the First United Methodist Church of Cleveland, Delta State University, The University of Mississippi, and the charitable organization of your choice"