

A Service of Celebration
for the life and new life of
Clarence Edward Greene

June 29, 1929 - March 4, 2005

*“Well done, thou good and faithful servant.”
Matthew 25: 21*





In memory of
Clarence E. Greene
1929-2005

Memorial Service
held March 9, 2005
First United Methodist Church
Lakeland, Florida

My name is **Cristy Greene** and Clarence Greene is my grandfather.

John 13, verses 12 through 17

When he had finished washing their feet, he put on his clothes and returned to his place. "Do you understand what I have done for you?", he asked them. "You call me 'Teacher' and 'Lord', and rightly so, for that is what I am. Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you. I tell you the truth, no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sends him. Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them.

My name is **Joan Leichner**, and Clarence Greene is my uncle.

Mark 10, verse 42 through 45

Jesus called them together and said, "You know that those who are regarded as rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be slave of all. For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

Our names are **Ellen, Joan, Rose** and **Nancy**, and Clarence Greene is our uncle.

Clarence is the baby brother of our mother, Margaret Brank, known to Clarence as "Sister". When their mother died he was only 12 year old. By then, our mother was married and had two children; she became a surrogate mother to Clarence.

During the summers he lived with us, making him a brother in a house full of girls. From that time on he took his role a big brother and uncle very seriously, coming to all the graduations, weddings and reunions, when he was able and was in the country.

We all have treasured mementos sent to us from when he was in the service in Okinawa and while living in Guatemala.

Clarence, Phyllis, Dick and Jo Ellen have always been special to us and we count it a blessing they are a part of our family.

We love our uncle Clarence and he will be missed.

My name is **Page Shrum**, and Clarence Greene is my friend.

Philippians 2, verses 5 through 11

Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus:

Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness, and being in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death – even death on a cross! Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Mi nombre es **Victoria de Angulo**, y Clarence Greene es mi consuegro y amigo en Cristo.

Filipenses 2, versículos 5 al 11

Haya, pues, en vosotros este sentir, que hubo también en Cristo Jesús, el cual, siendo en forma de Dios, no estimó el ser igual a Dios como cosa a que aferrarse, sino que se despojó a sí mismo, tomando forma de siervo, hecho semejante a los hombres; y estando en la condición de hombre, se humilló a sí mismo, haciéndose obediente hasta la muerte, y muerte de cruz. Por lo cual Dios también le exaltó hasta lo sumo, y le dió un nombre que es sobre todo nombre, para que en el nombre de Jesús se doble toda rodilla de los que están en los cielos, y en la tierra, y debajo de la tierra; y toda lengua confiese que Jesucristo es el Señor, para gloria de Dios Padre.

My name is **John Harris**, and Clarence Greene is my friend. We are here today as friends of Clarence (known to some of us as the Red Baron) to say good-bye.

I had the privilege of working with Clarence when both of us were with Blue Bird Body Company. During this time I watched his children grow into a fine young man and a beautiful daughter.

Clarence is a devoted Christian and a strong believer in family – as you know when you look around and see how he has developed a business including all of his family.

When our time comes I'm sure that Clarence will be at the pearly gates to welcome us.

Clarence has gone to his resting place in heaven, and as I know his trust and faith in the Lord, He will have prepared a place for him.

Clarence we will miss you. We are here to honor you today.

My name is **Jo Greene**, and Clarence Greene is my father. All of you who have traveled with my dad know that he felt that the best notes were taken on a cocktail napkin. Following in this tradition I have taken the liberty to prepare my words today on this paper napkin.

My dad is the greatest guy in the whole world. I'm truly honored that he's my dad.

All of you know how he loved his family and friends – after all, isn't that the way God intended it to be? I hope that you realize how he appreciated the love and respect he received in return.

It is a true statement that the measure of a man is not in how he dies, but in how he lived his life. And what an exciting life! I've always wondered if my mom knew what she was in for when she married Dad. From Barnesville to Macon to Caracas to Guatemala. Guatemala? Sure, let's go. And finally, to Lakeland.

*My father
An arm to lean on
Support to stand on
Wisdom to depend on
Love to rely on*

A good example for us all.

My name is **Dick Greene**, and I'm proud to say Clarence Greene is my father.

On behalf of my mother, my sister, my wife and children, I thank you for participating in this celebration of my father's presence among us. We are grateful to those who have come from near and far, for those who knew him and and just knew of him, for those who are here supporting us in this time of loss and need – to all we say "thank you".

We are honored to have so many flowers at this ceremony. I've read that flowers were not normally part of a funeral or a celebration until after the resurrection of Christ. They are a fitting tribute.

I stand before you to give witness and testimony to **Clarence Edward Greene**, son of Melvin and Rose Ann; husband of Phyllis; brother of Margaret and Melvin; uncle to Ellen, Joan, Nancy and Rose, to Don, Rose Ann, Dan and David, to Mark, Laura and Stanley, to Jay and Vanessa; grandfather of Cristy, Kyle, Katie and Christopher; father to Dick and Jo, and friend to thousands in this country and across the globe. I testify to all who can hear of Clarence Greene, a true servant and lover of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Most of you know Clarence to be a man of consistency: consistent in his wisdom, his humor, his kindness – a true straight-line individual never wavering in his style or delivery. In reality, my dad is a man of extremes.

He is an extremely good husband. He loves my mother with unrivaled passion, patience, faithfulness and dedication, and has so for 51 years.

He is an exceptional worker. As a boss, a peer and an employee he sets the pace for all to see and follow.

He is a truly great employer. Not only as my boss and Jo's boss, but over the years he has directly and indirectly been responsible for the gainful employment of hundreds, both in this country and others. And not just a job, but honorable, fulfilling and rewarding work.

He is the consummate leader and role model. He doesn't demand and insist that you do things his way - he simply leads by example, logic and common sense.

You want to learn of politeness and courtesy? Look to my dad. Never one to flaunt or boast, he treats all with dignity and respect regardless of their relationship, condition or station in life. In a world devoid of kindness and full of self-promotion, I can boldly proclaim his exceptional difference. He needs to prove nothing – his presence and demeanor tell you all you would ever need to know.

My dad is a great father, not just to Jo and I, but to all those who need someone to emulate, from whom to seek guidance and comfort, and from whom wisdom and counsel needs to be drawn.

Above all, Clarence is here among us to serve. Scripture tells us we all have a specific task in God's kingdom, and I believe with all my heart that Dad's calling was to be a servant. All of you here who have spent even a few minutes with him, think. Think of your conversations with him, of his words, of his actions. Can't you just hear him say "how can I help?", "how can I serve?", "how can we together improve this person's situation?", "how can I satisfy this customer"?, or to himself, "how can I please my wife?"

It has been said that many men look good from far away, but of few it's said that they look as good close up as far away. Dad looks great at any angle.

Even at 50 years of age I continue to seek counsel from my father. I am privileged to have spent the last 13 years living and working side by side with him, and on countless occasions I've asked his advice on how to proceed with matters both professional and private. Recently, however, more and more his response to my request has been "do what you think is best". Initially I believed

that response to be evasive, but I've come to realize he's telling me to use my instincts and his example, and that the answer is already within me – “do what's right and best for others, as Christ would have you do”.

I thank Dad for putting that in me.

You may notice we're making every attempt at this service of celebration to refer to Clarence in the present tense. While he may no longer be physically among us, he remains present in our hearts, our minds and in our actions and deeds.

As for me, I hereby commit to continue Clarence's work here on earth. I cannot begin to fill his shoes, but I will proudly stand in them. I announce to all who can hear my voice that Clarence Greene is still here – in me, and I will see to it that his servant's spirit continues through the generations that follow me. I hope and pray that in some small measure I can touch and affect people's lives as he has. And when I grow up, I want to be like just like my dad. He's told me that he's proud to be known as “Dick Greene's father”. No Dad, I'm more proud to be called “Clarence Greene's son”.

Revelation 5 says, “Then I heard a voice from heaven say, ‘Write: Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on’. ‘Yes’, says the Spirit, ‘they will rest from their labor, for their deeds will follow them.’”

Clarence Greene loves the Lord. He loves this church and those who lead it. He is especially inspired by this organ and the way Matthew Corl plays it.

So Matthew, play. Play loud and play strong. Play so he can hear you, and play in the knowledge that Clarence continues serving us and serving his creator, and that Jesus has welcomed him home, stretching his arm around him and saying, “WELL DONE, THOU GOOD AND FAITHFUL SERVANT!”



En memoria de
Clarence E. Greene
1929-2005

Servicio de Celebración
9 de marzo, 2005
First United Methodist Church
Lakeland, Florida

Soy **Dick Greene** y me siento orgulloso de reconocer que Clarence Greene es mi padre.

En nombre de mi madre, mi hermana, mi esposa e hijos, quiero agradecer su presencia a esta celebración de la presencia de mi padre entre nosotros. Estamos agradecidos con quienes han llegado de lejos y de cerca; con aquellos que lo conocen y los que conocen acerca de él; con aquellos que se encuentran aquí, apoyándonos en este tiempo de pérdida y de necesidad - a todos y cada uno de ustedes - les extendemos nuestra gratitud.

Nos sentimos honrados con tantas flores adornando esta ceremonia. He leído, en alguna parte, que las flores no formaban parte de los funerales sino hasta después de la resurrección de Cristo Jesús. Estas son un tributo muy apropiado.

Me presento ante ustedes para dar testimonio de Clarence Edward Greene, hijo de Melvin y Rose Ann; esposo de Phyllis; hermano de Margaret y Melvin; tío de Ellen, Joan, Nancy y Rose, de Don, Rose Ann, Dan y David, de Mark, Laura y Stanley, de Jay y Vanessa; abuelo de Cristy, Kyle, Katie y Christopher; padre de Dick y Jo; amigo de miles en este país y alrededor del mundo. Testifico a todos los que me puedan oír que Clarence Greene es verdadero servidor y amante de Jesucristo, nuestro Señor.

Muchos de ustedes conocen a Clarence como un hombre constante: constante en su sabiduría, su humor, su bondad - un individuo que no varía en su estilo o su forma de ser. En realidad, mi padre es un hombre de extremos.

Es un esposo extremadamente bueno. Ama a mi madre con pasión sin rival, con paciencia, lealtad y dedicación, y ¡lo ha hecho por 51 años!

Es un trabajador excepcional. Como jefe, compañero y empleado, él marca el paso para que todos observen y sigan.

Es un patrón sin igual: No solo como mi jefe y el de Jo, sino a través de los años, directa e indirectamente, cientos de personas han sido favorecidas con buenos y fructuosos trabajos a raíz de sus esfuerzos, tanto en este país como en otros. Y no solamente un simple trabajo, sino labor honroso, satisfactorio y gratificante.

Es un líder ejemplar. No exige ni insiste en que se haga lo que él hace, sino que sencillamente, guía por medio de su ejemplo, razonamiento, lógica y sentido común.

¿Quiere saber de modales y cortesía? Mire hacia mi padre. No está en él ser arrogante ni jactancioso. El trata a todos con dignidad y respeto, sin importar relación, condición o situación de vida. En un mundo desprovisto de bondad y lleno de egoísmo, proclamo con certeza su diferencia excepcional. El no necesita probar nada: demuestra lo que es; su presencia y su conducta dicen todo lo que uno necesita saber.

Mi padre es un padre fantástico, no solo para mi hermana y para mí, sino para todos los que necesitan de alguien a quien emular o a quien acudir para consejo, consuelo y sabiduría.

Ante todo, Clarence está entre nosotros para servir. La palabra de Dios dice que todos tenemos una misión en el Reino del Señor. Y yo creo de todo corazón que el llamamiento de mi padre es el de ser un servidor. Los aquí presentes que pasaron aún solo unos cuantos minutos con él, les pido que piensen. Reflexionen en sus conversaciones con él, en lo que él decía, en sus acciones. Pueden oírle decir ... "¿Cómo te puedo ayudar? ¿Cómo te puedo servir? ¿Cómo puedo satisfacer a este cliente?" o preguntarse a sí mismo, "¿Cómo puedo complacer a mi esposa?"

Se ha dicho que muchos hombres se ven muy bien desde lejos, pero de pocos se puede decir que se ven tan bien de cerca como de lejos. Mi padre se ve bien desde cualquier ángulo.

Aún a mis 50 años de edad sigo acudiendo a mi padre por consejo. He gozado del privilegio de pasar los últimos 13 años viviendo y trabajando a su lado, y en innumerables ocasiones le he pedido ayuda acerca de cómo proceder tanto en lo personal como en lo profesional. Ultimamente su respuesta ha sido cada vez mas y mas: "Haz lo que pienses que sea lo mejor." Inicialmente la consideré como una respuesta evasiva, pero me he llegado a dar cuenta que lo que me ha estado diciendo es que use mis instintos y su ejemplo; que la respuesta se encuentra ya dentro de mí: "Haz lo correcto, lo que sea mejor para los demás; como Cristo te lo pide."

Le doy gracias a mi padre por haber inculcado esto en mí.

Puede que hayan notado que hemos hecho todos los esfuerzos para hablar de mi padre en tiempo presente. Aunque él no está físicamente con nosotros, sigue presente en nuestros corazones, nuestras mentes, nuestras acciones y nuestros hechos.

Por mi parte, me comprometo a continuar el trabajo de Clarence en este mundo. Será imposible llenar el molde que él dejó, pero con gusto seguiré sus huellas y me colocaré en ellas.

Anuncio a todos aquellos que oyen mis palabras que Clarence Greene está presente - en mí. Y veré que su espíritu de servicio continúe en las generaciones que me siguen. Espero y confío que en alguna medida, aunque sea pequeña, pueda tocar e influenciar las vidas de las personas en la misma manera en que él lo ha hecho.

Y cuando crezca, quiero ser igual a mi papá. El me ha expresado que está orgulloso de ser conocido como "el papá de Dick Greene." No papá. Estoy más orgulloso yo de ser llamado "el hijo de Clarence Greene."

Apocalipsis 14:13 dice: "Y oí una gran voz desde el cielo que me decía: Escribe. Bienaventurados de aquí en adelante los muertos que mueren en el Señor. "Sí" dice el Espíritu, descansarán de sus trabajos, porque sus obras con ellos siguen."

Clarence Greene ama a Jesús; ama a esta congregación y a aquellos quienes la guían. Está especialmente inspirado por este órgano y por la forma en que Mathew Corl lo toca.

Así que ... ¡Toca Mathew! Toca duro y fuerte. ¡Toca para que él pueda oírte!
Toca sabiendo que Clarence continúa sirviendo a su Creador. Y que Jesús lo ha recibido en Su casa, extendiendo Su brazo sobre él y proclamando: "¡BIEN.
BUEN SIERVO Y FIEL!

Clarence Greene, 75, Florida Tile

By **MATTHEW PLEASANT**

The Ledger

LAKELAND — Mr. Clarence Edward Greene's charismatic personality allowed him to have an international sales career.

Mr. Greene died of cardiac arrest Friday (March 4, 2005) at Lakeland Regional Medical Center. He was 75.

"It was very easy for people to look up to him as a wise person," his son, Dick Greene of Lakeland, said. "He could sell anything to anybody."

Recognizing his sales talent, one of the first companies Mr. Greene worked for offered him a



job in Venezuela. At 32, he packed his family up and moved to South America. Four years later, he would move to Guatemala to help organize a factory for Blue Bird Body Co., a school bus manufacturer.

"There was no plan to live in Lakeland," his son said, but after making a contact with Jimmy Sikes, owner of Sikes Tile, Mr. Greene retired from Blue Bird Body Co. as vice president. He moved to Lakeland in 1980 and became an export manager for Sikes Tile, later known as Florida Tile.

With the business relations he had from Florida Tile, Mr. Greene opened Florida Trading Corp. with his wife in 1982. The prospering company still operates today. In the early 1990s, Dick Greene, formerly of Miami, and Mr. Greene's daughter, Jo Ellen Greene, formerly of Boston, left their respective cities to work with their father.

"People were transfixed by him," his son remembered. He said his father was a fixture in the business community who was looked to for sage advice.



Clarence Greene could sell anybody anything, his son said.

"He was a guy they went to when they needed advice or a partner in a venture."

Mr. Greene never officially retired and was scheduled for a business trip to South America this week.

"He was more active than me. He always said 'The day I retire is the day I die'," his son remembered. "Truer words were never spoken."

He was a veteran of the U.S. Army, serving in the Korean War. He was a member of Lone Palm Golf Club and Grasslands. He was a member of First United Methodist Church, Lakeland.

Mr. Greene is survived by his wife, Phyllis J. Greene; son, Dick Greene, Lakeland; daughter, Jo Ellen Greene, Lakeland; sister, Margaret Brand, Commerce, Ga.; four grandchildren.

Services will be at 10 a.m. Wednesday at First United Methodist Church, Lakeland.

Memorials may be made to Lighthouse Ministries, 117 E. Magnolia St., Lakeland, FL 33801.

Heath Funeral Chapel, Lakeland.