Obituaries, June 24, 2004

PONTOTOC - John Milton Tidwell, 57, died Wednesday, June 23, 2004, at his home after a long illness. He grew up in the Furrs community and attended schools in Pontotoc. He served in the U.S. Navy from 1965-1969. In 1967 he served on the USS Annapolis, which was attached to the 7th Fleet and served as the major communications relay ship for Naval forces off the coast of Vietnam. He earned the Vietnam Service Medal and the Vietnam Campaign Ribbon. He earned the position of being in charge of the captain's boat and was coxswain for the captain while in port. He was an employee of Smith Freight Lines in Tupelo for many years and was presently employed by Yellow Freight Inc. in Memphis. He was a member of Local No. 667. He was a member of the Furrs Baptist Church and a member of the Tupelo Water Ski Club for many years. He loved people and did whatever he could to help anyone he could, always thinking of others before himself.

Services will be at 2 p.m. Friday at Furrs Baptist Church with Bro. Joe Herndon and Bro. Dempsey Rowland officiating. Burial will be in New Zion Cemetery on Sims Gin Road. Tutor Memorial Funeral Home of Pontotoc is in charge of the arrangements.

Survivors include his wife, Joanne Baldwin Tidwell; a daughter, Sara Jean Tidwell; two stepsons, Brad Beaty of Nashville, Tenn., and Josh Williams; a brother, Jimmy Tidwell; three sisters, Dorothy Barrett, Rebecca Jaggers and Betty Frederick, all of Pontotoc.

He was preceded in death by his father, Milton Tidwell; his mother, Dorothy Smith Tidwell; and a brother, James Norris Tidwell.

Pallbearers will be James Parmer, David Pennington, Andy Chapman, Eddie Baker, Mike Westmoreland and Don Moroney. Honorary pallbearers will be his fellow workers at Yellow Freight in Memphis.

Visitation will be from 5 to 9 p.m. today at Tutor Memorial Funeral Home and from 1 p.m. to service time Friday at Furrs Baptist Church.

Memorials may be made to the Furrs Youth Program, Furrs Baptist Church or St. Jude Cancer Society.