

*Remarks for the
Funeral of Mayor Eric Holmes
March 16, 2002*

The tragedy of a young man taken from us in the prime of life is difficult for us to comprehend. But, we must remember that while we mourn the loss of a friend, a son, a mayor – there are others rejoicing to meet him on the other side.

I saw a headline in a newspaper about Mayor Eric Holmes – it said “Mayor Holmes made a difference.”

Perhaps there is nothing greater we can say about this young man who left us much too soon. In the lives of his family, in the lives of his friends, in the lives of the people of Shelby – Eric Holmes made a difference.

Mrs. Hemphill, you taught your son well. The lessons he learned from you were applied in his work to help others.

Eric and Erica, your father was a great man. He worked hard to improve the lives of the people of this town, and they loved him for that. Strive to do the same in your lives.

Mayor Eric Holmes was a fighter. He fought for a better quality of life in the Mississippi Delta. He fought for what was right. He fought his illness with the strength of a hundred men.

In the end, that was the only fight he would lose – and now he's in a better place, a place without pain.

In the seventh chapter of Revelation, we read of those who enjoy the beauty, the peace of heaven.

The text reads, “They will hunger no more, and thirst no more; the sun will not strike them, nor any scorching heat; for the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd, and he will guide them to springs of the water of life, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.”

Eric Holmes suffers no more. And while we mourn our loss, we know he is at peace and we celebrate the way he lived his life.

God bless Eric Holmes, and God bless us all.