

## Robert L. Pickering Jr.

Robert L. Pickering Jr., 73, of Franklin, ascended to be with God on Monday, July 14, 2008, after being in declining health for several years.

Everyone who knew him felt his love and compassion. He was always smiling and was extremely outgoing toward everyone he knew. A high school teacher by profession, he was also a high school guidance counselor at the Fort Myers High School in Florida for more than 25 years, helping seniors as they prepared for their own future. For a number of years, he was selected as the "Teacher of the Year" at his school and the high school yearbook was dedicated to him on numerous occasions. When the high school faculty first became integrated and a solitary African-American teacher was assigned to school, it was Bob Pickering who went forth to warmly welcome her. He was always a believer in racial and religious equality for all people everywhere. Later, his staunch belief in the teachings of the Baha'i faith, which upholds the oneness of God and the universality of humankind, became the central focal point of his life.



During the last decade of his life, when he truly needed the help and loving support of a fulltime caregiver, his lifelong friend and former business partner Derold Hendry of Franklin, stepped in to provide that assistance.

He is survived by two sisters, Sally J. Dudley of Franklin and Sandra Woodford of Tarpon Springs, Fla.

A celebration of life program will be held on Saturday, Aug. 2, at the Pine Hill Park Clubhouse. For more details, call 371-0036.

Condolences to his family and friends may be sent to [classicimages99@aol.com](mailto:classicimages99@aol.com).

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