In March 2010, Mr. Vernon Freeman, one of the River Valley's most prominent citizens, passed away. Humphrey Funeral Service was honored to be able to serve this family at such an important time.

Just to give you a little history about Mr. Freeman: He was born September 20, 1933 near Indian Creek in Treat, Arkansas and was raised in the Arkansas River Valley area. Vernon Freeman began his working career over sixty years ago, at the young age of 16, at Bibler Lumber Company in Russellville. At the time Vernon began working, it was a very small lumber mill. Today it is a large corporation known throughout all of Arkansas. Mr. Freeman played an important part in the growth and success of this company; and the company played an even larger part in the growth of the River Valley area.

This got Jim Bob to thinking. How can we honor Mr. Freeman's legacy with his funeral service and make this a special event for his family and the community? He decided to go down to the lumber mill and get an idea of the work that Mr. Freeman had done all of his life. That experience inspired a great idea.

We had the lumber mill cut two very large pine logs of the same height so that we could use them for a casket bier. A tray was built to not only protect the carpet from pine sap, but to also serve as a container for pine mulch from the mill. This was set in the chapel, and then the casket sitting on the pine logs was set on top of it. Mr. Freeman was dressed in his flannel shirt and jeans with his "Bibler Lumber Company" cap in his hands. The casket was a beautiful Pine wood with a head panel with an embroidered pine bough.

Surrounded by floral arrangements of woodland flowers, he looked completely at peace for his visitation service. The setting was unique and completely personal. Additionally, the next morning, we loaded everything into the vans, pine logs, tray, mulch, and all the flowers, so that we could have the same setting at the funeral service. The family was comforted and pleased with the honor and dignity shown to their loved one through the entire funeral service.