

Florida Baptist Historical Society Biography Collection

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Sansom, Charles B, Jr. (1952-2018) was born in Pensacola, Florida the son of Charles B, Sr. and Joann Sansom. He served as pastor of Ocean City Baptist Church, Fort Walton Beach. Sansom and his wife, Lynne Sansom had nine children.

CHARLES B. SANSOM JR.

■ **Professional:** pastor for the past four years at Ocean City Baptist Church, Fort Walton Beach, a congregation of 350 members; general building contractor in the area before that.

■ **Personal:** 37 years old; married to Lynne Sansom. They have eight children. Raised in Fort Walton.

■ **Education:** graduate of Grove Hill High School, Grove Hill, Ala.; attended Samford University, Birmingham, Ala.

■ **Interests:** A longtime friend says: "He felt called to preach a long time ago, as a teen-ager."

Charles Sansom Obituary

Born May 17, 1952 to Charles and Joann Sansom Sr. in Pensacola, FL went to be with our Lord September 8, 2018

His homegoing was preceded by Mother Joann Sansom and Son-in-law Jeff Shaffer. He is survived by his wife of 44 years Lynne Sansom, nine children Jonathan Sansom, Rachel Portuguese Sansom (husband Tony), Kristen Yates (husband Jeff), Rebecca White (husband Adam), Sarah Hock (husband Kyle), Joanna Beatty (husband Bobby), Jared Sansom (wife Amanda), Erin Shaffer, Abigail Sansom. The crowns of his life 38 grandchildren and 2 great grandchildren. Also survived by his father Charles Sansom Sr., 3 brothers Jerry Sansom (wife Brenda), Randy Sansom (wife Loretta), Ray Sansom (wife Tricia), 1 sister Deborah Richards (husband Chuck), and many nieces and nephews.

He will forever be remembered for his love of the word of God and his longing for the presence of his Savior Jesus Christ whom he now embraces.

Invocation irks lawmakers

By Bill Cotterell
Democrat Capitol bureau

A Panhandle minister's anti-abortion prayer stirred a controversy Thursday among some Florida House members, who termed it an inappropriate "sermon" rather than an invocation.

The Rev. Charles Sansom Jr., pastor of Ocean City Baptist Church in Fort Walton Beach, said he had no regrets for his morning remarks as the House session began. One member, Rep. Susan Guber of Miami, stood on the floor and formally objected to the minister's statements, and some other lawmakers said outside the chamber they consid-

“May our great state of Florida and this legislative body raise the standard of our nation — that the murder of unborn babies will no longer have the endorsement of civil law.”
— the Rev. Charles Sansom Jr.

ered Sansom's remarks inappropriate. Guber said she and other Jewish members were offended by Sansom's reference to Jesus Christ in concluding

his invocation.

Sansom, who was invited to the House by Rep. Bo Johnson of Milton, said he was surprised that some legislators were offended. He said, however, his moral objection to abortion compelled him to say what he said.

"Deliver us, oh God, of the violence that has been turned against the innocent unborn," Sansom intoned from the speaker's rostrum. "Forgive us of this national sin of abortion. Restore peace and safety to the womb for the unborn's sake. May our great state of Florida and this legislative body raise the standard

Please see PRAYER, 5B

Prayer

From 4B

of our nation — that the murder of unborn babies will no longer have the endorsement of civil law."

Guber called Sansom's plea "a sermon, not a prayer" and told Speaker Tom Gustafson, D-Fort Lauderdale, it was inappropriate for a governmental body. Outside the chamber, Guber said visiting clergy of all faiths should keep their invocations ecumenical.

Guber said invoking Christ's name "was very offensive to me."

Rep. Lois Frankel, D-West



Guber

with what he said," said Frankel.

Rep. Lars Haffner, D-St. Petersburg, said legislators do not

Palm Beach, said she spoke with Johnson afterward "and he was very taken aback, he was very apologetic" for his guest's abortion remarks.

"I believe in freedom of speech, I just don't agree with what he said," said Frankel.

expect to be lectured on major political issues during morning devotionals. Haffner, whose father gave the invocation a few weeks ago, said "It's a very unfortunate circumstance that a minister would use this opportunity to address the Legislature.

"It's just not the right forum," he said. "It's just kind of appalling that this occurred."

Sansom expressed surprise that his remarks stirred such a reaction.

"It's not a political issue to me," said Sansom. "It's a moral issue. ... I thought it was absolutely proper."