

OBITUARIES

Benjamin Gay

Benjamin "Ben" Earl Gay, 84, of Savannah, Ga., husband of Mildred "Millie" Lamm Gay, died Thursday morning, Jan. 28, 2010, at his home under the care of Hospice Savannah.

Born in Wilson, he was a son of the late John Franklin Gay and the late Aline Baltziger Gay. Mr. Gay was a member of Bull Street Baptist Church. He was a United States Army veteran having served in World War II. During his military service, Mr. Gay was a forward observer with the 761st Field Artillery Battalion in the European Theater and with the Office of Strategic Services (now the CIA). For his service he was awarded two Battle Stars. Mr. Bell was a 1949 graduate of N.C. State with a bachelor's degree in civil engineering.

Mr. Gay moved to Savannah in 1951 to work with the engineering department with Union Camp Corporation. He was later employed with a local engineering firm until 1958, when he co-founded the firm now known as Hussey, Gay, Bell & DeYoung. The firm has enjoyed a continuous listing in the Engineering News Record's publication of the Top 500 Design Firms in the nation. Mr. Gay stepped aside from all management responsibilities in April 1992 and until the time of his death, worked as a consultant for the firm. He was a registered engineer in Georgia and North Carolina and a registered surveyor in Georgia. Mr. Gay later formed and served as CEO of Coastal Telecom, Inc.

The Mayor and Aldermen of the Town of Thunderbolt proclaimed Dec. 14, 2005, as "Benjamin Earl Gay Day" in the Town of Thunderbolt.

Mr. Gay was a member, former member of the Board of Directors, and served two terms (1992 and 1993) as president of the Better Business Bureau of the Coastal Empire. In 2006, he was elected chairman emeritus of the BBB Southeast Atlantic, Inc. He was a former member of several professional and civic organizations, having served as an officer in many, including the N.C. State Alumni Association, Savannah Jaycees, the American Society of Civil Engineers, the Savannah Home Builders Association, Georgia Water Pollution Control and the Georgia Soil and Water Conservation Commission.

Mr. Gay was a member of the business chapter of the John Birch Society and the Connecting Business Men to Christ (CBMC).

Surviving are his wife of 65 years, Mildred "Millie" Lamm Gay of Savannah, Ga.; and three daughters, Carole Gay of Savannah, Ga., Charlotte Hinely and her husband, Michael, of Richmond Hill, Ga., and Dodie L. Gay of Tybee Island, Ga.

The funeral service will be held at 2 p.m. Saturday afternoon in Bull Street Baptist Church conducted by the Rev. R. Calvin Fowler III, the Rev. Earnie T. Pirkle and the Rev. William E. Gardner. Interment will be private.

The family will receive friends at the church after the service.

Remembrances: Hospice Savannah, P.O. Box 13190, Savannah, GA 31416-0190 or Bull Street Baptist Church, 17 E. Anderson St., Savannah, GA 31401.

Gamble Funeral Service, 410 Stephenson Ave., Savannah, Ga., is in charge of the arrangements.

Please share your thoughts about Mr. Gay and his life at www.gamblefuneralservice.com.