

In Loving Memory of Paul Ford Davis

Paul Ford Davis, 92, of Bowling Green, Kentucky died peacefully in his sleep at the Stones River Manor in Murfreesboro, Tennessee on August 26, 2015, after a lingering battle with cancer.

He is survived by his wife of 59 years, Martina Campbell Davis; his brother-in-law, Dr. Martin Joseph Campbell; his three children Laura Ellen Bagg, Mariana Davis Eddy and Joseph Stark Davis; 10 grandchildren: Davis Tyler Nickell, Jason Turner Nickell, Sean Martin Nickell, Martina Ann Smith, John Nelson Eddy, Todd Joseph Sawyer Eddy, Monica Jane Brown, Jessica Stark Davis, Amelia Grace Davis, and Audrey Nicole Davis, and one great-granddaughter, Mariana Ruth Smith. He is preceded in death by his father and mother, J Stark and Lucy Ellen Dowden Davis, and his sister Jayne Stark Davis Sale. Mr. Davis was born in Bowling Green on Jan 25, 1923. He graduated from Smiths Grove Consolidated School in Kentucky and received a bachelor's degree and later master's degree in High School Administration from the University of Kentucky in Lexington. He later earned his PhD in Higher Education Administration from Indiana University in Bloomington.

During World War II, Paul joined the U.S. Marine Corps. And was a bombardier and gunner on the Douglas SBD Dauntless dive bomber. After the war, Paul taught, coached and became assistant principal at Howe Valley School in Kentucky. He served as principal of Lynnvale Consolidated School from 1953 to 1960. On June 24, 1956, he married Martina Campbell of Bowling Green. In 1957 he was serving a term in the Kentucky State Legislature.

The family moved to Iowa, where Paul was Dean of the College of Liberal Arts at the University of Dubuque from 1962 to 1966.

Returning to Kentucky, he became Dean of Students and then Vice President for Academic Affairs at Morehead State University. Upon retirement from MSU, he served as the Director of Financial Development of the Cincinnati Metropolitan YMCA in Ohio. When he returned to Bowling Green, he volunteered to work as the Administrator for Foundation Christian Academy and went on to become a board member.

Described by his children as a Renaissance man, Mr. Davis enjoyed sports, sailing, brick masonry, painting and writing. A Christian father and husband, he was active in church, and served as an elder in the Church of Christ in Morehead, Kentucky. Most recently he was a member of the University Heights Church of Christ in Bowling Green. Paul was a 32nd degree Mason and active in the American Legion, working with the Kentucky Boys and Girls State programs.

The funeral service for Paul Ford Davis will be held on Saturday, August 29, at 1:00 p.m. at the University Heights Church of Christ, 1302 Park Street in Bowling Green. Bill Brummit will be officiating. Visitation will also be held at the church on Saturday from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Burial at Fairview Cemetery will immediately follow the service. Hardy and Sons Funeral Home is handling funeral arrangements.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that memorial contributions be given to the Smith Lausanne Mission, (a ministry in Switzerland through Justin and Martina Smith) by making a donation to the University Heights Church of Christ, P.O. Box 953, Bowling Green, KY 42102. Please earmark your gift " Smith Lausanne Mission."

Send Condolences