



Thompson Murray

June 15, 1926 - November 25, 2011

Thompson Bernard (Buddy) Murray, Jr., 85 of Wynne was surrounded by his loving family when he died in Little Rock at UAMS early Friday morning, November 25, 2011, of a perforated colon. He was preceded in death by his parents, Thompson Bernard Murray and Kathleen Hays Murray, his sister, Jane Murray Smith, and his beloved wife, Martha Williams Murray. Buddy was born in Wynne, AR on June 15, 1926 and that was the same year his father established Murray Chevrolet Co. After graduating from Western Military Academy in Alton, Illinois in 1944 Buddy enlisted in the Air Force and was awaiting flight training school when World War II ended. He attended the University of Arkansas and left without graduating but with “encouragement” from Martha he returned and graduated with a B.S. in Business in 1960. Buddy never wanted to do anything other than operate Murray Chevrolet Co., and he did it with great passion and expertise until his retirement in 1991. Buddy was also very engaged in the management of Wild Acres Farms. Buddy was a faithful member of First United Methodist Church of Wynne. He served in many capacities within the church, but he was a longstanding member of the Finance Committee and served as a delegate to Annual Conference for many years. He was a member of the Wynne Rotary Club for more than 60 years and a Paul Harris Fellow. Actively engaged in his community, Buddy served on the Wynne School Board, and helped guide the process of desegregation for the Wynne Public Schools. Buddy served on the Board of Trustees of the AR Methodist Children’s Home (currently Methodist

Family Health) and he volunteered with The Good Shepherd Center, a local food and clothing pantry. He was a past board member of The First National Bank of Wynne and Wynne Federal Savings and Loan Association. Buddy was active in the AR Automobile Association as a board member and for a term as the state president, and he served on the National ADA board as well. After a near fatal car accident that left his mother paralyzed in the 1950's Buddy became a crusader for the use of seat-belts, and he testified before a US Congressional committee in his effort to help pass national seat-belt laws. After his retirement, Buddy was able to focus his attention on collecting and restoring antique Chevrolet and Oldsmobile cars. He established an impressive collection of cars that spanned 7 decades. Buddy was active in national and local antique car clubs and he enjoyed traveling to show his treasures. Buddy grew to appreciate the game of golf and he was never known to not have a boat. Buddy is survived by his beloved children – Martha Jane Murray (Neil Munro) of Hot Springs, and Thompson Murray (Sharla Chalfant) of Little Rock. He leaves his precious grandchildren –Dr. Liza Murray (Joe Yoder) and Lucas Murray, and Sarah and Evan Munro. He leaves his sister-in-law, Helen Landes, of El Dorado and his brother-in-law, Jack Williams, of Little Rock. He had 8 nieces and nephews, numerous cousins, and an abundance of friends who were like family. His primary caregiver, Patsy Hogue, served him admirably and became like a family member. Buddy also leaves behind his best canine friend, Charlie. The burial service will be at Cogbill Cemetery in Wynne at 10 am on Monday, November 28, followed by a Memorial Service at 11 am at First United Methodist Church in Wynne with Rev. Glen Pettus officiating. Visitation will be held in Wynne at Kernodle Funeral Home on Sunday from 5-7 pm. Honorary pall bearers will be Buddy's faithful coffee group and other lifelong friends; Luther Sigman, Jack Killough, Joe Dugan, Jim Shaver, Gerald Stutts, LV Tate, Doyle Brown, Leroy Dangeau, Wallace Eldridge, Jim Luker, and Roy Hunter. In lieu of flowers, Buddy would want memorial gifts to be directed to First United Methodist Church of Wynne, P.O. Box 1007, 72396, The Martha Williams Murray Endowment Fund held by

the Arkansas Community Foundation (www.arcf.org) or a charity of your own choosing. Kernodle Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements, www.kernodlefh.com

Tribute Wall

JH

“ *Thompson Murray*

Jan Hess - November 30, 2011 at 09:06 AM

PN

“ *We were so sorry to learn of Mr. Murray's passing. He was a great leader in his community and a friend to us and so many others. God bless your family during this time.*

Paul and Pat Nichols - November 29, 2011 at 06:24 PM

RS

“ *Our deepest prayers go out to the Family. We are never ready to give them up. Buddy was a very good man.*

Rickey and Lisa Stutts - November 28, 2011 at 09:55 PM

PS

“ *Dear Martha Jane, I am so sorry about your dad. He was a fine man and you were blessed to have such wonderful parents. My heart is with you and your family today.*

Phyllis Searcy - November 28, 2011 at 07:51 PM

RS

“ *I was so sad to hear of Mr. Murray's passing. My thoughts and prayers are with you. With sympathy, Rachel*

Rachel Reagler Schulman - November 28, 2011 at 12:16 PM

BR

“ We are so sorry to hear of your recent loss. Our thoughts and prayers are with you.

Becky and Richard Rhodes - November 27, 2011 at 11:19 PM

MC

“ My sympathy to the Murray family. I've missed Martha for the last eight years and now will be missing Buddy. They were two of my best friends and I have great memories of them.

Martha Robertson Carvill - November 26, 2011 at 05:26 PM

GC

“ Please accept our condolences, we are so sorry we cannot be there for the services. Our thoughts are with Martha Jane, Thompson and your families.

Sincerely, Gwen and Keith

Gwen and Keith Canfield - November 26, 2011 at 12:45 PM

TF

“ Martha Jane and Thompson, we're sorry to hear about your loss - our thoughts are with you.

The Meriwether Family - November 25, 2011 at 09:36 PM

AS

“ Dear Martha Jane, Thompson, and all. I'm so sorry for your great loss. Buddy was an incredibly great man and we'll all miss him very much. I regret not slipping away, yesterday, for a visit - I'd planned on coming by today. Please know that you're all in our prayers. We'll see you tomorrow - please call us if there's anything we can do.
Love ya'll, Ann

Ann Dugan Spearman - November 25, 2011 at 08:32 PM

JS

“ So sorry about Buddy. What a asset he was to Wynne and the community. My best to Martha Jane, Thompson and the family. He will be truly missed and I have lost a good friend. Jim

Jim Shaver - November 25, 2011 at 03:16 PM