



William Ross Brown Jr.

September 12, 2015

Billy Ross Brown, Jr., 81, died Saturday, September 12, 2015, at Baptist Memorial Hospital in Oxford, MS.

Billy Ross was a sixth generation Oxford native, living his entire life in Oxford. His father was a cotton farmer, cattle rancher, and business owner and Billy Ross continued in the family businesses. He was devoted to his family, loved his community and dedicated his life to helping Mississippi farmers as well as many others. He became a member of the Board of Directors of the Oxford Production Credit Association in 1969, serving as its chairman from 1976 to 1985. He also served as a board member of the First South PCA in Jackson, MS.

Billy Ross was widely respected for his dedication to the Farm Credit System and for his tireless commitment to helping farmers. This led to his appointment by President George H. W. Bush in 1990 to the three-man Farm Credit Administration Board in Washington, DC. He was later designated Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of the FCA by President Clinton. Billy Ross also served as the first chairman of the Farm Credit System Insurance Corporation, making him the first Board member to serve in both capacities.

After he left Washington in 1994, he served again on the First South Board until his retirement in March, 2005. The First South Farm Credit Building on

Van Buren Avenue in Oxford was dedicated to him and named in his honor.

Billy Ross also had long been active in state and national agriculture and conservation organizations. He was area Vice President for the Mississippi Association of Conservation Districts for more than 20 years and a commissioner of the Lafayette County Soil and Water Conservation District for more than 30 years. He also served as Chairman of the Mississippi Soil and Water Conservation Commission and was a member of the U.S. Forest Service's National Advisory Committee.

In recognition of his work in conservation, forestry, wildlife and agriculture, Billy Ross received a number of national and state awards, including the Presidential Award from the Mississippi Association of Conservation Districts and the U.S. Forest Service 75th Anniversary Award for significant contributions to forestry and conservation. He was also selected as a member of the Hall of Fame by the Mississippi Agriculture and Forestry Museum.

Billy Ross served in both the U.S. Army and the Mississippi National Guard. While with the National Guard, he led a unit to facilitate the enrollment of James Meredith in the University of Mississippi.

Billy Ross graduated from the University of Mississippi in 1956 where he was a member of the Sigma Alpha Epsilon Fraternity. In his leisure time, Billy Ross enjoyed fishing, especially crappie fishing in Sardis Lake and watching the Rebels play.

Visitation for family and friends will be held from 12:00 noon - 2:00 p.m., on Tuesday, September 15th in the Parish Hall at St. Peter's Episcopal Church in Oxford. A private family memorial service will precede the visitation at Brown's Lake, with Rev. John-Michael Van Dyke officiating. Coleman Funeral Home is in charge of local arrangements.

Billy Ross is survived by his wife, Lynn Brown of Oxford, MS; one son, John (Stephanie) Brown of Jackson, MS; three daughters: Tricia Lee (Dan) Liberti, Ginny Brown and Maggie (Deck) Fair all of Oxford, MS; eight grandchildren: Diana Liberti, Peter Liberti, Johnny Liberti, Lynnie Liberti, Madison Brown, Bailey Brown, Dee Fair and Ginny Ross Fair; a nephew and four nieces: Thad Mueller, Day Lynn Barr, Leslie Van Dyke, Debbie Young and Cindy Fischer.

His parents, Ross and Maggie Brown, and sister, Patricia Young, preceded Billy Ross in death.

Memorials may be made to Wounded Warrior Project, P.O. Box 758517, Topeka, KS 66675 or at woundedwarriorproject.org.

Online condolences may be left on the Tribute Wall of this website.

Previous Events

Visitation

SEP **15**. 12:00 PM - 2:00 PM (CT)

St. Peter's Episcopal Church
113 South 9th Street
Oxford, MS 38655

Tribute Wall

FA

“ *Tricia Lee,
My thoughts and prayers are with you, your darling mother, Ginny,
John, and Maggie and families. Your father was such an Oxford
icon and wonderful community leader. He was a devoted father and
husband, and such a delightful host to all of the Brown "family"
(friends). Much love to all of you!*

Frances Treas Almengual

Frances Treas Almengual - September 15, 2015 at 09:19 PM

LY

“ *Lynn, Tricia Lee, Ginny, John, Maggie, Our thoughts and prayers
are with the Family. Billy Ross was a great man always in our eyes,
he treated us as part of the family. We have some of my fondest
memories @ Brown's Lake and the B Shack growing up in Oxford.
We will truly miss Billy Ross and his kindness. 2 Continthians 12:9
our Lord said to Paul " My grace is sufficient for you, for power is
made perfect in weakness. Our family prays for God's Grace and
peace on each of you. I am so sorry but I am traveling out of town
this week and will not be able to join you in the celebration of Billy
Ross's life and contributions. We love you guys, Les, Sonia, Ticer,
Jenny Loren and Marc Young*

Les Young - September 15, 2015 at 11:42 AM

BM

“ Ms. Lynn and Family, Please accept our deepest condolences on the passing of Billy Ross. As a non-native Oxonian, I am amazed at how many cherished memories I have of Billy Ross. He was a fun loving family man and dear friend. I remember when I was 10 or 12 years old (I am 53 now) and we had a camp out in the front yard of your house on South Lamar. My brother, Shine III, cousins Ed and John Morgan, and John Brown (and perhaps a few others) had pitched a tent in the front yard. Of course a handful of boys camping out had all kinds of ideas for various forms of mischief. However, we were topped by Billy Ross climbing out of his 2nd floor bedroom window making scary noises from the roof. At first we didn't know what it was and we were somewhat startled. Unfortunately, Billy Ross didn't make it back inside his bedroom window before we had four or five flashlights shining on him. This is one of my very favorite memories. The lengths he would go to for his family and friends were limitless. Brown's lake, the Buzzard Roost, Sardis Reservoir; the list and locations of his many kindnesses will live in our collective memory forever.

With respect, admiration, and love,

*Bill, Colleen, Ellen, and Avery Morgan
New Orleans, Louisiana*

Bill Morgan - September 15, 2015 at 10:48 AM



“ Secret Garden Basket was purchased for the family of William Ross Brown Jr..



September 15, 2015 at 10:38 AM

JJ

“ *A wonderful man - the epitome of a gentleman. Your hearts are heavy now, but what a rich and varied trove of memories Grandpop Brown has provided - sure to bring comfort, pride, and smiles for all time! You have my prayers and condolences, and please know I am with you in spirit.*

*With love,
Jo Jackson*

Jo Jackson - September 14, 2015 at 10:02 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of William Ross Brown Jr..*



September 14, 2015 at 09:49 PM

BW

“ *Lynn, Maggie and all the family...am so sorry about Billy Ross...good man...may God wrap you all in His loving arms and give you peace that you know he is in Heaven. I know Hugh has glad to see him..more of "the group" of good men there. Thinking of all of you..*
Bobbye

Bobbye Wiley - September 14, 2015 at 01:41 PM

BW

please change word has to was...thank you!

Bobbye Wiley - September 14, 2015 at 01:44 PM

SR

“ We are very sorry to hear of your loss of Billy Ross.

Sans Russell - September 14, 2015 at 12:20 PM



“ Secret Garden Basket was purchased for the family of William Ross Brown Jr..



September 14, 2015 at 12:11 PM

TS

“ Terry & Catina Spivey lit a candle in memory of William Ross Brown Jr.



Terry & Catina Spivey - September 14, 2015 at 11:53 AM



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of William Ross Brown Jr..



September 13, 2015 at 10:56 PM