

John Mays, 86; service Friday

Posted: Wednesday, August 8, 2012 10:30 am

John Wiley Mays, 86, of Pine Knoll Shores, died Sunday, Aug. 5, 2012, at home, due to sudden cardiac arrhythmia. He did not linger in pain or experience a decrease in his mental capacity and for that the family is thankful.

His service is at 3 p.m. Friday at First Presbyterian Church in Morehead City.

He was born on April 3, 1926, in Richmond, Va., an eighth-generation Virginian. He was the youngest boy in a family of eight, and lived longer than any male in his ancestry.

He was a very proud family man. He and his wife, Jeanne Arthur Mays, celebrated their 61st wedding anniversary on Aug. 4.

He was a hard-working Southern gentleman who was always eager to lend a hand to a neighbor, serve on a committee or work on a project, and was the first Mays to attend university. He served in the U.S. Army stateside during World War II, then enjoyed a long executive career as a vice president in a nationally leading milk-marketing cooperative in Richmond, Va., then Louisville, Ky. He enjoyed golf, woodworking, family and the beautiful Atlantic coast minutes from his North Carolina home of the past 20 years.

In addition to his wife, he leaves behind three children, Martha, Sarah and Brent. He enjoyed four grandchildren, Adam, Emily, Miriam and John. He always said that his niece, Judy, was like a child to him also.

The family will receive friends in the church fellowship hall following the service.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to Lions Club International Foundation, 300 West 22nd St., Oak Brook, Ill. 60523.

Arrangements are by Brooks Funeral Home and Crematory Inc. of Morehead City. Access online obituary and Internet condolences through www.brooksfuneralhomeandcrematory.com.

(Paid obituary)