



Mack L. Graves

June 15, 2012

Mack L. Graves, 87, of Seminole.

Soldier, educator, entrepreneur, philanthropist and devoted family man.

Mack Lewis Graves was born January 29, 1925, in a log cabin on a farm near Darden, TN, to Irving and Mary Graves. He was the youngest of eight siblings, including brothers Ray, Ross, and Gordon and sisters Bonnie Mae, Jesse, Minnie, and Callie, all of whom predeceased him. He attended a one-room school, Pleasant Hill School, until he reached high-school age and then moved to Lexington, TN, to live with his oldest sister and graduate from the public high school there.

As a combat infantryman in WWII, Mack was awarded the Bronze Star and Purple Heart during the Battle of the Bulge. After the war, Mack earned both BA (1948) and MA (1950) degrees in English from Peabody Teachers College at Vanderbilt University in Nashville, TN. His concentration of study was in Shakespearean drama. He was elected to several academic honor societies, including Phi Beta Kappa.

Mack met his beloved wife, Mildred, at Franklin High School (Franklin, TN), where she was student-teaching home economics and he was teaching English. They married July 14, 1951, and left Tennessee for Florida, where Mack served as a high school principal in Fernandina Beach, Greenville, and Brooksville. In 1958, they moved to St. Petersburg, where Mack taught English at St. Petersburg Jr. College (now St. Petersburg College) for the next 20 years. In 1958 they also became members of Northwest Church of Christ,

where Mildred taught Sunday School and Mack served, over many years, in the roles of deacon, elder, and teacher.

Mack and Mildred also owned and operated both the Park Blvd. Nursery School & Kindergarten in Pinellas Park and the Central Plaza Day School in St. Petersburg from January 1959 until the schools were sold in the late 1970s. They were among the first racially integrated nursery schools in St. Petersburg. They also co-founded Graves & Graves, a commercial properties enterprise that remains in operation.

For more than thirty years, Mack was a member of the Kiwanis Club of Seminole; he held many Club offices and was named Kiwanian of the Year in 1983.

Mack and Mildred loved to travel, and over the years they visited six of the seven continents. Among their favorite destinations were Capri, Paris, and Moscow.

A devoted husband, father, ♦ Granddad, ♦ teacher, and friend, Mack will be sorely missed by his wife of more than 60 years; his four children and their spouses: Judith Colvocoresses (James), Scott Graves (Anita), Ellen Marsh (William), and Jeffrey Graves (Julie); and his six very special grandchildren: Morgan Leiby, Adam Graves, Jessica and Katherine Marsh, and Cameron and Devon Graves.

The family will receive friends at the R. Lee Williams & Son Funeral Home 3530-49th St. No., St. Petersburg, FL 33710 Friday, June 22 from 5-7 P.M. Funeral Services will be conducted Saturday, June 23 at Northwest Church of Christ 6355-38th Ave. No., St. Petersburg, Florida 33710 at 1 P.M. Interment will follow in Memorial Park Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the Mildred P. Graves Early Childhood Education Scholarship Fund, c/o the College of Education at the University of Tennessee, A-304 Bailey Education Complex, 1122 Volunteer Blvd., Knoxville, TN 37996 or to Suncoast Hospice, 5771 Roosevelt Blvd., Clearwater, FL 33760.

Tribute Wall



“ *The family of Mack L. Graves uploaded a photo*

August 19, 2019 at 12:00 AM



“ *Nehemiah Sonnylal - Friend posted a condolence Mr.Mack was a very special person to me.He was my mentor for over 7 years it hurts to know that he is gone but i know up there with our lord and savior.He would always in my heart and he will truly be missed... rip mr mack*

Nehemiah Sonnylal - Friend - August 03, 2012 at 12:00 AM



“ *Estelle Nicks Luter - sister in Christ posted a condolence Mack was such a special man..I can close my eyes and picture his sweet smile. The last time I saw Mack was mother's day...he had a wedding picture of he and Mildred on a placard around his neck...he was the most devoted and loving husband I have ever met....he always had a wonderful outlook no matter what life dealt him...I always looked forward to sharing a conversation with him. I will always remember how sweet he was to me and my family the day of my father's memorial service. Rest in peace sweet brother..I know I will see you again some day*

Estelle Nicks Luter - sister in Christ - June 27, 2012 at 12:00 AM

PN

“ Pamela Graves - Niece posted a condolence On behalf of my brothers, Ron & Robert, and myself we want your family to know how special your father was to us. The examples are too many to list. We so appreciated he and Aunt Mildred being there for our family when we lost my father July 4, 1988. None of us knew how to handle the loss of our father and your parents stepped in and took over. That was the greatest gift they could have given our family. The visits to Florida over the years have so many wonderful memories. Your mother making us lunch out of avocado's off your tree. Your dad taking Judy, my college roommate Debbie and myself to the beach every morning on his way to work at St Petersburg Jr College. Then he would pick us up on his way home. Judy do you remember those sun burns Debbie and I got? Your mother tried to take care of us. I will always miss so many experiences with our family and yours. All the times of family reunions in Tennessee. Your family and mine were the only two that had left Tennessee and those times of getting together are so important. Now that our parents generation is gone, I hope that we will take it upon ourselves to stay in contact, be a family the best distance will allow and maybe meet again for a HUGE family reunion to honor our parents and our heritage. Please take this serious. Pick a place and give a year or more head start and lets make it work. Love to Aunt Mildred, Judy, Scott, Ellen and Jeff along with your families. I am typing this as you are having the service in Florida at this moment. I share your tears. Love Pamela, Ron and Robert The "Western" Graves !

Pamela Graves - Niece - June 22, 2012 at 12:00 AM

MN

“ *Michael Graves - nephew posted a condolence ON behalf of the Ross Graves family, Uncle Mack will be missed .My mother, whom is 89 yo, really did appreciate Uncle MACK phoning her every few months. Having contact with her generation particularly of my Father's side of the family kept her upbeat/and I know would bring back memories of the way things were. I looked forward to the cases of fruit he gave us on Christmas. I have fond Memories of the summer of 1968 when my parents and our Cousin Pam came down for a visit -Uncle Mac and Aunt Mildred were such gracious host. Our family gives our condolences to Aunt Mildred, Judy, Scott, Ellen and Jeff and his grandchildren, -hope your grief can be brief/and you will have a sense of well-being, a joy that your father/grandfather lived a full life and he had the "Right Stuff" -- Michael Graves*

Michael Graves - nephew - June 21, 2012 at 12:00 AM

WF

“ *Willard Anderson - friend posted a condolence I remember Mack Graves very well -- he was my first principal when I began my teaching career 1956 in Brooksville. He left after my second year to go to St Petersburg. My wife and I, along with Roy and Marie Snow, spent many good times at Mack and Mildred's home -- scrabble was our game. It was always great when, on a rare occasion, we could catch Mack with a wrong word. Every young married couple should have such great examples as Mack and Mildred as a pattern for their lives. I have not seen Mack for many years but have such good memories of our time together in Brooksville, both at work and at worship at the Church of Christ. God bless you all. Willard Anderson*

Willard Anderson - friend - June 19, 2012 at 12:00 AM

LF

“ *Linda Burhans - friend posted a condolence One of the reason I joined Kiwanis was because of Mack. I am so blessed to have known this amazing man!*

Linda Burhans - friend - June 19, 2012 at 12:00 AM

SN

“ *Susan Rhodes Lebsack - Great-great niece posted a condolence I've had the privilege of meeting Uncle Mack several times in my life and they were both memorable. Uncle Mack sent me a letter after our first meeting to explain many aspects of his life,love and family. This letter is my special bond with Uncle Mack. He so truly loved his family and loved speaking of them. Uncle Mack will truly be missed and has certainly made an impression on me.*

Susan Rhodes Lebsack - Great-great niece - June 19, 2012 at 12:00 AM

DN

“ *David Wilkins & family - nephew posted a condolence Uncle Mack was my favorite uncle and one of the most caring & loving people i've ever known.my mother,his older sister, always called uncle mack with any business problem/family decision she might have & he always had the correct answer & was never to busy to help even though he was a busy man.Uncle Mack is the last of Eight children and will be missed more than words can say.We all love you,R.I.P. uncle Mack Graves!!! Your loving nephew,David Wilkins & Family*

David Wilkins & family - nephew - June 18, 2012 at 12:00 AM

MN

“ Margaret Fay Creasy - Niece posted a condolence Uncle Mack was very special to me and my family. His smile and upbeat personality was always special. He was an uncle that was a Joy to be around. He will be missed by all who knew him. May God bless you all in this time of sorrow. Love, Margaret and Ovid Creasy

Margaret Fay Creasy - Niece - June 18, 2012 at 12:00 AM

PN

“ Pam Creasy Rawls - Great Niece posted a condolence My Great Uncle Mack was special to me because my grandmother "Mama Belle" loved him and told me stories about growing up as his sister. I remember his visits back to Tennessee with his family. These were special events which included a big dinner with all our traditional foods of the south and everyone coming to see our Uncle Mack and Aunt Mildrid. I remember him being funny, fun loving, soft spoken, and gentle. As a child it was an exciting time to go to our Aunt Bonnie's house to see Uncle Mack from Florida. I send my memories and love to the family.

Pam Creasy Rawls - Great Niece - June 18, 2012 at 12:00 AM