



Joseph Wesley Houston

December 29, 1925 - March 9, 2011

Joseph Wesley Houston age 85 of Sweetwater died Wednesday, March 10, 2011. Joe was born on December 29, 1925 in Henson Creek, North Carolina. His parents were Wes and Hettie Houston. Joe grew up in the mountains of western North Carolina with his six brothers and sisters. After graduating from Cranberry High School, Joe attended Berea College in Berea, Kentucky on a work-study program. While he was at Berea, Joe met Gladys Virginia Houston who lived in the neighboring town of Spruce Pine, North Carolina. Joe served during World War II in the Army Air Force. Joe and Gladys were married while he was at Berea. They then moved to Lexington, Kentucky where Joe attended the University of Kentucky. Joe received his Masters from Texas A&M University in College Station, Texas.

After this Joe moved back closer to home when he became an Extension Specialist with the University of Tennessee. Joe and Gladys made their home in south Knoxville. During his years with the University of Tennessee, Joe traveled the state putting on cooking schools and livestock demonstrations. In the early 1960s Joe and his fellow specialist Bill Tyrell were responsible for starting graded feeder pig and cattle sales across the state which allowed farmers to receive more money for their livestock.

In 1962 Joe and four partners founded the East Tennessee Livestock Center in Sweetwater to serve the marketing needs of the farmers in the Sweetwater

Valley. In 1965 Joe became the Executive Secretary of the Tennessee Livestock Association where he served until 1973 when he began working in the market full-time. Throughout his career, Joe has been a leader and a pioneer in the livestock industry both in Tennessee and nationally. In 1987 Joe was appointed to the Cattlemen's Beef Board where he served on the first executive committee. Joe was also a member of the Livestock Marketing Association.

In 1987 Joe's wife Gladys was tragically killed. In addition to his wife, Joe was preceded in death by his mother, father, brothers Bill and Jake, sisters Lillian and Zula. Joe is survived by his wife Joyce Arden Houston, his sons John D. Houston and Mark W. Houston as well as his grandchildren, Laura Elaine Houston MD, Holly Christine Houston, Virginia Leigh Houston and Ross Wesley Houston. Step-daughter: Annette Richeson and Step-son: Jeff Arden.

Joe was a member of First Baptist Church in Sweetwater. In lieu of flowers donations may be made to Berea College in Berea, Kentucky. Funeral services will be at First Baptist Church in Sweetwater at 2:00 pm on Sunday, March 13 with family visitation to follow. Burial will be Monday, March 14 at 11:00 AM at Sherwood Memorial Gardens in Alcoa, Tennessee. Beloved nephew Reverend Danny Georges and Dr. Frank Crawford will be officiating. Kyker Funeral Home of Sweetwater is in charge of arrangements.

Tribute Wall

MI

“ *Mark, Jennifer, Virginia, and Ross,
Joe was certainly a fixture in Monroe County and especially to the farmers and the beef cattle industry, however he knows that everything is left in outstanding hands. He will certainly be missed by so many that he touched.
May God comfort you in this time of need and we love.
Mitch, Kathy and Johnny*

Mitch Ingram - March 13, 2011 at 12:00 AM

JG

“ *We will all miss Mr. Joe. He had a huge impact on lots of 4-Hers, Extension Agents, Parents and cattle producers all over the country. My thoughts and prayers are with you folks.*

John Goddard - March 13, 2011 at 12:00 AM

EB

“ *Mark and Jennifer,
I'm so sorry for your loss. I will really miss Joe. He always went out of his way to talk to me and ask how I was doing. My thoughts and prayers go out to you and your family.*

Eva Bostedor - March 13, 2011 at 12:00 AM

TW

“ *Your family has been and will continue to be in our thoughts and prayers. Joe will truly be missed by everyone.
Tim*

Tim Woods - March 13, 2011 at 12:00 AM

LM

“ *To The Houston Family,
Our sympathy to each member of the family. May the Lord draw
close and comfort you.
Joe was a distant cousin and a friend. He was always pleasant and
interesting to talk to. Each year We looked forward to seeing him at
the Houston Reunion. He will be missed but remembered fondly.
Larry & Nina McKinney*

Larry & Nina McKinney - March 12, 2011 at 12:00 AM

NW

“ *Jennifer & Mark,
I was so sorry to hear of your loss. Please know that you and your
family are in my thoughts and prayers.
Nancy Waugh*

Nancy Waugh - March 11, 2011 at 12:00 AM

HH

“ *We will all miss our wonderful, caring grandfather. I've been so
blessed to have him in my life for 28 years and am thankful for the
constant support and example of a hard working, generous, strong,
Christian man he provided to all of us. The way he lived his life
encourages me to make him proud of the way I live mine.
His proud granddaughter,
Holly Houston*

Holly Houston - March 10, 2011 at 12:00 AM