



Roswell Rhea Browder

December 2, 1913 - September 12, 2011

Roswell Rhea Browder, born December 2, 1913 in the Wheat Community of Roane County, Tennessee passed away peacefully at his beloved home in Harriman on September 12, 2011 at the age of 97. He was preceded in death by his parents, Margaret Mae Billingsly Browder and William Hamilton Browder, brothers John Franklin Browder, William Hamilton Browder, Joseph Houston Browder, Edward Carmack Browder and George Wade Browder, sisters, Mary B. Burnett, Lula Maude (Judy) B. Weigel, Margaret (Peggy) B. Stegall Arnold. He was a longtime businessman, sportsman and avid boater. Mr. Browder was a descendant of three pioneer East Tennessee families, Browder, Byrd and Gallaher. They were landowners in Roane County's Wheat community, which was purchased by the government for the top-secret Manhattan Project that built the world's first atomic bomb. Mr. Browder enlisted in the U.S. Coast Guard in 1942 and was being shipped to Europe when those atomic bombs were used against Japan and World War II ended. Mr. Browder and his brothers, Ed and Joe, founded Harriman Oil Co. in the 1930s, and at one time they were the largest Shell Oil distributor in Tennessee. During World War II, one of their service stations in Oak Ridge called the Vermont Gateway Shell Station was featured on the front of Look magazine because it was selling more gas a day than any other gas station in the U.S. They later launched the Rocky Top Markets convenience store chain that has now grown to include more than 40 stores. The Browder brothers also started other businesses, including East Tennessee Motor Co. in

Knoxville and Harriman, and East Tennessee Truck in Knoxville and Central Florida Oil Co. in Ocala, Florida. Active in the Democratic Party, he was honored to be the only person to serve three terms on the Tennessee Game and Fish Commission, now called Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency. He served under Governor Buford Ellington and Governor Ned Ray McWherter. Mr. Browder was instrumental in the formation of the 53,000-acre Royal Blue Wildlife Management Area in Campbell and Scott counties. He also served many years on the Tennessee Boating Safety Advisory Board and was a member of the Fort Loudon Yacht Club. He was a member of the Presbyterian Church, a Shriner and a Mason.

He is survived by his children

Dorothy Jane Browder

William Rhea (Bill) Browder and wife Debbie

Debra B. Rutledge and husband David

Carol Ann B. Wheeler and husband Ed

Edward Carmack Browder

Christopher Rhea Browder

Grandchildren, Brittany Rhea Browder & Juli Alison Browder

A special thank you to dear friend Dorothy and loving care givers who surrounded him with love and devotion. Mr. Browder lived a wonderful and full life and will be missed by all who knew him.

The family will receive friends from 12 noon to 1 PM Friday at Kyker Funeral Home in Harriman. Graveside service 2 PM Friday at Gallaher Cemetery. . In lieu of flowers memorials may be made to Roane State Community College.

Tribute Wall

KR

“ I am sorry to learn of your loss. Your Daddy was bigger than life! What wonderful memories of summers on the lake, tying the boats together. Food, fun and fellowship. I appreciate your allowing me to help you with Dot's arrangements. Since Neil "let me go" from the funeral home, I'm out of the loop. I know the pain of loss when our last parent passes. I miss them so much. You are in my prayers.
Karen

Karen Qualls Reeves - January 22, 2012 at 12:00 AM

PP

“ Deepest sympathy from my dad Fred Pierce. Dad and Rhea were long time friends and dad asked me to send his message of sympathy to Rhea's family.

Patricia Pierce-Goss - September 27, 2011 at 12:00 AM

ES

“ Your Dad was a good friend. May God be with you in this time of grief..
Earl

Earl Seagraves - September 16, 2011 at 12:00 AM

ST

“ SINCE MY ATTEMPTED PHONE CALL OF CONDOLENCE TO A FAMILY MEMBER WAS DEEMED UNIMPORTANT, I HEREBY RETRACT MY EARLIER POST TO THE BROWDER FAMILY>
STEPHEN A. THURMER

Stephen A. Thurmer - September 16, 2011 at 12:00 AM

RL

“ *Offering our deepest condolences during this difficult time.*

Ralph and Anita Langley

Ralph and Anita Langley - September 16, 2011 at 12:00 AM

KW

“ *Dear Carol,
So sad to hear of your Dad's passing... This is the time in our lives
when many of us are letting go of our parents.
I am so glad that you were able to spend time with him. I know you
will always cherish that special time.
We will be holding you and your sweet family in our prayers during
this time of healing.
All Our Love,
Kathie (April), Stuart & Maleah Rose*

Kathie Arnold - Welsh - September 15, 2011 at 12:00 AM

JH

“ *Bill, Carol Ann, and Family
I'm so sorry to hear of the passing of your father. I just read the obit
today in the Ocala Star Banner and my heart and prayers go out to
all of you. I wish I could be there with you all to celebrate his life but
my thoughts will be with you during this difficult time.
Sincerely,
Jerry Hudson, Ocala Florida*

Jerry Hudson - September 15, 2011 at 12:00 AM

ST

“ To Debbie:

I wanted to tell you that I am sorry to hear of your father's death. He was a great man who provided for his family. Although I only met him on one occasion, he left a great impression on me.

It is only a matter of time before my Mom passes as she is approaching her 97th birthday. She suffers from Alzheimer's, and it is a tragic way to die. Only if you want to, I can be reached at my comcast e-mail address. May God bless and comfort you and your family.

Sincerely, Steve Thurmer

Stephen A. Thurmer - September 15, 2011 at 12:00 AM

MJ

“ Carol,

Carol, I'm so sorry I can't be there with you now, but if you believe as I do, then you know that Rhea is with family members and friends right now that he hasn't seen in years and he is at peace. I know it's still hard, but keep remembering the good times he shared with you over the years and you also will find peace.

*Love ya,
Mona*

Mona Jackson - September 15, 2011 at 12:00 AM

JW

“ Dearest Browder Family,

I am so sorry to hear of your dad's passing. He was a dear friend of my parents Frank and Peggy Qualls. I have such fond memories of our summers on the lake with your family. Having just lost my Mother I know your loss and pain. Please know that you will all be in my thoughts and prayers. God bless you all!!!

Jeanne

Jeanne Qualls Winn - September 15, 2011 at 12:00 AM

KN

“ *Carole, I am so sorry for your loss. I wish I could be in attendance, however I have a fever and do not need to in public and possibly pass something along.
I will be praying for God to give you strength
Keith*

Keith Nichols - September 15, 2011 at 12:00 AM

CS

“ *Carol,
I am so sorry to hear of the passing of your father. I will keep you and your family in my thoughts and prayers.
love you always, carole ann*

Carole Ann Aydelotte Steelman - September 14, 2011 at 12:00 AM

SL

“ *Hi Carol,
Sweet Mona, the rock of Class of '75 keeps us in the loop. She let us know the sad news about Rhea. I hope you are well and standing strong. Time heals all wounds, except when it comes to losing a parent. I still think of my father R.H. "Rufus" Ladd often eventhough he has been gone for so many years. You and your family will be in my heart and prayers during this very difficult time. You have many that know and love you Carol. Take care of yourself sweetie.
Respectfully
Sharon Ladd-Hutson cell: 713-417-8474*

Sharon Ladd-Hutson - September 14, 2011 at 12:00 AM

SC

“ I know you have been blessed to have had your Dad for 98 years. You will cherish those memories with him forever! Prayers are with you during this time. May God be with you and your family.

sheree carroll - September 14, 2011 at 12:00 AM

VK

“ Carol - All of us wish peace and comfort on the passing of your father. May God hold all of you in the palm of His hand during this time.

Vicki, Wayne, Chris & Wheeler Kinsel - September 14, 2011 at 12:00 AM

GS

“ Carol, I am so sorry for your loss. Take comfort in knowing he is in a better place with Jesus.
God Bless you and keep you strong.

Gloria Wester Sutton - September 13, 2011 at 12:00 AM

JH

“ Dearest Carol and family,
I am so sorry to hear of your loss. I just lost my father Martin Hook (90) on July 10th and hearing of Rhey's passing brought back memories of them always stopping by to say hello to mother and father when we went to the Holliday Inn to eat lunch after church on Sunday. He will be fondly remembered.
Respectfully,
Jane Hook-Stafford

Jane Hook-Stafford - September 13, 2011 at 12:00 AM