



William Walter "Walt" Goolsby, Sr.

August 26, 1917 - July 6, 2013

William Walter "Walt" Goolsby, 95, of Kingston died July 6 following a brief illness. He was born August 26, 1917 in Livingston, Tennessee, the son of the late John Andrew and Effie Cook Goolsby. He was a man of many careers, first with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in the creation of Dale Hollow Lake and Wolf Creek Lake in Tennessee and Kentucky. He was a decorated World War II veteran of the U.S. Navy in the Pacific Theater, an industrial engineer at the Oak Ridge K-25 Plant and Oak Ridge National Laboratory for 35 years, and a real estate broker for West Town Realty in Kingston for 42 years, going to the family real estate office every day until the month before his death. He was a member of Roane Church of Christ and various civic groups over the years. A member of the Oak Ridge City Council in its early years, he later served in Kingston on the Roane County Election Commission, Library Board, and in many other civic endeavors. In 2009 Walt was honored by the Roane County Commission as a Roane Treasure and in 2012 by a Joint Resolution of the Tennessee Senate and House commending him "for his laudable career, his impeccable character, and his commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction" and honoring him "for his lifetime of outstanding achievements, recognizing his years of distinguished service to his country and his community." He was a Life Member of the American Institute of Industrial Engineers and he was a tireless promoter of Kingston, his last effort being an article about historic Kingston in Smithsonian magazine's online feature "My Kind of Town" in 2012.

Walt was preceded in death by his wife of 68 years, Ollie Rich Goolsby; sisters Robbie Lee Goolsby and Virginia Goolsby Coffman; and brother John Yeagley Goolsby. He is survived by his son Bill (wife Marty) of Knoxville; granddaughter Dana Goolsby Jones (husband Albert) of Pasadena, California; great-grandson Oliver Chapman Jones of Pasadena, California; sister Georgia Herren (husband Herman) of Clinton; and a host of nephews, nieces, and friends.

The family will receive friends beginning at 5:30 p.m. on Thursday July 11 at the Kyker Funeral Home in Kingston with a celebration of his life to follow at 7:30 p.m. Interment will be at Roane Memorial Gardens on July 12 at noon.

Tribute Wall

MF

“ We are so very sad to hear of Walt's passing. Prayers to his family. We went back 32 years with Walt when he sold us our first house. He also sold the house for us later on and also sold my Mom's house. He was a true gentleman of the highest integrity whom we thought the world of. No matter where we saw him he was always cordial and took the time to chat when I know he was busy. I have never met Bill but I have been told he is just like his Dad. He must also be a very good man if he is half the person that Walt was. Rest in Peace old friend from Mike and Rhonda.

Michael and Rhonda Stephens - Kingston, TN - Friend - July 13, 2013 at 12:00 AM

BF

“ Walt was one of the most dedicated, honorable men that I have been privileged to meet. This world will be a little less bright without him, but Heaven will be a little more bright. Rest in peace, Walt.

*“To live in hearts we leave behind is not to die.”
? Thomas Campbell*

Bryan Burnett - Greensboro, NC - Friend - July 11, 2013 at 12:00 AM

JF

“ Bill and Marty, I am so sorry to see that your father has passed away. What a great friend he and your mother were to my parents in the early Oak Ridge days. Our family is at the beach so I won't be able to attend the service, but my thoughts and prayers are with you.

Joy Castleberry - Knoxville, TN - Friend of the family - July 11, 2013 at 12:00 AM

ST

“ He was such a wealth of practical wisdom!! I consulted with him shortly after my husband, Bill Taylor, passed away. He was always so friendly and helpful!

SHERYL TAYLOR - KINGSTON, TN - July 11, 2013 at 12:00 AM

JF

“ May God comfort this family during their time of loss. Mr. Goolsby was a fine man and I am proud to have known him.

Jan Jennings Stone - Lenoir City, TN - friend - July 10, 2013 at 12:00 AM

DA

“ I knew Mr. and Mrs. Goolsby back in the late 1960s when I delivered newspapers in the Rosedale neighborhood. I would also run into him from time to time in the community in my adult life. They were both fine people that will be missed in the community and by the family. I was just remarking last week when I passed one of his real estate signs that he had sure been in the business for a long time as others had come and gone. Thank you for your contributions to the area. I will remember your family in prayer.

David McMurray - Kingston, TN - acquaintance - July 10, 2013 at 12:00 AM

SM

“ Mr Goolsby and i shared Court Street with our respective offices. He was such a kind man. He came to see me about a month after moving to Court St. and told me he had been watching the work we were doing and he wanted to find me a new location that was larger. He tried and we looked a number of properties but nothing ever worked out. It was not for lack of trying. He was a gentle soul with real compassion for those who had less than he had been blessed with.

*I shall miss him and his wonderful smile and sweet sense of humor. To his family he lived long and he lived well. Godspeed my friend.
Sharon Pinner*

Sharon Pinner - Kingston, TN - Dir. Hands of Mercy - July 10, 2013 at 12:00 AM

LF

“ Walt was a wonderful and caring man. We shared an office space briefly in Kingston many years ago and when he moved into his new office, we would often keep in touch by phone. When he would call my office and I would answer he wouldn't say "hello" he would say "Is this the person to whom I have called?" That would make me laugh every time. He had such a loving and giving heart. He will be greatly missed and I offer my sympathies to his family.

Lori Treadway - Rockwood, TN - Friend - July 09, 2013 at 12:00 AM

MF

“ Prayers to this family!

Mae Ann Rivers Shillings - Kingston, TN - Family friend - July 09, 2013 at 12:00 AM

SH

“ Sorry for your loss to the family of Walter Goolsby , your in our prayers...

susan reagan - clinton, TN - Friend of Georgia Herren - July 09, 2013 at 12:00 AM

CF

“ How saddened I am to here of Mr. Goolsby passing. I was so blessed to have known The Goolsby's. I met them so many years ago when I worked at the Holiday Inn-Harriman and they came in to have lunch and dinner so many times. They touched me in such a wonderful way. Always cheerful and so attached to each other. I was fortunate in the last few years to share real estate with Walt. He was a blessing to Roane County and I always referred to him as the "Godfather of Roane County Real Estate". He will be so missed. Prayers to his family.

Cheryl Wester Laxton

Cheryl Wester Laxton - Kingston, TN - Friend - July 09, 2013 at 12:00 AM

SC

“ I am so sorry to hear of Walt's passing. He was a true gentleman, and Christian man. My thoughts and prayers are with his family and friends. He will truly be missed in this community.

shirley briggs - harriman, TN - coworker/friend - July 09, 2013 at 12:00 AM

RF

“ How sad we are to learn of Walt's passing from this life. For many years he and Ms. Ollie were very close friends to us and our family. We have shared many precious memories with them that we will always hold dear in our hearts. We are stronger and better persons because we knew Walt and Ms. Ollie. We know they loved the Lord; because of their daily lifestyle and committment to doing what was the right things to do. Rest in peace. Our deepest sympathy to Bill, Marty and Dana, as well as to the rest of the family. May God bless, comfort and strengthen each of you in the days following.

Richard & Wilma Clark - Powell, TN - Friends - July 09, 2013 at 12:00 AM