



Wendell "Hobdy" Bryan

September 9, 1922 - July 22, 2020

Wendell Hobdy Bryan, 97, died on Wednesday, July 22, 2020, at his home in Amory. In March of this year, he was living alone, driving his own car, attending church, and making daily trips to drink coffee with friends, but eventually old age caught up with him.

Hobdy was born on September 9, 1922, in Hamilton, Alabama, the younger of two sons of John Luther Bryan and Era Mae Masters Bryan. In 1926, when his older brother, John Luther Bryan, Jr., developed appendicitis, Hobdy's father took John to the hospital in Amory where John was treated by Dr. M.Q. Ewing. During that visit, Dr. Ewing persuaded the elder Mr. Bryan that Amory needed a laundry -- and that the hospital, in particular, needed a laundry. So the family moved to Amory, and Hobdy's father opened the Amory Steam Laundry. Hobdy lived in Amory until his death more than 90 years later.

Throughout his life he was a faithful member of the First Methodist Church, and he remembered worshiping in the old sanctuary before it was destroyed by fire.

The laundry operated a large number of trucks, and, as was the practice at the time, Hobdy learned to drive at a young age so that he could help out. While teaching him to drive, his mother had him drive across the one-lane bridge over the Tombigbee River near Cotton Gin Port. In later years he said he thought he was the only person alive to have driven across the bridge.

In the late 1930s, he met a girl who had just moved town from Becker, Nadine Morgan, the daughter of Lucian Boggan Morgan and Maudie Mae Walden Morgan. She and Hobdy were married on September 6, 1941.

Both of them finished in the remarkable class of 1939 at Amory High School. Hobdy was the last surviving member of the class.

After high school, Hobdy enrolled at what was then Mississippi State College. While there, a ROTC instructor insisted he answer to the name "Brown" which he refused to do. He

obtained a doctor's excuse to be exempt from ROTC. Later, he had a disagreement with a professor who insisted that multiplying two negative numbers produced another negative number. He did not graduate. .

After Pearl Harbor, he joined the U.S. Navy and was stationed for a while in Long Beach, California, where Nadine joined him, and later on Bora Bora in the South Pacific.

After Hobdy returned to Amory, he and his father operated the Northeast Mississippi Fertilizer Company. The Mississippiian Railway delivered to them boxcars of materials which they mixed and packaged into 50- 80- and 100- pound bags.

He served on the board of trustees for the Amory Separate School District throughout the 1960s during the time school segregation ended. The board determined they would always comply with the regulations of the United States Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, and they did. The Amory public schools first operated a racially unified school district at the beginning of the 1969-1970 school year. A high school senior that year was his only child, Wendell Hobdy Bryan II, who was born on December 5, 1952, and who is a state senator.

Also in the 1960s, he was employed by the City of Amory as director of Urban Renewal and later he was zoning administrator. He worked to pass a bond issue which, among other things, built the two community centers in Amory.

During the construction of the Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway, Hobdy was instrumental in working with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to develop the industrial park which now abuts the waterway. The area had been designated as a disposal area. He arranged for the city to purchase certain land where the waterway would be located and then to swap land with the corps so that the city wound up owning the industrial site. The former disposal site had become a level industrial site bordering the waterway.

His wife, Sarah Nadine Morgan, died in 1973. In 1975 he married Eva Morris Duncan, a native of Hinkle Creek in Alcorn County, and the widow of Dr. Owen Duncan. With the marriage came a new set of kinfolk, who he enjoyed getting to know, and a connection to former residents of Hinkle Creek, who he seemed to encounter everywhere. Eva died in 1996.

In later years, Hobdy was a member of the board of the Amory Regional Museum, where he volunteered for countless hours. He remained active in the First United Methodist Church, being particularly supportive of the Glove ministry, which provides food and other

assistance to those in need.

He was buried in the Masonic Cemetery in Amory. Because of the pandemic, no funeral was held, but a memorial service will be held at the First United Methodist Church of Amory whenever it becomes safe to do so.

As a child, Hobdy was intrigued with the year 2000, and hoped that he would live to see the new century. He did.

Cemetery

Amory Historical Society Cemetery

A Avenue

Amory, MS, 38821

Comments



“ Randy & Vicki Maples lit a candle in memory of Wendell "Hobdy" Bryan



Randy & Vicki Maples - August 04, 2020 at 09:49 PM



“ Hob, I am so sorry to learn of the death of your father. It is so difficult to lose our parents, and I will keep you in my thoughts and prayers.
Ricki Garrett

Ricki Garrett - August 03, 2020 at 10:43 AM



“ Hob, Judy and I are so sorry for your loss. You are in our prayers.

Cy and Judy Rosenblatt

Cy Rosenblatt - August 02, 2020 at 01:19 AM



“ Hob, so sorry to hear the news of your Dad's passing. Thinking of you and your family.

Steve Seale

Steve Seale - July 30, 2020 at 11:26 PM



“ A beautiful acknowledgment of a wonderful person, we shall miss him, I wish that I had had more conversations with Hobdy, he had so much to tell. Sincerely, Donna and Bill Griffith

Bill Griffith - July 29, 2020 at 10:58 PM



“ Billy & Betty Sizemore lit a candle in memory of Wendell "Hobdy" Bryan



Billy & Betty Sizemore - July 29, 2020 at 07:44 AM



“ Bobby & Gail Carter lit a candle in memory of Wendell "Hobdy" Bryan



Bobby & Gail Carter - July 28, 2020 at 06:17 AM



“ I understand that deep loss of a beloved parent. Sweet memories and the support of others ease the pain. I'm thinking of you during this time. Fondly, Charlotte Carlson

Charlotte Carlson - July 27, 2020 at 11:32 PM



“ Debbie And Betty Brook Harris lit a candle in memory of Wendell "Hobdy" Bryan



Debbie and Betty Brook Harris - July 26, 2020 at 10:46 PM



“ So sorry to hear of your loss. Praying for peace and comfort.

Wendy Roebuck - July 26, 2020 at 12:38 PM



“ Beverly Hamilton lit a candle in memory of Wendell "Hobdy" Bryan



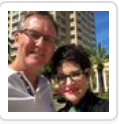
Beverly Hamilton - July 26, 2020 at 10:16 AM



“ So sorry for ur loss. Sending our love & prayers to you. May you always keep ur memories of the good times close .



Jerry & Marilyn Unfress - July 25, 2020 at 08:01 PM



“ We have the fondest of memories of Hobdy, his friendship with Lara’s mama, our friendship with him, and enjoying him in Wednesday night Bible studies and at church. What a great man. Love, Lara and Joe Brennan

Joe Brennan - July 25, 2020 at 09:16 AM



“ Hob, so very sorry for the loss of your dad. Memories are what give us comfort and peace. May the Lord flood your soul with sweet memories and His perfect peace and comfort! Will be praying for you in the days ahead!! Belinda Best

Belinda Best - July 24, 2020 at 11:09 PM



“ Hugs and prayers, Hob...



Brenda Marion - July 23, 2020 at 04:35 PM



“ Hob, please know I am thinking about you!!! It’s never fun! You have many memories of your dad. I know he was super proud of you!! Love and prayers!!!! Patti Edwards

Patti Edwards - July 23, 2020 at 09:30 AM



“ Hob, I’m praying for you and sending my sympathy during this time of sadness. Not many of us still have a parent living. Your father certainly had a long, rewarding life. I look forward to seeing you at a later date. May God give you comfort.

Martha Smith Watkins - July 23, 2020 at 09:19 AM



“ Kellie Palmer sent a virtual gift in memory of Wendell "Hobdy" Bryan



Kellie Palmer - July 22, 2020 at 11:26 PM



“ Hob, You know how we respected and admired Hobdy. Saturday mornings will not be the same without him. Please accept our deepest sympathy and heartfelt condolences. Carter and Judy Dobbs

Carter and Jidy Dobbs - July 22, 2020 at 07:02 PM



“ Debbie Kendrick Chamblee lit a candle in memory of Wendell "Hobdy" Bryan



Debbie Kendrick Chamblee - July 22, 2020 at 05:20 PM



“ Marilyn P. Reed AND Brian Reed lit a candle in memory of Wendell "Hobdy" Bryan



Marilyn P. Reed AND Brian Reed - July 22, 2020 at 12:59 PM



“ Hob I am so sorry for your loss.I never knew your Dad but He must have been a special man to have raised a son like you.You and your family are in my prayers.
Sue Nix

Sue Nix - July 22, 2020 at 12:45 PM



“ So glad to have known him, he was a interesting special man.

Liz Dykes - July 22, 2020 at 07:56 PM



“ Been a great friends for many years will miss his wisdom & his unique sense of humor
David Hodo

david hodo - July 24, 2020 at 12:50 PM