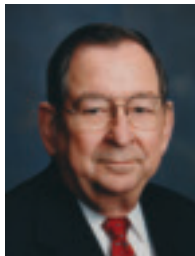


## J. Gilmer Blackburn

J. Gilmer Blackburn, a Decatur lawyer who dedicated his life to his family, his church, his profession, his community, and to Auburn University, died May 31<sup>st</sup> in Auburn at the age of 81.



Born in Opelika on October 21, 1927, he was the fourth child of Anderson and Vera Blackburn. Mr. Blackburn attended the Lee County School in Auburn, Alabama from the first through the 12<sup>th</sup> grades. He was drafted out of high school in 1946 and served in Alaska in the Army with the Alaska Communication System in 1947 on the Alcan Highway.

He entered Alabama Polytechnic Institute (API), now known as Auburn University, in 1947. While at API he participated in student activities and was responsible for the campaign to build the first Auburn Student Union Building. He was a member of the Spades Honorary Society, Alpha Tau Omega fraternity and other organizations. He graduated from Auburn in 1950 with a bachelor of science. In 1951, during the Korean Emergency, he was called back into service as a 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant serving with the 40<sup>th</sup> Tank Battalion, 4<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division, in Germany. Prior to leaving for Germany, he and Phyllis Birdsong were married in Albertville in 1951.

Upon returning from the service in Germany, he and Phyllis entered the University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa. Mr. Blackburn returned to his studies at the law school and graduated in 1954. He attended New York University Law School in 1954 under a Kennison National Fellowship and obtained a master of laws (in taxation).

In 1955, he established his law practice in Decatur. He was the first tax attorney in north Alabama. He also lectured extensively on tax matters for the University of Alabama Continuing Education Program and other seminars. He was president of the Morgan County Bar Association, chair of the ASB Tax Section, member of the Committee on Life Insurance Companies (Section of Taxation, American Bar Association) and a member of the Board of Directors of the Alabama Federal Tax Clinic. He was the founding attorney and senior counsel of Blackburn, Maloney & Schuppert LLC.

In 1962, he was elected commissioner of the City of Decatur and served as its mayor for two terms, being unopposed in his second term. As mayor, he was responsible for a major development program called "Operation New Decatur." The program was developed to bring Decatur into the New South. It included urban renewal programs to rebuild the

J. GILMER BLACKBURN

JACKSON WILSON  
GUYTON

ROBERT W. LEE

JOHN A. LOCKETT, JR.

DONALD N. SPURRIER

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downtown area for small family businesses, a new civic center (including a city hall, courthouse and federal building), major new plans for city schools, and improvement of recreation activities with three new parks with recreation centers, including the nationally recognized Aquadome swimming pool. The major concept of the plan, however, was the regional Point Mallard Park, including the J. Gilmer Blackburn Aquatic Center incorporating the first wave-activated swimming pool in the United States, a golf course and other activities. The park has been recognized by the State of Alabama Tourism Bureau as the number one seasonal park in the state.

Mr. Blackburn was also active with the Auburn Alumni Association and served as the president of the Morgan County Auburn Alumni Club and as member of the Executive Committee and president of the National Auburn Alumni Association. He was a charter member of the Auburn University Foundation, serving on its board of directors and as vice president, president and chairman of the board, and member emeritus of its board.

He was preceded in death by his parents, his wife of 48 years, Phyllis Birdsong Blackburn, and his brother, Joe Blackburn. He is survived by his wife, Dorry Ann Blackburn; three children, Gay Maloney and husband Mark, Allison Akins and husband Bobby and Lisa Ayer and husband Rob; his grandchildren; and the children of his wife, Trey Johnston and wife Rebecca, Skip Johnston and wife Glenda and Dixie Keller and husband Gray; and Dorry Ann's grandchildren.

Gilmer Blackburn was the embodiment of the ideal of the lawyer as public servant. He was a visionary for the City of Decatur. Two days after his death, *The Decatur Daily* editorialized: "That the former mayor was 'the Father of Point Mallard' is more than a statement on a plaque at the water park's entrance. Point Mallard Park would not exist but for his efforts. The legacy, though, goes beyond a park. He had a vision of Decatur that included industry, but refused to stop there." Gilmer Blackburn will be missed, not only by his family and his colleagues, but also by the citizens of his city.

—Mark Daniel Maloney, Decatur

## Jackson Wilson Guyton

*"The Person I Admire Most"*

*The one I admire most is my dad. I admire him because he is just what I want to be. He is intelligent, does not mind to do hard work, and he is hard working. My dad cares more about his family than himself and he wants to have a good time. He is also kind and does not [mind] helping people. He wants to help people. He is fair and just and pays attention to what unimportant and important people say. And when I grow up I want to be just like my dad.*

—Jeffrey P. Guyton

Age 11

I have only worked and known Mr. Guyton since January of 2007, but from everything his clients, friends and family have said about him, he is the same kind and caring man today as he was 37 years ago when his son Jeff wrote the above essay for school. Mr. Guyton has had a long and wonderful life, personally and professionally, and it has been truly an honor to have worked for him and known him.

Mr. Guyton was born in 1926 to John L. and Lallie Dunbar Guyton who lived in the western section of Jefferson County. He grew up in Dolomite and later moved to West End where he graduated from high school. Mr. Guyton served two years during World War II. After the war, he graduated from the University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa with an engineering degree. In 1950 he went to work at US Steel as an industrial engineer, and then later worked in labor relations.

He attended Birmingham School of Law and passed the bar exam in 1957. In 1966, he began practicing with Frank B. Parsons and Victor C. Harwood in Fairfield. In 1971, Victor Harwood died and J. Clewis Trucks joined Frank Parsons and Jack Guyton to form Trucks, Parsons & Guyton. In 1984, Frank Parsons and Jack Guyton began practicing under the name of Parsons & Guyton, and the office has been located at 4507 Gary Avenue in Fairfield since 1984.

In 1960, Mr. Guyton married Martha Lou Harless and later they had two children, Jeffrey P. Guyton and

Tracey G. Cole. Mr. Guyton also has an adorable eight-year-old granddaughter, Katie. Mr. Guyton and his family have been long-time members of Mountain Brook Baptist Church. Some people thought that when Mr. Guyton's beloved Martha Lou passed away in 2002 he would retire. Not so—it wasn't until he was physically unable to drive himself to work that he was forced to retire this July, at the age of 83.

In 2008, the Alabama State Bar recognized Mr. Guyton's 50 years of service as an attorney. He was a long-standing member of the Fairfield Chamber of Commerce, the Exchange Club, the Birmingham Bar Association and the Alabama State Bar. He had a general practice, but his primary concentration over the last several years had been in planning and probating estates, representing landlords and real estate transactions.

Unfortunately, Mr. Guyton passed away September 24, 2009. He touched so many lives with his wit, warmth and knowledge. He will be truly missed.

—Jeanne Wood, PLS

## Robert W. Lee

Robert W. Lee, age 55, passed away on August 16, 2009. The legal world lost a vital, talented member of its bar at too early of an age.



Those of us fortunate to have had Bob in our legal lives will miss him for several reasons. He had the uncharacteristic ability to make every lawyer, young or old, feel important and worthy of the practice of law. This is a rare talent that speaks volumes about his character. But, mostly, he made the practice of law fun. Not many can carry this badge of honor.

His depth of knowledge of any topic from law to medicine to Auburn football, his uncanny ability to narrow the issues down in a case, his unique ability to find good in every person and situation, his open personality that made lawyers relish having a case with him, and his natural presence in front of a jury or judge encompass the perfect lawyer that Bob Lee was. Judges respected him, opposing counsel appreciated his candor and the plaintiff's bar honored him, and all

deservedly so. While there were accolades, publications, authorships and honors, Bob's legal presence was more of an intangible greatness.

While law was important to Bob, his greatest passion was for his family. If he were here today for me to ask him what his greatest accomplishment in life was, I know he would answer his two sons, Harrison and Draper. My days of practice with Bob were always filled with stories of carpool adventures, Auburn football games and going to the lake house, and all included his boys. After my girls were born, Bob became not only my legal mentor but also my parenting mentor—a role I think he preferred! I hope that I can live up to his hopes for me as a lawyer and a mother. I will miss my law partner, my mentor and my friend. I know I am not alone in missing him.

—Wendy N. Thornton, Birmingham

## John A. Lockett, Jr.

John A. Lockett, Jr., 66, of Selma, died October 31 after a brief illness. Mr. Lockett is survived by his wife of 36 years, Martha Beasley Lockett of Selma; his mother, Louise D. Lockett of Selma; his sons, John A. Lockett III (Erin) of Atlanta and Peyton B. Lockett of Birmingham; a sister, Sue Lockett Lovoy (Steve) of Birmingham; and nieces and a nephew.

Mr. Lockett was born in Selma November 21, 1942. He graduated from A.G. Parrish High School in Selma in 1960 and from Birmingham-Southern College in 1964, where he was a member of Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity. He graduated from the University of Alabama School of Law in 1967. After serving a short time as an assistant attorney general for the State of Alabama, Mr. Lockett returned to Selma where he was engaged in the private practice of law for over 40 years, devoting much of his career to assisting the working people of Selma and the surrounding area with their legal affairs. Mr. Lockett served one term, 1974-1978, as a representative in the Alabama state legislature representing Dallas and Bibb counties as a Democrat.

He will be missed by his family and all of those who knew him.

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## Donald N. Spurrier

We remember our friend, mediator and peacemaker, Donald N. Spurrier. Don, of Spurrier, Rice & Forbes LLP in Huntsville, passed away October 27<sup>th</sup>.

Don was a very successful and well-loved mediator, and a member of the Alabama State Court Mediator Roster and the Appellate Court Roster. Last year, he mediated 138 cases for circuit court, settling 91. He also mediated six



cases for our appellate courts, settling three. Nine disputes were mediated by him before they were even filed in court, and he settled eight of them.

In a recent interview with Jeremiah Hodge for the fall 2009 *Alabama Association for Justice Journal*, Judge Karen Hall said, "That's why Don Spurrier's such a great mediator, because he's been around the block." Hodge replied that Don had a lot of credibility. Those who knew him certainly agree. Don will be missed.



—Judith M. Keegan, director, Alabama Center for Dispute Resolution

**Cole, John Lewis**

Birmingham  
Admitted: 1959  
Died: October 18, 2009

**Corretti, Douglas Philip**

Birmingham  
Admitted: 1948  
Died: October 11, 2009

**DeMouy, Marshall Jefferson**

Mobile  
Admitted: 1950  
Died: September 17, 2009

**Garvin, John Calder Jr.**

Huntsville  
Admitted: 1962  
Died: November 22, 2008

**Hicks, Preston Lee**

Foley  
Admitted: 1994  
Died: September 5, 2009

**Hodgkins, Robert Walker**

Birmingham  
Admitted: 1953  
Died: October 8, 2009

**Kenner, Hamilton Gray**

Santa Rosa Beach, FL  
Admitted: 1996  
Died: April 5, 2009

**Lamar, Robert Standring, Jr.**

Montgomery  
Admitted: 1966  
Died: October 18, 2009

**Lanford, Edward Douglas, Jr.**

Tuscaloosa  
Admitted: 1954  
Died: September 16, 2009

**Markstein, Daniel Harry, Jr.**

Birmingham  
Admitted: 1934  
Died: August 9, 2009

**Pogue, Thomas Leo**

Tuscaloosa  
Admitted: 1964  
Died: May 21, 2009

**Seale, Turner Chapman, Jr.**

Montgomery  
Admitted: 2002  
Died: October 11, 2009

**Sikes, Stanley Britt**

Fort Lauderdale, FL  
Admitted: 1965  
Died: June 17, 2009

**Simpson, James Evans**

Birmingham  
Admitted: 1957  
Died: March 10, 2009

**Smith, Jason Randolph**

Dothan  
Admitted: 2001  
Died: October 31, 2009

**Snoddy, Thomas Edd**

Double Springs  
Admitted: 1954  
Died: September 13, 2009

**Solomon, William Howard**

Mandarin, FL  
Admitted: 1976  
Died: September 20, 2009

**Spurrier, Donald Nelson**

Huntsville  
Admitted: 1956  
Died: October 27, 2009

**Torbert, Jack Whitfield**

Gadsden  
Admitted: 1950  
Died: May 5, 2009