

Edward J. Azar

Montgomery attorney Edward J. Azar died April 12th. He was born and raised in Montgomery and attended the University of Notre Dame and the University of Alabama School of Law, graduating in 1947. He was married to Gloria J. Azar for 63 years. Ed was a member of Saint Peter's Catholic Church and was a very active layman who received a Papal appointment as a Knight of St. Gregory.



He practiced real estate law and lectured on real estate law at the University of Alabama Montgomery Extension Center and Auburn University.

Ed was recognized as one of the preeminent real estate lawyers in Alabama and practiced continuously for more than 60 years.

He served in the Patterson administration as the Alcohol Beverage Control Board administrator and is credited with establishing many of the modern business practices utilized by the ABC board.

Ed was a staunch Alabama football fan and attended every Alabama-Auburn game since the series was re-established in 1948.

He was truly respected by all lawyers and he taught many young lawyers the ropes of practice pertaining to real estate. He is survived by his wife, Gloria, and his son, Norman. He will be greatly missed as a husband, friend and fellow lawyer.

—George B. Azar, *Montgomery*

John H. Lavette

Birmingham attorney John H. Lavette, an avid outdoorsman, passed away May 19th.

John is survived by his wife of 53 years, Mary Beth Lavette, and their children, Rose Lavette, Patrick Lavette, Jack Lavette, Ann Le Lavette, and Elizabeth Lavette Sharb, and 10 grandchildren. (Both Patrick and Jack are also members of the Alabama State Bar.)

John was born July 28, 1931 in Birmingham. He graduated from Ramsey High School in 1949, after which he attended the University of Alabama, graduating in 1952 with a BA degree. He obtained his law degree from the University of Alabama School of Law in January 1957. John served as an officer in the Air force for several years during the Korean Conflict.

He was a member of the Alabama State Bar and the Birmingham Bar Association and was a very skillful and astute lawyer. He was considered



EDWARD J. AZAR

JOHN H. LAVETTE

HENRY ARTHUR LESLIE

JOHN CLEVELAND
HAYS MILLER, JR.

ARCHIBALD THOMAS
REEVES III

MEMORIALS Continued from page 413

one of the premier experts in the legal profession in eminent domain law. In one of John's last cases he and son Pat were successful in obtaining one of the largest jury verdicts rendered in an eminent domain case in Alabama; this verdict was affirmed by the Alabama Supreme Court in January 2007.

John was a lawyer's lawyer in the truest sense. He had a very disarming and effective manner in the courtroom and always developed a close rapport with the juries. His skill as a trial lawyer was admired by all who either worked with him or opposed him in the courtroom.

John was an avid outdoorsman and was one of the original conservationists. He owned property in Chilton County and enjoyed hunting there. In recent years, he spent a great deal of time and resources in cultivating the properties and preparing the same for better quail habitat. John loved the sport of quail hunting as well as working with and training young bird dogs.

John loved and was loved by his wife, family and friends, all of who will dearly miss him.

—Anthony L. Cicio Sr., Birmingham

Henry Arthur Leslie

Henry Arthur Leslie, 87, of Montgomery, died June 26th. Born in Troy he resided in Montgomery for the last 45 years. He was a member of the Alabama State Bar for over 50 years.

Henry Leslie's professional career is best summarized by three words: law, education and banking. He excelled in all three. His affinity for the law was passed to his children and two adult grandchildren—daughter Cindy Bagby and son Arthur Leslie are lawyers as are grandchildren Leslie Klasing and David Miller and daughter-in-law Jeanne Marie Leslie is director of the ASB Lawyer Assistance Program. Mr. Leslie was devoted to all his family which also includes two other grandchildren, Arthur and Culle Leslie, and four great-grandchildren,



Anita and Katie Klasing and Nicholas and Madeline Miller. Mr. Leslie was predeceased by his loving wife of almost 60 years, Anita Leslie.

Henry received a BS degree in commerce from the University of Alabama where he was a member of Phi Beta Kappa, ODK, Jason's and captain of the Million Dollar Band. He received an LLB degree from the University of Alabama and an SJD degree from Yale University Law School. Enlisting in military service during World War II, he was later commissioned a 2nd Lieutenant. In 1944 he was awarded the Bronze Star for heroic service in France and the ETO Ribbon and four battle stars. After VE Day he became the military government officer over Bad Ischl, Austria until returning home. He continued to serve in the Army Reserve and retired as a Lt. colonel.

Henry taught economics and business law at the University of Alabama as a law student and was a professor of law and assistant dean of the law school. He entered the banking profession with Birmingham Trust National Bank. He joined Union Bank & Trust in Montgomery and was president and CEO from 1978-1991. After his retirement from banking he practiced law in association with one of his former students, Perry O. Hooper, Sr. During this period he was also on the board of directors of FFMC in Atlanta.

His involvement in civic and community organizations included terms as president of the Montgomery Chamber of Commerce, Children's Center, Downtown Unlimited, the Alabama Educational Foundation, and the World Affairs Council. He was on the board of directors of the Shakespeare Theatre, Montgomery Business Committee for the Arts and the Community Foundation, and was a trustee of Humana Hospital East, the Montgomery Museum of Fine Arts and the Montgomery Country Club. He was a member of the the Federal Reserve Board and the American Bar Association and Montgomery County Bar Association. He was a member of St. John's Episcopal Church where he served as senior warden.

—Anita Leslie Bagby, Birmingham, and Henry Arthur Leslie, Jr., Montgomery

John Cleveland Hays Miller, Jr.

John Cleveland Hays (Jack) Miller, Jr., a Mobile attorney prominent for more than a quarter-century in the worlds of law, banking, politics and higher education, died at his home on July 11th.

A native of Mobile, Miller received his undergraduate degree in 1966 from Duke University, and his law degree in 1969 from the University of Alabama School of Law, where he was elected to the Order of the Coif. He began his career in Alabama politics in 1966, in the re-election campaign of U.S. Senator John Sparkman, as founder of Young Alabamians for Sparkman.

Miller went to Washington, D.C. in 1971 as administrative assistant to U.S. Representative Walter Flowers of Tuscaloosa. In the following year, he became counsel to the U.S. Senate Banking Committee, and remained in Washington from 1973 to 1977, at the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, where he served as assistant to the director and then as deputy to the chairman of the FDIC.

In 1977, Miller returned to Mobile with his young family and took on the task of managing the gubernatorial campaign of an Opelika businessman, then known mainly as a former Auburn University football star and a successful business entrepreneur. Many Alabama political observers were stunned in 1978 when Miller's candidate, a former Republican named Fob James, defeated Lt. Gov. and former Attorney General Bill Baxley in the Democratic primary.

After James was elected governor that November, Miller turned his attention, and his considerable energies, to the law office that he had opened in Mobile. In 1979, he began advising and representing Robert E. Lowder of Montgomery, in forming the banking organization that, in 1981, was to become The Colonial BancGroup Inc. Miller was a founding member of the board of directors of the company, and over the years

also served as a director of some of its subsidiaries, with his service to the organization culminating in his election in 2007 as vice chairman of Colonial BancGroup, a position that he continued to hold until his death.

In 1981, Miller, along with Palmer Hamilton, of Mobile, Ronald Snider, a Selma native, and Mobile native Lewis Odom, Jr., a former administrative assistant to Senator Sparkman, founded Miller, Hamilton, Snider & Odom. The firm soon established, and thereafter maintained, a reputation as one of the premier specialty banking law firms in the United States. In 2008 it merged with Jones, Walker, Waechter, Poitevent, Carrère & Denègre LLP of New Orleans.

Appointed to the board of trustees of Auburn University in 2000, Miller brought to that institution, and devoted to its betterment, his training, his lifelong love for learning and his keen appreciation of, and fascination with, the art of effective verbal expression, both written and oral.

He served as a member of numerous committees of the board of trustees, including serving as chairman of the Academic Affairs Committee, and his commitment to Auburn was appropriately recognized in 2007, when the university conferred upon him the honorary degree of Doctor of Humane Letters. Perhaps equally gratifying to Miller, the university honored his heartfelt desire to imbue others with the same passion for language that he felt when, in 2009, it chose to name the university's new undergraduate writing center the John C. H. Miller Jr. Writing Center.

Miller is survived by his wife of 38 years, Susan Ross Miller; his mother, Emily Townsend Miller, of Mobile; his children, Emily Miller Washburn, and her husband, James, of Atlanta; John Cleveland Hays Miller, III, and his wife, Julia, of McCalla; and Edward Aubert Roberts Miller and his wife, Meredith, of Daphne; and two grandsons, Jackson Roberts Washburn and Jesse Townsend Washburn.

Archibald Thomas Reeves III

Archibald Thomas Reeves III, a wonderful father, husband, brother, grandfather, uncle, friend, and well-known Selma attorney, died May 3rd.



Archie was born in Selma June 6, 1932 to Archibald Thomas Reeves Jr. and Martha Mallory Reeves. After completing public schools in Selma, he attended Davidson College and the University of Alabama. In 1956, he earned his law degree from the University of Alabama School of Law, where he was a member of the *Alabama Law Review* and elected to the Order of the Coif. That same year, he began practicing law in Selma at his family's firm, Reeves & Stewart, one of the oldest law firms in the state. While there, he practiced with his father and was later joined by his son,

Allen Smith Reeves, who continues practicing at the firm today.

Archie was very active in St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Selma and numerous community and civic organizations. He loved fishing, a joy he passed onto his children and grandchildren. His other passions were his family, his church and his beloved city. He will always be remembered for his intellect, his wit, his animated stories on almost any subject, his enthusiasm, his distinctive voice, and his unfailing kindness to so many.

He is survived by his wife, Anne Smith ("Bebe"). Other survivors include his brother, H. Mallory Reeves (Martha); his sister, Claude Reeves Baniakas (Perry); his cousin, Hugh Mallory (Virginia); his sister-in-law, Sally Smith Carrington (David); his sons, Archie T. Reeves IV (Shannon), Allen Smith Reeves (Anne Catharine) and Edgar Stewart McNeil Reeves (Amy); eight grandchildren; and dozens of nieces, nephews, grand-nieces and -nephews; and other relatives.

—*The Reeves family*

Amos, Mary Riseling

Birmingham
Admitted: 1990
Died: May 24, 2009

Blackburn, John Gilmer

Auburn
Admitted: 1954
Died: May 31, 2009

Colvin, Serena B.

Jasper
Admitted: 1950
Died: June 7, 2009

De Laney, Christopher Columbus, Jr.

Mobile
Admitted: 1948
Died: June 8, 2009

Jones, A. Gary

Dothan
Admitted: 1996
Died: April 24, 2009

Marks, Alex Andrews

Montgomery
Admitted: 1935
Died: June 9, 2009

McCoy, Albert Lee

Alabaster
Admitted: 1997
Died: May 11, 2009

Morgan, Charles, Jr.

Destin, FL
Admitted: 1955
Died: January 9, 2009

Seale, James Hezekiah, III

Greensboro
Admitted: 1982
Died: June 21, 2009

Southerland, Henry deLeon, Jr.

Birmingham
Admitted: 949
Died: April 26, 2009