

JOSEPH CULVER HAMMOCK



Athens - Joseph Culver Hammock, 80, passed away Tuesday, July 10, 2007, after a brief illness. Born in Holly Pond, Alabama, Dr. Hammock was the son of Joseph Emmett and Katie-Belle Taylor Hammock. One of his proudest youthful accomplishments was earning Eagle Scout rank. He graduated from Ensley (Birmingham) High School, where he served as senior class president. He attended Birmingham Southern College and then, desiring to serve his country, he joined the U.S. Navy's V-12 program at University of South Carolina. Graduating in 1946, he served one year on active duty in San Diego. Demobilized, he pursued higher education through the G.I. Bill, eventually earning an M.A. and a Ph.D. in Psychology, from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville. He was married on 9/10/1947 to Edna Hill Haynes, in Inman, South Carolina, at the home of her parents, the late C. Baxter and Edna Cox Haynes. Over the course of a 35 year career as a teacher, mentor, administrator and inspirer of many students, Joseph Hammock served initially with HUMRRO at George Washington University and then chaired the HUMRRO unit at Fort Bliss,

Texas. After a brief lectureship at U.Ga., he moved on as a research psychologist to Bell Telephone Laboratories, Murray Hill, N.J. He recalled years later that his colleagues at Bell Labs had difficulty taking him seriously when he said that he intended to eventually return to his Southern roots, primarily because there were the best opportunities to work directly with students, which was his greatest love. In 1962, he accepted appointment as chairman of the University of Georgia's Psychology Department, then based out of Meigs Hall, with a faculty of nine. Over the next 7 years, Joe oversaw a great period of growth in that department's history, to some 50 faculty, now headquartered in the new and dramatically larger Journalism/Psychology Complex. Passing the baton in 1968, Joe accepted appointment as Vice Chancellor for the State University System of Georgia, overseeing Instructional Development and Research, where he served for 3 years, and then returned to teaching. By 1995, Joe and Edna Hill were ready for an active retirement. A few years later, Dr. Hammock was explaining to a passing neighbor his transition. At this point, granddaughter Kiersten interjected: "Papa Joe doesn't work anymore --he's tired". And Joe gently explained to her, and his bemused neighbor: "Honey, that's re-tired." Joe loved his years of committed involvement in the Kiwanis Club and was devoted to his Christian fellowship of friends at First United Methodist Church. He is survived by his sister, Peggy (Alan) Nelson, of Summerville, Alabama, his wife, Edna Hill, after nearly 60 years of marriage, his daughter, Margaret Anne (Athens), and two sons, Joseph C. Jr. (Colorado Springs), and Baxter Haynes (Earthsong, Jackson County). Also, Joe was especially proud of his five grandchildren: Patrick Austen Joyner, Kiersten LoreE Hammock, Jeffrey Christopher Hammock, Michael Brendan Hammock, and Jessalyn Rachel Hammock. A memorial service will be held at First United Methodist Church on Saturday, July 14th, at 10 a.m., with a

visitation following. In lieu of flowers, it is asked that donations be directed to a charity of one's choice, or the Salvation Army of Athens, Ga.

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