

ERNEST WILLIAMS III

Ernest Bland Williams III, age 79, well known Memphis attorney, died Sunday, April 20, 2008 at Saint Thomas Hospital in Nashville, TN of complications from bicycle accident in October 2007.

He was born in Memphis, TN on August 9, 1928 to Anne and Ernest Williams, Jr. He graduated from Sewanee Military Academy in 1946, received a BA from Vanderbilt University in 1949, and graduated from Vanderbilt School of Law in 1954. He spent two years in the Air Force during the Korean War as an instructor in Atomic, Bacteriological and Chemical defense.

He married Jane Wittichen Williams in 1953, and began his law practice in Memphis, Tennessee at Chandler, Sheperd, Heiskell & Williams, a law firm founded by his father. He became a managing partner in the successor firm Heiskell, Donelson, Bearman, Adams, Williams & Kirsch. The firm is now Baker, Donelson, Bearman, Caldwell & Berkowitz.

He founded the first Commercial Law Group in the firm, and chaired the Interest and Usury Subcommittee of the Commercial Financial Services Committee of the American Bar Association. He was a past president of the American College of Commercial Finance Lawyers. Mr. Williams was one of the original instructors at the University of Memphis School of Law, and taught courses in commercial law.

Mr. Williams was a longtime member of Second Presbyterian Church in Memphis, TN where he was a Sunday School teacher, a member of the Board of Deacons, and the attorney for the church in the process of exercising the right to withdraw from the Presbyterian Church USA. He is the current president of the Chapel Class,

Mr. Williams was active in Boy Scouts all of his life, and served as a Chickasaw Counsel board member for many years. He was awarded the Silver Beaver, one of Scouting's highest honors

for an adult leader. Many great memories are shared with the Boy Scouts of Troop 276 in Memphis, Tennessee.

Mr. Williams was very active in the Mid-South Fair, serving as Treasurer, Secretary, Vice President, Director, member of the Executive Committee, and was the Chairman of the Youth Talent Contest for five years. He helped to make arrangements for the winner of the fair to appear on the Ted Mack Youth Talent Contest on CBS.

Mr. Williams was the President and a member of the Board of Trustees of the Golightly Foundation, which sought to meet the needs of young people of the Mid-South area for over fifty years with grants and educational loans. He was active in Boys' Town/Youth Villages, and served on their board of directors. He was also on the Board of directors of Memphis Habitat for Humanity.

Mr. Williams was a life-long pilot. His love of flying found its greatest expression in gliders. He was a member and past president of the Memphis Soaring Society, the oldest continuously operating soaring club in the United States. He was also an avid racquetball player.

He is survived by his wife and love of 55 years, Jane W. Williams; children Ernie Williams IV (Colleen), Kay Williams and Tom Williams; and three grandchildren Shannon, Hunter and Sky.

The family asks that memorials be made in his honor to The Neighborhood School, Memphis Neighborhood Christian Center or Second Presbyterian Church.

Service will be held at Second Presbyterian Church on Wednesday April 23, 2008 at 11:00am with a gathering after the service in the Salmon Room of the church.