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35 years of keeping Furman safe

Furman University
35 YEARS OF KEEPING FURMAN SAFE

WHEN BOB MILLER retired in May as director of public safety, he completed a 35-year Furman career during which student interests and concerns were his top priority.

“Bob respected the dignity of everyone, no matter how difficult the interactions,” says Harry Shucker ’66, retired vice president for student affairs.

Miller and his team handled a host of responsibilities, from campus law enforcement to 24-hour communications, physical security, crime prevention and awareness programs, support services for events, and traffic and parking. Known as a progressive thinker, he brought a variety of technological innovations to Furman, from video monitoring to card access to buildings, computerized dispatch, and traffic and parking management.

Miller began his career with the Ocean City Police Department in Maryland. He served in military intelligence in the U.S. Army in the late 1960s, when much of his work involved handling civil rights demonstrations in the South. He also worked for public safety departments at several colleges before coming to Furman in 1978.

Luther Conway Shelton, Jr. ’44, June 1, Greenville. Skip left Furman after one year to join the U.S. Army Air Corps and flew 17 bombing missions over France and Germany during World War II. After the war he joined the Greenville Police Department for eight years, during which time he also worked as a disc jockey and artist. In 1956 he returned to aviation as a pilot, working for Milliken Mills, Spartan Mills, Stevens Aviation and U.S. Shelter Corporation. He retired from commercial aviation in 1999 to become a full-time artist in Greenwood, S.C., where he ran the Skip Shelton Art Studio. He published the book Into the Wild Blue Humor, was a columnist for the Laurens (S.C.) Advertiser, and served on the Ninety Six (S.C.) Tourism Board and on the board of the Boys Home of the South. He was an Eagle Scout.

Lois Cooper Bell Bentley ’45, March 2, Fountain Inn, S.C. She was co-owner of Fountain Inn Warehouse/Transfer Co.

Carolyn McCollum Lindsay ’45, March 26, Clemson, S.C. In 1993 she was honored as the Clemson University Tiger Brotherhood’s Mother of the Year. She was a member of the Clemson Cotillion Club, Clan Lindsay USA and the Saint Andrews Society.


Helen Taylor Barnette ’46, April 17, Greenwood, S.C.

Virginia Elizabeth Hutto Rickborn ’46, February 7, Chamblee, Ga. She was an elementary school teacher and a talented vocalist, having studied at the Juilliard School in New York during her undergraduate days.

Clarence Sidney Burts ’47, May 24, Columbia, S.C. Sid served in the U.S. Navy during World War II before becoming a public school teacher. He later entered the business world, serving as a partner in Burts Hardware and as president of Belt Line Drive-In Theater. After retiring he worked for several years at the Babcock Center.


William L. Culbertson ’47, May 14, Kernersville, N.C. He served with the U.S. Army in the South Pacific during World War II, after which he finished his education at Furman and attended Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. He ministered churches in Texas and the Carolinas before retiring in 1990. He later taught at Montgomery County Community College in Troy, N.C., and pastored Eldorado (N.C.) Baptist Church.

Jean Garrison Howard ’48, June 8, Greenville. She held a master’s degree in counseling from the University of Georgia and retired as a guidance counselor at Blyson Middle School in Simpsonville, S.C. She was a member of Alpha Delta Kappa honorary sorority for women educators.

Virginia Waddill Garrett ’49, May 7, Greenville.

George Dewey Hayes, Jr. ’49, April 23, Greenville. He was a U.S. Navy veteran, serving in intelligence in both World War II and Korea. After the war he continued his Furman degree and worked with Liberty Life Insurance Co. and The Greenville News.

Alexander Owens Simmons ’49, May 22, Greenville. A U.S. Navy veteran of World War II, he graduated from Northern Illinois College of Optometry and went on to practice optometry in Greenville County for more than 50 years.

Rowena Powell Waters Hall ’50, June 11, Wachow, N.C.

Kenneth Richard Powell ’50, April 17, Murfreesboro, Tenn. He served in World War II as a B-17 pilot and was a prisoner of war. After graduating from Furman he earned degrees from Pratt Art Institute and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. He spent his career in the art department of the Baptist Sunday School Board.

Frances Louise Mitchell Riley ’50, April 26, Orangeburg, S.C.

James Guy Timms, Jr. ’50, March 25, Piedmont, S.C. He served in the U.S. Army during the Korean War and was then promoted to sergeant first class in the Army Chemical Corps. He became chief of the 3rd Army Chemical, Biological and Radiological School for officers and non-commissioned officers. Afterward he returned to Aiken, S.C., where he was a health-physics engineer at the Savannah River Plant. He later assisted in the operation of the Timms Dairy Farm and worked for 30 years for the S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control.

Harold Marshall Price ’51, April 23, Greenwood, S.C. He was an accountant and co-owner of Starnes Club Forrest with his wife, Katie.

Kenneth R. Castevens ’52, May 19, Memphis, Tenn. He served in the Army Air Corps from 1946-47 before completing his education at Furman and at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary. He worked at churches in Washington, N.C., and Norfolk, Va. In 1967 he began work for the U.S. Navy in Norfolk, then finished his Navy career in Millington, Tenn. He worked in personnel training and developed and taught management seminars, and also served as West Tennessee coordinator for the AARP Driver Safety Program.

Horace Homer McKown, Jr. ’52, April 6, Greenville. He was a U.S. Navy veteran of World War II, a retired U.S. probation officer and owner of McKown’s Florist, LLC. He was former chair of the City of Greer (S.C.) Zoning Committee.

Daniel Purdy Juengst ’53, April 14, Willington, S.C. He graduated from Union Theological Seminary in Virginia in 1956, and in 1957 was ordained in the Presbyterian Church (USA). He was a missionary in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. After earning a master’s degree in African studies from Howard University and a Ph.D. in anthropology from the University of Florida, he taught at the University of West Georgia in Carrollton for 16 years. During retirement in Willington he served