Hamrick provided strong leadership

Furman University

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as president of the Mims Community Center and chair of the McCormick County Democratic Party, and was a member of the McCormick County Soil and Water Commission.

**Jesse Norris Kinion ’53, April 11, Greenville.** At the age of 14, Norris passed the Civil Service exam and was hired to work at the Charleston (S.C.) Navy Base. At 15 he signed on with the Merchant Marines and sailed to England to pick up wounded veterans from the Battle of the Bulge. He joined the U.S. Navy at 16 and served two years, after which he returned to civilian life. He was owner of Kinion Sheet Metal Works for 10 years, then worked for the Champion Spark Plug Company for 22 years. He was active in the American Legion, serving as post commander several times and as state commander in 1990–91. He planned and conducted many Veterans Day and Memorial Day events for veterans and also helped plan the 1989 parade for the Furman football team after it won the I-AA national title. Active in the S.C. State Guard as recruitment officer, he was a charter member of the National Hot Rod Association and life member of the National Rifle Association.

**Charles Kenneth Kuykendall, Sr. ’53, April 8, Anderson, S.C.** Ken had a distinguished career in the U.S. Navy, having served in World War II.

**Charles Albert Short ’53, April 10, Marietta, S.C.** He was employed by J.E. Sirrine Company, Professional Engineering and Fuller Engineering.

**Benjamin Tillman Green, Jr. ’54, May 6, Greer, S.C.** He was a U.S. Navy veteran of World War II, an employee of Penn National, and a minister of music at two Baptist churches.

**Martha Rodgers Keller ’54, April 30, Troy, S.C.** She taught for 48 years in South Carolina schools, retiring from Long Cane Academy in McCormick.

**O.Z. White ’54, M.A. ’61, April 11, San Antonio, Texas.** He was a member of the U.S. Maritime Service during World War II. In addition to his Furman degrees, he earned a Master of Divinity degree from Erskine Theological Seminary and a Ph.D. from Emory University. He was an assistant professor and chaplain at Erskine and an instructor at Georgia State College before joining the faculty of Trinity University in San Antonio in 1964. There he was professor and chair of the department of sociology and anthropology before retiring in 1992. He served as a consultant to the San Antonio Council on Alcohol and Drug Abuse and the Rio Grande Council, and for many years was a volunteer counselor at Christian Assistance Ministries and San Antonio Metropolitan Ministries. Walter Harrison Ragsdale ’55, March 30, Greenville. He served in the U.S. Navy and the Naval Reserve, rising to the rank of commander as an acrobatic flight instructor from 1955 to 1966. He flew hazardous night missions in the North Atlantic and received three letters of commendation. An accomplished musician and published poet, he went on to own Martin Printing Company in Easley, S.C.

**Jeanne Saunders Davis ’56, April 25, Lexington, N.C.** She was a devoted Furman alumna, serving on the Alumni Association Board of Directors and the Advisory Council. Her alumni service award in 1999 and the Bell Tower Award, the university’s second highest honor, in 2010. A talented musician, she taught piano and voice in her home and was minister of music at three Baptist churches in North Carolina. She was active in the Lexington Music Study Club, Charity League, Community Concerts, Hospital Auxiliary and other charity theatre. For her contributions to civic life in Lexington, she was presented the Athena Award in 2005. She and her husband endowed the Saunders-Davis Music Scholarship at Furman.

**Margaret Anne Snuggs Hallman ’56, March 16, White House, Tenn.** She retired as a trust officer with First Citizens Bank in Columbia, S.C., where for 46 years she was also church organist at Kilbourne Park Baptist Church. More recently she played for Immanuel Baptist Church in Portland, Tenn.

Robertta Feeley Jeffries ’56, May 6, Wilmington, N.C. Bobbie was active in the parent-teacher organization at College Park Elementary School and tutored students at Noble Junior High School. She was a volunteer at New Hanover Regional Medical Center and Davis Health Care Center.

Billie Pauline Ludwig ’56, May 2, Greenville. She taught for 39 years at East North Street Elementary School, during which time she was selected teacher of the year. She was a member of Tau Chapter of Delta Kappa Gamma.

Peggy Bagwell Merck ’56, April 9, Piedmont, S.C. She taught in Anderson County (S.C.) for more than 30 years.

**Frankie Norris Eppes ’57, May 23, Greenville.**

**Steve Bruce Tate, Sr. ’57, March 20.** He was a masonry contractor and also worked with 3M Company and with Hertz.

A football player at Furman, he coached Little League football and was a referee for Greenville County high school football.

**Martha Arrington Wickleff ’57, January 15, Martinsville, Va.**

**HAMRICK PROVIDED STRONG LEADERSHIP**

**WHEN FURMAN AWARDED** James L. Hamrick an honorary Doctor of Humanities degree in 1996, it recognized him as “a man of unfailing good humor, quiet modesty and great wisdom.”

He was also a loyal alumnus, textile executive and community leader, a man of integrity and honor. When he died May 23 at the age of 89, the university lost a valued counselor and friend.

Born in Shelby, N.C., Hamrick served in the U.S. Army during World War II, seeing action in France and fighting in the Battle of the Bulge. Upon his return to the States he enrolled at Furman, where he received a degree in mathematics in 1950, was a student leader and was elected to Quatemion, the select men’s honorary society.

He went on to earn a master’s degree in political science from Duke University and then joined Milliken & Company in Spartanburg, S.C., where for 40 years he provided outstanding service in various executive positions. After retiring in 1993 as vice president of corporate financial planning, he continued to serve the company for almost 20 years as a consultant and as executive director of the Milliken Foundation.

Active in civic and cultural affairs in Spartanburg, he was a longtime Furman trustee and a two-time chair of the board. Known for his firm, steady leadership, he presided over the 1995 inauguration of David E. Shi as the university’s 10th president.

Hamrick was a member of the political science department’s Hall of Fame, a founding member of the Richard Furman Society, and was active in the Paladin Club, Partners Program and Heritage Society. With his wife and college sweetheart, the late Peggy Cater Hamrick ’50, he endowed scholarships for students in music and political science.