

1-1-2012

Dan Joyner, Furman's biggest fan

Jim Stewart
Furman University

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholarexchange.furman.edu/furman-magazine>

Recommended Citation

Stewart, Jim (2012) "Dan Joyner, Furman's biggest fan," *Furman Magazine*: Vol. 54 : Iss. 4 , Article 29.
Available at: <https://scholarexchange.furman.edu/furman-magazine/vol54/iss4/29>

This Article is made available online by Journals, part of the Furman University Scholar Exchange (FUSE). It has been accepted for inclusion in Furman Magazine by an authorized FUSE administrator. For terms of use, please refer to the [FUSE Institutional Repository Guidelines](#). For more information, please contact scholarexchange@furman.edu.

Rance Eugene Pusser '51, November 1, Savannah, Ga. He served as an officer in the U.S. Marine Corps during the Korean War. After his military service ended, he worked for Underwood Corporation and Dictaphone Corporation in Columbia, S.C. He was also a manager for Dictaphone in Raleigh, N.C., and Norfolk, Va., and went on to be a district manager in Columbus, Ohio, and in New Orleans. In Columbus he led the country in sales, becoming president of the company's Achievement Club. He chose early retirement to become a dealer for Dictaphone in Savannah, Ga., under the name of Dictation Plus, and later opened Accurate Mailing Systems. A Rotarian for more than 50 years, he was a member of the Savannah Yacht Club and former commandant of the Marine Corps League. He also ran three marathons, including the Boston Marathon.

JC Hendrix '52, November 11, Greenville. He served in the U.S. Army in Japan during World War II. After completing his college degree he was employed by Piedmont Natural Gas Company, where he worked for more than 30 years.

James Furman Pollock '52, September 16, Pawleys Island, S.C. He was a U.S. Army veteran and retired from Belk Department Store after 40 years of service. He was a Rotarian and served on the Board of Education in Georgetown, S.C.

William Hubert Barefoot '53, November 7, Columbia, S.C. He was a member of the U.S. Navy during World War II. His career included teaching and coaching at Maiden High School for 10 years before entering the insurance industry with the Horace Mann Company, from which he retired after 27 years. He earned the Chartered Life Underwriter designation and was named Agency Manager of the Year for three consecutive years. He was an avid golfer and volunteered with The Gideons International.

Kenneth Mendal Newton '54, October 12, Greer, S.C. He was a U.S. Army veteran and was pastor emeritus of Washington Baptist Church.

DAN JOYNER, FURMAN'S BIGGEST FAN

WHILE WATCHING C. DAN JOYNER work the crowd one day at a Furman basketball game, a student commented admiringly, "He has to be the world's most enthusiastic person."

It was an accurate statement, as few people could ever match Joyner's love of life and genuine enjoyment of others. A sign in his office summed up the Joyner philosophy: "Whenever you see someone without a smile . . . give him one of yours."

When Joyner died January 8 at the age of 74, he was remembered for his civic leadership, infectious personality, and love for his hometown of Greenville — and Furman.

A 1959 Furman graduate, Joyner put his leadership skills and gregarious nature to work during his student days as a cheerleader and student body president. He was elected to Quaternion, the select men's society.

After three years in the Army Counter Intelligence Corps, he returned to Greenville and launched Prudential C. Dan Joyner Co., which he built into one of the Upstate's most successful real estate firms. Through the years he contributed his expertise and wisdom to countless agencies and institutions, from the Chamber of Commerce, United Way and Greenville Hospital System to First Baptist Church and the Community Foundation of Greenville.

But Furman held a special place in his heart. "I'd find time for Furman University before anything else," he once said. He was a member of the board of trustees during the presidencies of John Johns, David Shi and Rod Smolla, and his responsibilities included service on the trustees' athletics committee.

Said Smolla, "All of us are going to miss Dan more than we can say. His influence obviously went far beyond the Furman campus, and there is no question that Greenville is a better place for Dan having lived and worked here. For that, we were as proud of him as he was of Furman."

In addition to his trustee work, Joyner served as president of the Paladin Club and the Alumni Association. He was instrumental in the successful effort to bring Joe Williams to Furman as basketball coach in 1970 and in the construction of Paladin



Stadium in the early 1980s. More recently he chaired the committee that worked to improve seating for basketball in Timmons Arena. The C. Dan Joyner Family Athletic Scholarship is awarded annually to a Furman student-athlete with financial need.

"Dan Joyner was an icon for Furman athletics," said Gary Clark, director of athletics. "He was part of the bedrock support of the university, and his optimism and can-do attitude allowed us to accomplish many things that otherwise would have been extremely difficult."

Joyner received the Alumni Service Award in 1967, and in 1986 he was elected to Furman's Athletic Hall of Fame. The porch at the David E. Shi Center for Sustainability is named in honor of Joyner and his wife, Katherine Poole Joyner '60.

In a 1989 interview, Joyner described the secret to his success: "There's no substitute for hard work. And it's important to be close as a family, to do things together, to be involved in your community. We all take a lot out of our communities. If you care, you want to give something back."

In addition to his wife, Joyner is survived by three children, eight grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. Memorials: First Baptist Church, 847 Cleveland Street, Greenville, S.C. 29601, or Joyner Family Athletic Scholarship at Furman, 3300 Poinsett Highway, Greenville, S.C. 29613.

— JIM STEWART