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## BEHLKE WAS POUNDERS' LEADER

AT HIS FUNERAL MARCH 21 IN GREENVILLE, Marvin Behlke '61 was remembered as a wonderful family man, strong leader, caring role model, and loyal supporter of Furman football.

Behlke, who died of cancer March 18, was also credited with being the primary force behind the establishment of the "Purple Pounders" Scholarship, which is awarded annually to a Paladin football player chosen as the outstanding scout team player of the previous season.

The term "Purple Pounders" came from the 1955–57 teams coached by Homer Hobbs, a demanding taskmaster whose aspirations for the football program didn't exactly mesh with the realities of a small liberal arts college. During the Hobbs Era, Furman was 6–24 against a brutal schedule that included such teams as Army, Auburn, Florida State and West Virginia, plus annual battles with Clemson and South Carolina.

Despite — or because of — the team's struggles, the players developed a close bond. "Purple Pounders" originally referred to the scout team, whose job was to run the opposition's schemes in practice each week and get "pounded" by the first team. Eventually, a Pounder became anyone who played at Furman under Hobbs.

In the late 1990s the Pounders began holding reunions, and soon they decided to do something to ensure they would not be forgotten. Thanks in large part to Behlke's leadership, they raised funds to establish the scholarship. The endowment value has now surpassed \$270,000.

To recognize Behlke's efforts, the university issued a proclamation March 14 stating that, henceforth, "The Purple Pounders Endowed Scholarship will be awarded in honor of Marvin R. Behlke, Sr." Several of Behlke's teammates were on hand to present the citation to him.

Behlke, who was co-captain of the 1960 squad, went on to a long career with the Social Security Administration. After retiring in 1996, he worked as a realtor.

He is survived by his wife, Mary Barr Cave Behlke '59, two children, six grandchildren, and a sister. Memorials: the Purple Pounders Scholarship at Furman, or McCall Hospice House, 1836 W. Georgia Road, Simpsonville, S.C. 29680.



**Wilton Maurice Evans** '50, December 31, Easley, S.C. He was a psychologist in the U.S. Army, after which he was the general manager for several country clubs in the Carolinas.

**William Thurlow Gregory III** '50, January 25, Manning, S.C. A real estate developer, he was president of Palmetto Dunes Development, the original developer of Palmetto Dunes on Hilton Head Island, S.C. He also developed Reflections Subdivision in Columbia, S.C., and contracted with the owners to develop Stoney Point Golf Course and Subdivision on Lake Greenwood. In 1992 he contracted to develop Wyboo Plantation and Golf Course on Lake Marion.

**Nancy Worrell Hicks** '50, December 26, Cary, N.C. She was an assistant vice president of First Federal Savings and Loan Association and also worked in the legal and real estate fields.

**Clyde Talley Porter** '51, February 20, Greenville. He taught in the Pickens County (S.C.) schools and was active in his church. He served in the U.S. Army during World War II.

**Mary Rector Crowder** '52, December 25, Millen, Ga.

**Sylvester James Hendrix** '52, December 23, Pleasant Grove, Ala. He was a Flying Tiger with the U.S. Air Force during World War II, then was briefly associated with the Brooklyn Dodgers baseball organization before entering Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in 1947. He was a minister for 60 years and was among the first Southern Baptist ministers to desegregate his church. For his contributions to racial conciliation, he was awarded a key to the city of Fairfield, Ala. At the time of his death he was pastor emeritus of South Park Baptist Church.

**Burke Alvah Lee** '52, January 22, Greenville. He served in the U.S. Army, after which he worked as an agent with State Farm Insurance for 55 years.

**Barbara Ann Langford Hayes** '53, February 17, Columbia, S.C. She taught school for 33 years, first at Hand Junior High School and then at Crayton Middle School, where she was Teacher of the Year twice. After retiring she volunteered with a host of community, church and service groups. She was a member of Delta Kappa Gamma (Alpha chapter) and the Eau Claire Music Club.

**William Robert Hudgens** '53, December 5, Spartanburg. A U.S. Navy veteran, he graduated from the Medical University of South Carolina in 1957, then served his internship at the University of Virginia and his residency at MUSC. He was a pediatrician with Pediatric Associates for 41 years.

**Anne Price Blakely** '54, February 11, Greenville. She taught French and history, most recently at Greer (S.C.) High School. She was an organist and an avid bridge player and gardener.

**Charles Henry Rabon** '54, February 8, Kershaw, S.C. He was ordained into the ministry in 1954 and served Baptist churches in Indiana and the Carolinas. In 1972 he joined the South Carolina Baptist Convention as the first director of the Pastoral Ministries Office, a position he held until 1994. He also served the denomination as president of the Pastors Conference, moderator for several state associations, and member of the General Board and Nominating Committee. He was a trustee of Bethea Baptist Home, a member of the Advisory Council of North Greenville College, and a board member of the Alumni Association of Gardner-Webb University. In his later years he assisted Connie Maxwell Children's Home as ambassador and fundraiser. In 1981 he received an honorary Doctor of Divinity degree from Charleston Southern University, and in October 2009 he was named to the Gallery of Distinguished Alumni of Gardner-Webb.