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FRANK RICHARDSON: 1920-2008

He did so much for Florida Baptists

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He served in the Army Intelligence Corps as a special investigator.

By CHARLIE PATTON
The Times-Union

Frank Richardson, a longtime Jacksonville resident who handled the financial affairs of the Florida Baptist Convention during three decades of growth, died Thursday following a brief illness. Mr. Richardson was 88.

The funeral will be today at 10 a.m. at Hendricks Avenue Baptist Church, 4001 Hendricks Ave. Burial will take place at 2 p.m. in the Live Oak Baptist Church Cemetery outside Callahan.

Mr. Richardson joined the Florida Baptist Convention as comptroller and director of business services in 1953. He retired in 1982.

Among the accomplishments of which Mr. Richardson was proudest was his role in developing a retirement program and group insurance plan for Baptist pastors and their staffs, said his son, Craig Richardson of Chapel Hill, N.C. He also worked to assure that money was spent in the way donating churches wanted it spent, his son said.

"He was a good steward," said Kyle Reese, pastor at Hendricks Avenue Baptist Church, where Mr. Richardson had been a member for the last eight years.

He was "a genuinely good and kind human being," Reese added.

Richardson

Born in a small town in North Carolina, Mr. Richardson played college baseball at Mars Hill College and North Carolina State University before World War II, during which he served as a special investigator for the Army Intelligence Corps.

He returned from the war to get a bachelor's in business administration and accounting from Stetson University, where he also earned a master's degree.

He was active in civic affairs in Jacksonville, including serving as president of the Civitan Club of South Jacksonville.

He served for many years as a deacon and Sunday school teacher at Southside Baptist Church and then at Deermeadows Baptist Church, where he and his wife were founding members.

In retirement he devoted much of his time to gardening. "He had an outstanding rose garden," said his brother-in-law, Robert Rowe of Jacksonville.

Besides his son, survivors include his wife of 60 years, Libby Braddock Richardson; daughter Susan Richardson Renard of Jacksonville; a sister, Willodean Hovis of Bessemer City, N.C.; and three grandchildren.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that donations be made to Hendricks Avenue Baptist Church or Stetson University.

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