



Governor John Wayne Mixson

June 16, 1922 - July 8, 2020

John Wayne Mixson was born on the family farm near New Brockton, Alabama on June 16, 1922. He passed away peacefully early Wednesday morning, July 8, 2020 at his home in Tallahassee. He is survived by his wife of 72 years, Margie Grace Mixson.

He joined the Navy in 1942 and served our country during World War II. He was then selected for the Navy V-12 college training for officers where he studied at Columbia University in New York, Denison University in Ohio and the Wharton School of Business at the University of Pennsylvania. After leaving the Navy, he entered the University of Florida and graduated with a degree in business in 1947. Returning to his roots in Campbellton, Florida, he purchased a small farm which grew to a 2,000-acre cattle, peanut and grain operation.

Wayne was elected to the Florida House of Representatives in 1967 and was re-elected for six consecutive terms. Then Senator Bob Graham asked him to run for Lieutenant Governor with him in his race for Governor. After two terms in office, Bob Graham was elected to the U.S. Senate. He took office several days early and Wayne became the 39th Governor of Florida.

His primary mission throughout his elected years, was to improve agriculture and to create new and better jobs through industrial development in Florida. As Lieutenant Governor and Secretary of Commerce, his pursuit was worldwide and Florida's job growth lead the nation.

Wayne served on numerous corporate Boards, was a Rotarian for many years

and remained Chairman Emeritus of the Economic Club of Florida. He was named a Distinguished Alumni of the University of Florida where he was a lifelong member of the University of Florida Foundation Board. He was also a member of Trinity United Methodist Church in Tallahassee.

A private funeral service for former Governor Wayne Mixson is scheduled on Friday, July 10, at 5:00 p.m. EDT at Bevis Funeral Home in Tallahassee, Florida. Due to current circumstances, the service will be livestreamed via the funeral home website. Visit <https://www.bevisfh.com/obituaries/John-Mixson/#!/PhotosVideos> to view the service at its scheduled time.

A brief committal service, as well as rendering of military honors, is scheduled for Saturday, July 11, at 11:00 a.m. CDT at Marvin Chapel Cemetery in Graceville, Florida.

The family requests that gifts in memory of Governor Mixson may be made to the Salvation Army (salvationarmyusa.org) or a charity of your choice.

Todd Wahlquist, Kelly Barber and Rocky Bevis of Bevis Funeral Home of Tallahassee (850/385-2193 or www.bevisfh.com) are assisting Mrs. Mixson with her arrangements.

Cemetery Details

Marvin Chapel Cemetery

12th Avenue
Graceville, FL 32440

Previous Events

Funeral Service

JUL 10. 5:00 PM (ET)

Bevis Funeral Home & Crematory
200 John Knox Rd
Tallahassee, FL 32303
(850) 385-2193

Graveside Service

JUL 11. 11:00 AM (CT)

Marvin Chapel Cemetery
12th Avenue
Graceville, FL 32440

Tribute Wall



“ *Bevis Funeral Home created a Webcast in memory of Governor John Wayne Mixson*



Bevis Funeral Home - July 10, 2020 at 01:34 PM

RL

Beautiful service!

Ruby Carol Lamb - July 10, 2020 at 05:39 PM

EP

I am so thankful for the privilege to be able to watch the service. May the Lord bless you for making it possible. Wayne was always an honorable boy and man. He loved his family and loved our time spent together once a year at the reunion. He was faithful to call me often. The last two times that he called; he told me: "Lib, our family is dwindling away too fast." I love all of you very much, and if I do not get to see you again in this life: I will see you in Heaven. I thoroughly enjoyed the minister. He did a superb job. Every thing that he said about Wayne was true. Margie, take care of yourself and remember that you are held up in prayer.

Elizabeth (Lib) Parrish

Elizabeth Parrish - July 10, 2020 at 06:05 PM

KB

The service was beautiful. Our Lord was honored first and Wayne was honored for the man of God that he was. He definitely would want it to be in that order. Gordon and I was truly blessed to have him as our friend and neighbor. So long dear Wayne, we will see you again.

Kaye Burgin - July 10, 2020 at 07:08 PM

CT

I am thankful to have been able to watch the service as well. He was so loved by so many. My dad, Eddie Glaze, left us 16 years ago and I imagine what joy there was in heaven when these two were reunited. Margie, you are in my prayers.

Carol Glaze Taylor - July 11, 2020 at 03:28 PM

LI

“ Exactly 34 years ago today I met my future husband because of Wayne Mixson. He sponsored a private dinner for the speakers of the Economic Development conference held in Tallahassee. Hank and I met there and the rest is history. Any time we saw the Lieutenant Governor we reminded him and thanked him. It is a special memory to us and we wanted to share it with you. Linda and Hank Fishkind

linda - July 15, 2020 at 12:00 PM

B
BEVIS

“ 1 file added to the album Governor John Wayne Mixson Interment Ceremony



Bevis Funeral Home - July 11, 2020 at 04:23 PM

SP

“ Love the postcards and dolls from Mr. and Mrs. Mixson from their travels when they lived in Marianna. And fun times on the farm. Prayers of Comfort and Peace Love the Rhoda and Roy Porter, Sr. Family

Sheila Porter - July 10, 2020 at 05:40 PM

MH

“ Gov. Mixson was one of my favorite Rotarians. From one Gator alum to another, he like to tease me about my fraternity colors - Beta Theta Pi, light shades of pink and blue. He was truly a Southern Gentleman.

Mark Horner

Mark Horner - July 10, 2020 at 05:17 PM

DD

“ My memories of working with Gov. Mixson as General Counsel at the Florida Department of Commerce many years ago are cherished by me and my family. On behalf of myself and my family, I extend my deepest condolences to Margie and other family members at this time.

*Don Wayne Davis
General Counsel
Florida Department of Commerce
1978-1987*

Don Wayne Davis - July 10, 2020 at 05:04 PM

AM

“ I had the great opportunity to work with Governor Mixson when he was Lieutenant Governor, Secretary of Commence and Governor. He was a joy. A great and principled public servant. He loved everyone and he helped everyone.

May Governor Mixson Rest In Peace. My love and thoughts to his family.

Amelia (Mel) Rea Maguire, Coral Gables, Florida

Amelia Rea Maguire - July 10, 2020 at 05:00 PM

SK

“ So very sorry to hear about the passing of my dear friend Gov. Mixson. Governor Mixson was a true leader in the state of Florida and led by example. He was kind, compassionate and appreciated his southern heritage. We had numerous conversations about life growing up on the farm and he ensured that he never forgot his roots. He valued people and cherished the faith and trust that the people of Florida placed in him as a leader. He will be missed by his friends and family. Thanks Ms. Margie for sharing this wonderful man with us and always know that you were his first and only love. Remember Governor Mixson is like a star, you might not see him, but know that he is always there. Much love, Sandy Koon

Sandy Koon - July 10, 2020 at 04:45 PM

JW

“ I was so saddened to read this. Prayers for Mrs. Margie and the family as they mourn the death of their patriarch.

Mr. Wayne was such a special human being. He and my father were good friends, when I was growing up in the Panhandle. He was a frequent visitor at my home, and I knew him simply as my father's farming friend and later as his fellow political strategist.

Several years ago, when I moved to Tallahassee, my father gave me a list of people to contact, if I needed anything. Wayne Mixson, along with Mallory Horne Sr, Dempsey Barron, Doyle Conner, and a few other "locals" were among the list.

A few years after I moved to Tally, I approached Mr. Wayne at a benefit dinner for the Salvation Army, as he was speaking with a circle of people. When I told him my name and whose daughter I was, he halted the discussion, put his arm around my shoulders and proceeded to proclaim that he had known me since I was "this tall" and began to tell those standing near about his friendship with my father. I thought that was pretty special.

When he became Governor, I was working with the Florida Supreme Court. I called his office and asked his secretary if she could arrange for me to have a copy of his letterhead. I told her who I was and that I worked across the street and could pick it up, if she could arrange it. Not only did I get a sheet of of his letterhead, but he also sent me a handwritten personal note, as well. I thought that was pretty special.

There were numerous other encounters that meant a lot to me, as our paths crossed in Tallahassee. With his kindness and graciousness, he genuinely made the people he met and with him he interacted feel pretty special.

I will always be grateful for his exemplary character and generosity of spirit. Mr. Wayne was a Southern gentleman and an ethical leader. Very few sterling people like him still exist.

Janis Williamson - July 10, 2020 at 08:51 AM



“ Thank you to my friend, Wayne Mixson for more than 55 years of wonderful friendship. You are in a better place today but you did so much while living on this earth. You and Margie had a wonderful life together.....that very, very few have or will ever have. Thank you for everything! Our love remains eternal.

Bobby F. McKown - July 09, 2020 at 05:43 PM



“ Sacred Duty Spray was purchased for the family of Governor John Wayne Mixson.



July 09, 2020 at 05:31 PM



“ Sacred Duty Spray was purchased for the family of Governor John Wayne Mixson.



July 09, 2020 at 05:23 PM

CT

“ My dad, Eddie Glaze, was Wayne's first cousin. We visited his farm and the farms of my dad's aunts and uncles when we were growing up. I loved riding around in Wayne's truck, checking his cattle, his peanuts and soybeans. We woke up in the morning and gathered eggs, ate breakfast cooked over a wood stove, and spent lovely days watching life on the farm. They were such loving happy families and my happiest memories are those spent with them. My prayers are with Margie as she has lost the love of her life.

Carol Glaze Taylor - July 09, 2020 at 01:29 PM

PB

“ I'm sad to see news that Wayne Mixson has died. Those of us who had the good fortune of having his wife Margie as a teacher at Gainesville High School back in the 50s and 60s will want to know and to offer her our heartfelt sympathy. She was a gem and one of the very best at our high school. I send love and thanks to her and her family. Her husband was also one of the best in serving the interests of Florida..

Patti Pitz Bridges - July 09, 2020 at 08:43 AM

JB

“ I was sorry to hear the sad news of Governor Mixson’s passing. He has been a long time friend for many years. I was honored to serve as a Security Aide in the Graham/Mixson and the Governor Mixson Administrations. I always admired his service in the Florida Legislature, as Lt. Governor and as Governor. He made many contributions to our state of Florida through his service. I always enjoyed visiting and talking farming and politics with him. I will miss him.

My sincere condolences to First Lady Margie Mixson and my prayers are for peace and comfort for and the family.

*In Christ’s Love,
Jim and Rosalind Baxley*

Jim Bacley - July 08, 2020 at 06:18 PM