

LONGTIME BANKING BANKING LEGEND DIES

By Lindsay McReynolds

Jack Ray, who served as chairman of the board of BPC Corporation and Bank of Putnam County, died Friday at his home. He was 84.

The Monterey native's grandfather in 1901 started the Bank of Monterey, which became the Bank of Putnam County. At the of 28, Ray became the youngest bank president in the country in 1962, according to his daughter, Elizabeth Fournet, vice president of the bank's board of directors.



Jack Ray, right, and Johnny Coleman, left, celebrate the Bank of Putnam County new business center ribbon cutting in downtown Monterey surrounded by citizens and local officials in August 2019.

"It was what his family needed him to do," Fournet said. "It's in our blood. Banking is a very human business, if you do it the way we do it."

Ray took the bank's business from \$10 million to over a billion dollars in assets. Bank of Putnam County has 20 offices in five counties with 278 employees, and Ray knew most of them.

"We probably have a handful of employees who never met dad, four to five who've come on in last six-eight weeks," she said.

Fournet estimates that about 60,000 households use the bank's services.

"One of my favorite stories, he was driving to Jamestown, and he got stopped by a police officer, and he (Ray) was fussing at his driver for going too fast, and the officer said, 'You weren't going too fast, I just had a bank question.'"

Among the lessons her dad taught her was how to treat others.

"I've seen him sit down and talk to a president of the United States, and I've seen him talk to a lady who didn't have any front teeth," Fournet said. "He didn't treat either of them any differently. He taught me immensely what it is to be a servant in this world."

An obituary for Jack Ray is on Page A7 in today's paper.

Herald-Citizen, Cookeville, TN: March 21, 2020

Jack Pointer Ray Obt.

MONTEREY — Private graveside services for Jack Pointer Ray, age 84, of Monterey, Tennessee, were conducted at the Whittaker Cemetery. The Rev. Denna Hornby officiated. Celebration of life services will be announced at a later date.

Mr. Ray was born August 14, 1935, in Monterey, Tennessee, to the late William Turner Ray, Sr. and Lillian Pointer Ray.



Mr. Ray passed away Friday, March 20, 2020, at his home.

Mr. Ray was chairman of the board of BPC Corporation and Bank Of Putnam County. He was a graduate of Culver Military Academy in Culver, Indiana, and a graduate of University of Virginia Class of 1957 also earning his law degree in 1962. He was a United States Army veteran and a lifetime member of Monterey United Methodist Church. Anyone that knew Jack knew he was very modest and humble about his life and his accomplishments. He loved Monterey and the community and was proud of where he was born, raised and lived his life.

He is survived by his wife, Donna Lusk Ray of Monterey; two daughters and a son-in-law, Elizabeth and Dr. Tim Fournet of Cookeville; and Autumn Phillips Of Cookeville; four grandchildren, Ammon (And Ashton) Hitchcock of Cookeville, William Hitchcock Of Cookeville , John Hitchcock and fiancée Summer Stroud of Cookeville and Phoenix Ray Of Washington, D.C.; and one brother and sister-in-law, William Turner Ray Jr. and Frances Ray of Monterey.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his son, Jack Pointer Ray Jr., and son-in-law Rex Hitchcock.

In lieu of flowers, the family request memorial donations be given to Monterey United Methodist Church, 124 North Holly St., Monterey, TN 38574 or to Backpack Ministries, Monterey Ministerial Association, Monterey Church Of The Nazarene, c/o Rev. Adam Risher, 110 North Poplar St., Monterey, TN 38574.

Arrangements and care provided By D.M. Goff Funeral Home, Inc., 205 East Cleveland Ave., Monterey, Tennessee 38574, Phone 931.839.2311.

A guest register may be signed at www.gofffuneralhome.com.

Herald-Citizen, Cookeville, TN: March 22, 2020

*Read more about the people and places in Putnam Co., TN at:
<http://www.ajlambert.com>

