

Milns Thoburn Puckett Obt.

SMITHVILLE -- Funeral services for Milns Thoburn Puckett, 97, of Smithville, will be held at 11 a.m. Friday, June 2, at Smithville First United Methodist Church. Burial will be in DeKalb Memorial Gardens Cemetery.

The family will receive friends from 6-8 p.m. today, June 1, at Love-Cantrell Funeral Home.

Mr. Puckett died Wednesday, May 31, 2006, at his residence.

He was born Jan. 20, 1909, in DeKalb County to the late Henry and Etta Puckett.

Mr. Puckett was the youngest of 12 children. He carved his name in state and county politics and area businesses for numerous years. He was a man of varied business interests. He established one of the first restaurants and lodging facilities on Center Hill Lake known as "Puckett's Camp." He was one of the principle organizers of the Middle Tennessee Natural Gas Utility District and was the principle organizer of Citizens Bank, which is now AmSouth Bank of Smithville.

He was a well-known residential and commercial general contractor for 25 years. He served six years in the Tennessee House of Representatives in the General Assembly. During those years he was the primary sponsor of the Tennessee Water and Safety Act, which controls and regulates boats on the public waters of Tennessee. He was very active and a longtime member of First United Methodist Church, having served 30 years on the board of trustees, of which he was chairman for 26 years.

His family includes his wife, Mary Jo Puckett; a daughter and son-in-law, Linda and Walter Whitson Carlen of Cookeville; a daughter-in-law, Katherine Smith Puckett of Naples, Fla.; a stepdaughter, Merle Sandlin; eight grandchildren, Henry Puckett, Stephanie Eby, Mary Puckett, Jerri Brown, Polly Billiu, Malinda Carlen Little and Whit Carlen; a stepgranddaughter, Jenny Saul; and six great-grandchildren.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his first wife, Alvilda Shanks Puckett, and a son, Dr. Jerry E. Puckett.

Pallbearers will be Henry Puckett, John Puckett, Whit Carlen, Ford Little, Bruce Eby, Terry Burton, Ted Saul, Allen Brown and Jeff Billiu.

Memorial contributions may be made to First United Methodist Church, 102 W. Church Street, Smithville, TN 37166.

Bro. Carlton Thaxton will officiate the services.

Love-Cantrell Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.

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