

NOBLE CODY LEAVES BEHIND AN EXTENSIVE LEGACY

COOKEVILLE — Army veteran. Coach. Educator. Businessman. Devoted father.

There are many words to describe Noble Cody and the impact he has had on numerous people and different programs in the region, but one thing is for sure — at the age of 93, he is leaving behind quite a legacy.

“He truly believed that success was a result of hard work, education and dedication,” his son, Tracy, said.

“If you didn’t have a college degree, then life was going to be much harder on you.”



Cody passed away early Monday morning in Cookeville Regional Medical Center.

“He loved his country and thought it was vital to be involved in the entire part of the community in order to make a difference,” Tracy said. “He loved politics, fishing and Tech sports. He always bragged about buying the first seats ever purchased in the Hooper-Eblen Center.”

A graduate of Clarkrange High School and Tennessee Technological University, Noble’s life of dedication and service began at age 17 when he volunteered for the U.S.

Army during World War II, serving with the 84th Infantry Division.

Achieving the rank of corporal, he fought in the Battle of Germany with the 333rd Infantry Regiment Unit.

He also saw combat during the fight for Siegfried Line, the Rhine to the Elbe, the Battle of Geilenkirchen, Lindern and the Battle of the Bulge.

He was awarded the Combat Infantry Medal, the Bronze Star for Valor, two Bronze Stars for Meritorious Service, European Theatre Medal, Sharp Shooting Medal and Good Conduct Medal and was honorably discharged in January of 1946.

When he returned, he earned his degree from Tennessee Tech and began his teaching and coaching career.

In 1947, he was hired as the full-time basketball coach at Clarkrange High School, where his record was 84 wins and 13 losses when the teams were unclassified.

He then went on to serve as assistant basketball coach at Tennessee Tech from 1951 to 1954. From there, he served as basketball and football coach at Monterey High School from until 1957.

Then, he went into a different sector of education — as principal of grades 1-12 at Algood School.

His name is also synonymous with business success.

He owned and operated Cody Office Supply for 30 years, a business he started out of his garage selling items over the summer months, and served as CEO of Tennessee Savings Bank for 13 years.

“He spent a great portion of his business career helping Tennessee Tech Athletics,” Tracy recalled.

“Later on in his life, the campus as a whole became more important to him and he spent his time with the Tech Foundation.

“I know no other man that I respect more for this than my father. He taught me how to work and how to be loyal to your craft.”

He then entered the public service sector by being elected to the Cookeville City Council in 1994 and served two terms on the board of directors of then-Cookeville General Hospital.

He also served two terms as mayor of Algood and was voted by the Cookeville Lions Club as Man of the Year in 1973.

In 2000, he was appointed by then-Gov. Don Sundquist to serve on the Tennessee Board of Regents as chairman of the personnel committee and committee of community and public affairs, and numerous other committees

He also served on the presidential search committee for Roane State Community College, Walters State Community College and two separate presidential searches for Motlow State Community College.

Through his efforts, he managed to secure approval to build the new school of nursing building on Tennessee Tech’s campus.

TTU honored him in 2006 with a naming ceremony for the Noble Cody Executive Suite in TTU’s Roaden University Center. His name is also on the executive lounge and dining room at the university’s nursing building.

His name is also on the meeting hall at the Cookeville Higher Education Center, formerly Nashville State Community College.

“Noble Cody was a leader and a great friend to TTU,” TTU President Phil Oldham said. “His leadership reflected a passion for education that made a tremendous impact at our university, in our community and across the state.”

Noble is also credited with creating the modern-day Putnam County Republican Party.

“I always addressed Noble as my mentor and he called me his protege,” past PCRCP chairman Rusty Welch said. “He was the one who was responsible for initially finding and leasing the building that, up until last year, was the PCRCP headquarters for almost 10 years.”

Current Putnam County Republican Party Chairman Harvey McNeal agreed.

“Putnam County has lost a great leader, businessman and public servant,” McNeal said. “He will be greatly missed. Our prayers are with Jean and his family.”

TTU President Emeritus Bob Bell said Noble was a wonderful friend of his and his wife’s, Gloria.

“Tennessee Tech has lost a wonderful friend and an outstanding alumnus,” he said. “He was a fantastic supporter of education in his private life, in his role on city council, and in his service to the Tennessee Board of Regents.”

Cookeville Mayor Ricky Shelton said that Noble is an icon in this region.

“Noble was a true statesman who cared about his city and its citizens,” he said. “He was a gentleman who had a long and distinguished career of service in politics, education, coaching, business and as a husband and father. I will always be grateful for his personal kindness to me and the wise advice he shared. He will be missed but not forgotten. Shannon and I extend our deep condolences to Jean, Tracy, Lindsey, Preston and his entire family.”

Putnam County Executive Randy Porter also shared some thoughts.

“Putnam County has lost a very respected citizen, great businessman and historical Republican party supporter,” Putnam County Executive Randy Porter said. “I was blessed to have known him for more than 35 years and his family are in our prayers.”

State and federal representatives also passed along their memories of Noble.

“Noble was among one of the first faces I saw in Putnam County during my 2010 Congressional bid and he has been a dear friend ever since,” Congressman Diane Black said. “From his tenure on the Tennessee Board of Regents to his leadership at the Putnam County Republican Party to his time as mayor of Algood, Noble has accomplished much and Tennesseans owe him a debt of gratitude for his service. Today, our hearts are with Noble’s loving wife, Jean, and his family as they honor the home-going of this beloved statesman and leader. He will be deeply missed.”

State Senator Paul Bailey said Noble was a civic-minded leader with a servant’s heart.

“Every candidate, whether local or statewide, made one of their first stops to see Noble Cody,” he said.

“He will be missed. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family as they reflect on his life of good deeds.”

U.S. Senator Lamar Alexander recalled Noble as a patriot, educator and builder.

“No one loved Tennessee Tech University and the Putnam County Republican Party more than Noble did,” he said. “He and his family stuck their necks out for me when I ran for governor and we became good friends. Honey and I send our sympathy to the members of the Cody family.”

Fellow U.S. Senator Bob Corker also shared some thoughts.

“From his honorable service in the United States Army during World War II to his time as mayor of Algood to his tireless work for the Republican Party in Tennessee and nationally, Noble Cody had a tremendous impact on his community, our state and our country,” Corker said.

“All of that considered, I think anyone who spent much time with Noble knows that his favorite role in life was being husband to Jean, a father and a grandfather. I am deeply saddened to learn of his passing and I extend my thoughts and prayers to Jean, the Cody family and all who were touched by Noble’s extraordinary life.”

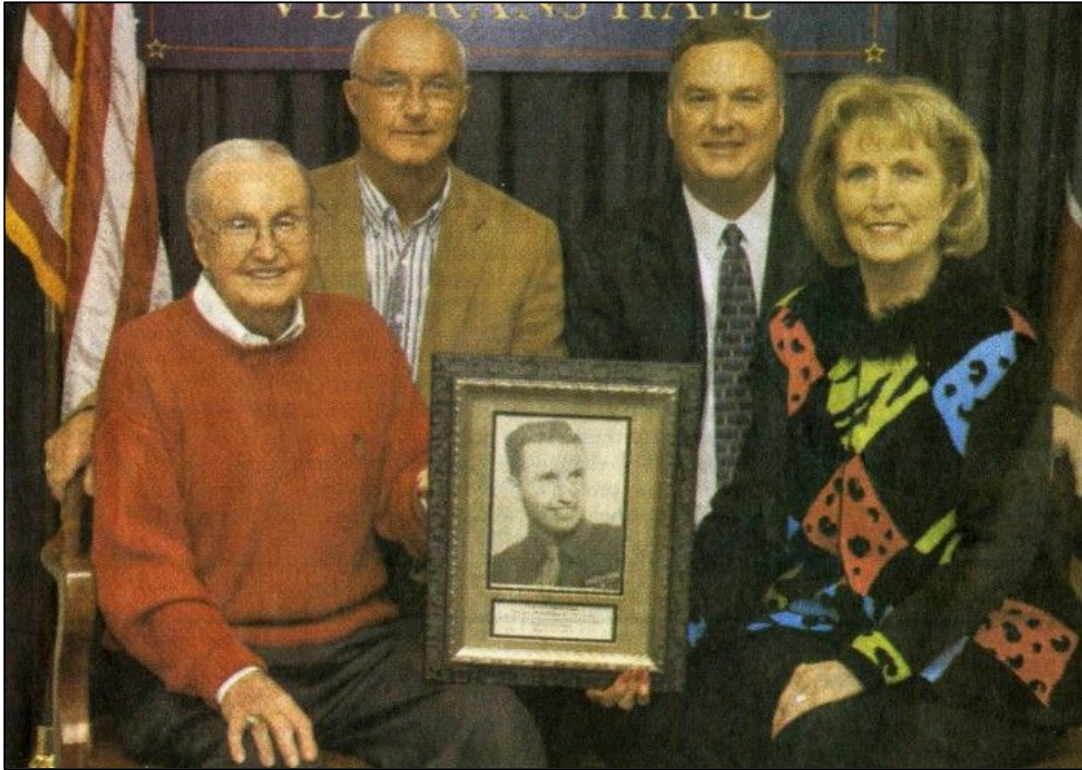
Tracy said there are a lot of things he and his siblings will miss about their father — his wisdom, his encouragement, his laugh, his candor, his greeting when someone walked in the door, sitting with him at ballgames, his tears when he spoke of being in the war, him yelling at the TV news and just knowing he was there for you.

“Sunday afternoons will never be the same,” Tracy said.

In addition to Jean, his wife of 64 years, Noble is survived by his four children, Preston, Jeanie, Lindsey and Tracy; and six grandchildren.

Arrangements have not been finalized as of press time.

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ARMY CPL. NOBLE CODY

Army Cpl. Noble Cody, from left, is the *Herald-Citizen* Veteran of the Week. Pictured with his wife, Jean, and sons Preston and Tracy, Cody served from 1942 to 1946 in Germany, the 84th Infantry Division, Co., K, Bulge, European Theater and the Battle of the Bulge.

For more information about the Putnam County Veterans Hall, call (931) 520-0042 or (931) 526-2161.

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*See Noble Cody Obt. in the Crest Lawn Cemetery Obts. at: <http://www.ajlambert.com>

*Read more about the history and people of Putnam Co., TN & surrounding areas at: <http://www.ajlambert.com>