

William Ross O'Dell

Bill O'Dell was born March 1, 1934 in Ellijay, son of W.R. O'Dell and Helen West O'Dell. Bill was raised in Newnan. On the morning of Wednesday, December 23, 2015 he died peacefully at home in Madison, GA surrounded by his family.



Bill was a graduate of Newnan High School. He was awarded a football scholarship from Clemson University and was awarded 2nd Team All Conference his senior year. He was drafted by the Pittsburgh Steelers but upon graduating with a degree in Textile Engineering he decided to start his business career. Bill was inducted into the Coweta Sports Hall of Fame in 2004.

While in Clemson, he was a member of the ROTC and later served in the U.S. Army at Fort Knox followed by 10 years of National Guard service in LaGrange.

He held the position of President and CEO of Wellington Leisure Products for 23 years. He served as President of the Georgia Textile Manufacturers Association and President of the American Cordage Institute. He served on the Board of Directors of the Bank of Madison.

Within the Madison community, he served as the Chairman of the Recreation Board of Morgan County for three years where he was recognized as volunteer of the year. He was a board member of Madison-Morgan County Cultural Center and President of the Morgan County Chamber of Commerce. He also served in the American Legion and the Boy Scouts of Madison.

Bill was active in many leadership roles within his church including Chairman of the Finance Committee, Chairman of the Administrative Board and a Sunday School Teacher for many years.

He was preceded in death by his father, W.R. O'Dell; his mother, Helen O'Dell; his brother, Tom O'Dell; and sister, Anne O'Dell Ozburn.

Bill is survived by his wife of 58 years Beverly O'Dell; his children, Angie O'Dell Ellis, Amy O'Dell, and Ross O'Dell; as well as six grandchildren and his sister, Jane O'Dell Meek.

A memorial service was held at Madison United Methodist Church on Monday, December 28, 2015.