

Date
Section(s)
Byline

November 20, 2003
Obituary

David Homer **Starr** Jr., 84, of St. Simons Island died on Nov. 18, 2003.

A native Atlantan, Homer was the husband of Margaret Mary (Peggy) Bussey **Starr** and the father of seven sons and one daughter.

Mr. **Starr**, the eldest child of David Homer **Starr** Sr. and Gladys Densel Thrower, grew up on Virginia Avenue in Atlanta and graduated from Samuel Inman Elementary School and Boys High School. He attended Emory University and was an officer of Chi Phi Fraternity. As an airplane owner-pilot, he patrolled the Georgia coast during World War II as a first lieutenant in the Civil Air Patrol.

Mr. **Starr** was president of J.W. **Starr** Lumber Co., a family firm founded in Georgia in the late 1800s. After it closed in 1957, he went on to a varied business career in the timber industry and as a real estate developer in Georgia and Florida. He was the founder and first president of the commuter airline Air South, a senior executive in several auto leasing companies and a property developer in New York City and Princeton, N.J.

In retirement, Mr. **Starr** founded and developed Five **Starr** Plantation, a 4,500-acre hunting preserve in Kellyton, Ala. He was a life member and Paul Harris Fellow in the Rotary Club of St. Simons Island.

An early and lonely member of Georgia's fledgling Republican Party, Mr. **Starr** served as treasurer of Citizens for Eisenhower and attended the newly elected president's 1952 inauguration. He wrote his friend Charlie West, after the 1990s Republican takeover of the House, that "the day we all worked for has finally arrived."

Mr. **Starr** is survived by his wife of 59 years, Peggy **Starr** of St. Simons Island; their children and spouses, David H. **Starr** III of Los Angeles, Bryan and Sally of Atlanta, John and Elizabeth of Fairfield, Conn., Peggy and Michael Lambert of Hamden, Conn., Chris and Kathy of Decatur, Dean and Amy of Hudson, Ohio, Peter of Atlanta and Philip and Pam of Seabrook, Texas; 20 grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

Homer's sisters also survive him, Mrs. William (Charlotte) Bates of Atlanta, Mrs. Hal (Virginia) Dobbs of Owensboro, Ky., Mrs. McCready (Nancy) Johnston of St. Simons Island and Mrs. William (Elizabeth) Towles. A brother, James Thrower **Starr**, predeceased him.

A scripture service will be held at 7 p.m. Friday, Nov. 20, at Edo Miller and Sons Funeral Home in Brunswick. Fr. Cletus Pifher will officiate.

A memorial Mass will be celebrated at 2 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 21, at St. William's Catholic Church on St. Simons Island with Fr. John Kenneally presiding. The family will have a private interment of the urn at Christ Church Cemetery Columbarium on St.

Simons Island.

In lieu of flowers, contributions can be sent to Hospice of the Golden Isles, 1692 Glynco Parkway, Brunswick, GA 31525.