

Alfred Jones Date  
Section(s)  
Byline

March 26, 2007  
Obituary

Alfred W. Jones Jr., former President and Chairman of the Board of Sea Island Company and long time community leader, died unexpectedly on Saturday, March 24, 2007.

From the time he joined the company in 1956, Mr. Jones Jr. not only led his Company through three decades of prosperity but had lasting impact on the entire Glynn County community through his civic and philanthropic work.

Born in 1930 in Savannah, Mr. Jones was reared on Sea Island, Georgia, the oldest child of Alfred W. and Katharine Talbott Jones. After completing prep school at Millbrook School in New York, he received a degree in Agricultural Economics from the University of Georgia in 1952. He also attended the Advanced Management program at Harvard University in 1972.

After serving three years as an officer in the United States Navy, he was briefly employed by Seaboard Construction Company prior to beginning his career with Sea Island Company in 1956, when he became a director and assistant to the president, A. W. Jones Sr. By 1966 he had become president of the company and in 1980 became Chairman, a position he retained while turning the role of president over to his son, Bill Jones III, in 1993. Mr. Jones held the title of Chairman until his retirement in 1997. He had remained an active member of the board of directors.

By the time of his death, Sea Island Company had grown to own and operate not only The Cloister, which was opened by his father and company founder Howard Coffin in 1928, but also The Lodge at Sea Island, The Lodge at Cabin Bluff, Ocean Forest Golf Club, and Frederica Golf Club, as well as a highly successful real estate division. Colleagues attribute him with modernizing the company's business infrastructure, expanding guest accommodations and amenities, and overseeing long range planning for the resort.

Mr. Jones was a supporter of many civic and philanthropic causes throughout his life and was recognized for his abilities and contributions by some of the organizations which mattered most to him. Among his many contributions to the community were the creation of the Wesley Memorial Garden, and gifts of land for Wesley United Methodist Church at Frederica, Christian Renewal Church, and Frederica Presbyterian Church, among others.

He is survived by his wife of 51 years, Betty Macdonald Jones; their three children, Ann Jones Gregg (Mrs. Jameson Gregg) of St. Simons Island; Bill Jones III (Sally) of St. Simons Island; and Jim Jones of St. Simons Island and New York; three grandchildren, Katie, Jay and Claire Gregg of St. Simons Island; two sisters, Marianna Jones Kuntz (Mrs. David Kuntz Sr.) and Katharine Jones O'Connor (Mrs. Paul O'Connor), also of St. Simons Island; and 10 nieces and nephews.

Graveside services for A.W. Jones Jr. will be held on Tuesday, March 27, at Christ Church on St. Simons Island, Georgia.

Edo Miller Funeral Home is in charge of the arrangements.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that contributions be made to the Humane Society of South Coastal Georgia, 4627 U.S. Highway 17 North, Brunswick, GA 31525; to Glynn County Animal Services, 4765 US Highway 17 North, Brunswick, GA 31525; or to the charity of the donor's choice.