

MEMORIALS

William “Jack” Hopper 1924-2014



With sadness we say goodbye to another individual who played an important role in the history of the Alabama Forestry Commission. William ‘Jack’ Hopper of Eva passed away on January 27, 2014, at the age of 89. Born on September 21, 1924, in the Oden Ridge community of Morgan County, Mr. Hopper was a veteran of World War II. He was a businessman in the town of Eva for 52 years. Along with his wife, he opened his first business, Jack Hopper’s General Merchandise. This enterprise later grew into Hoppers Building Supply and Jack’s Foodland. He was a member of the Masonic Lodge No. 854 at Simcoe for 48 years.

Hopper’s other accomplishment include helping to establish the Cullman County E-911 of which he was a member of its board from 1989 to 2011. Appointed as a Commissioner on the Alabama Forestry Commission by Governor George C. Wallace,

Hopper served for five years, 1985-1990, and was elected chairman in 1989. He helped establish the experimental nursery located at Wallace State Community College in Hanceville, which was subsequently named in his honor. He was a true pillar of the community and will be missed by many.☝

(Portions excerpted from the obituary published in the Decatur Daily, January 29, 2014)

John Langford 1926-2013

Southern gentleman and ambassador for longleaf, Dr. John Langford of Covington County passed away on December 10, 2013. Born on August 23, 1926, on a small farm, just a walk through the woods from the home where he spent his latter years, John Reuben Langford worked hard all his life. In his early years, he labored with his parents and six siblings driving mules, farming peanuts and cotton. While serving on a carrier in the Pacific during World War II, he did other sailors’ laundry to send home money. He then used his G.I. bill funds to graduate from Auburn University School of Veterinary Medicine. After establishing one of the first veterinary clinics in Daytona Beach, Dr. Langford went on to serve as president of the Florida Veterinary Medical Association as well as the American Association of Veterinary State Boards.

On the rare occasion he took a break from his professional responsibilities, he researched his family genealogy at libraries around the country. He was proud to tell people his ancestors made the crossing from England as early as 1630. Passionate about heritage, he was involved in the Sons of the American Revolution and was coroneted a 33rd degree Mason in the Masonic Lodge. A dedicated church member, he spent most of his adult life teaching Sunday school.

Returning to Dozier, ostensibly to retire, Dr. Langford began a second career in forestry. After attending the forestry school at Lurleen B. Wallace Community College, he spent hours cruising his red Lincoln Towncar through the forests he cultivated in loblolly and longleaf pines. As with veterinary practice, his dedication led to excellence. He chaired the Covington County Forestry Committee, earned the Covington County Outstanding TREASURE Forest Award (twice, the only landowner to do so), won the Southeast Regional Helene Mosley TREASURE Forest Award, was the Statewide Outstanding Tree Farmer, and Outstanding Landowner, among other accolades. Dr. John Langford was an enthusiastic ambassador for re-establishing longleaf pines in the region of Alabama so significant to his legacy.☝

(Portions excerpted from the obituary published in the Montgomery Advertiser, December 12-13, 2013)



Gerald “Mac” McLeod 1927-2013

Today there is one less voice to champion the cause for stewardship. Gerald “Mac” McLeod passed away on September 29, 2013, at the age of 85. Mac, as he was known to family and friends, was born October 27, 1927. He was a TREASURE Forest landowner and resident of Mobile County.

Mac proudly served his country in the United States Air Force, and worked for the GM&O Railroad for 30 years. After “retiring,” he began planting trees all over southern Alabama, and he served as president of the Mobile County Chapter of the Alabama TREASURE Forest Association. An avid conservationist who took every opportunity to speak on the merits of stewardship, Mac McLeod will truly be missed.☝

