

MEMORIAL

Richard Kent Hanby, Sr. 1938-2015

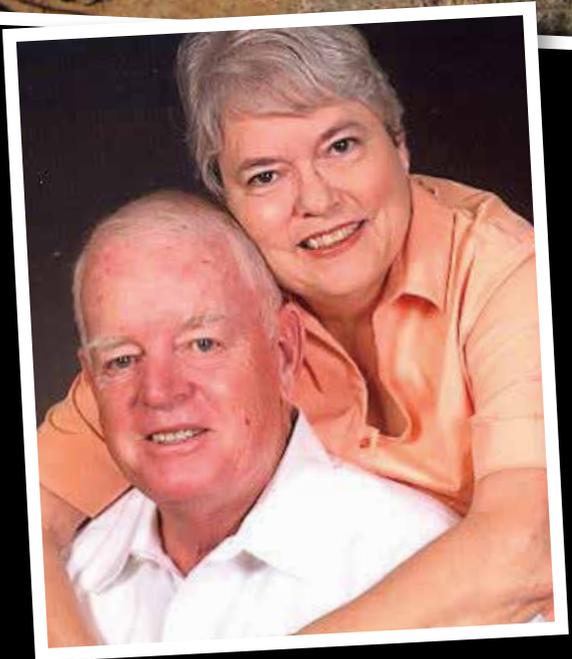
Richard Kent Hanby, Sr., aged 77, formerly of Dadeville, Alabama, passed away at home in San Angelo, Texas, on November 14, 2015, after a lengthy illness. A memorial service was held at Sierra Vista United Methodist Church in San Angelo on December 27.

Born in 1938 in Buffalo, New York, as a child Kent moved with his family to Birmingham, Alabama, where he spent most of his school-aged years. After graduating from Meridian High School (Meridian, Mississippi) in 1957, he served four years (1958–1961) active duty in the United States Navy as a gunners mate technician, 2nd class. His service included being aboard the USS Kitty Hawk on its commissioning voyage around South America. Kent graduated with Honors from Auburn University with a Bachelor of Science in Forestry in 1965. He also completed a Master of Forestry degree from Yale University in 1971.

Hanby's forestry career spanned 50 years and many career moves, including a total of eight years working for Union Camp Corporation throughout the Southeast, over three years as a saw mill manager in Pomeroy, Ohio, and other management positions at forest product and equipment companies in Winchester, Kentucky, and Selinsgrove, Pennsylvania. He returned to Alabama in 1982 to work as state lands manager for the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources for over a decade. In 1993, he returned to Auburn to finish out his career working for his alma mater as Director of Student Services and instructor of Fire Management for Auburn University's School of Forestry and Wildlife Services. He retired in 2003, but continued to teach fire management part-time, leading Alabama Certified Prescribed Burn Manager workshops for the Alabama Forestry Commission until 2014. In 2006, Kent was a founding member of the Alabama Prescribed Fire Council and he remained actively involved in its work.

Kent Hanby was respected for his vast knowledge and skills in the prescribed fire field not only in the state, but also across the Southeast. He was a strong advocate for prescribed burning, and much of the increase in awareness of successful prescribed burning and smoke management is credited to his tireless efforts.

Hanby is survived by his wife of 52 years, two daughters, two sons, nine grandchildren, his sister, a niece and nephew, and many cousins. He will be lovingly remembered by family, friends, colleagues, and students for his adventurous spirit and love of nature, forests, and fire management. 🌲



Kent and wife, Janice