



Philip Flip Boyette

January 17, 2014

Philip H. " Flip " Boyette Jr. 93, was a native of Portsmouth. His parents, Ola Mae and Philip H. Boyette Sr., as well as his sister, Peggy Lou Spence, predeceased him. Flip was married to Jackie Madden Boyette who passed in 1988. They had two sons, Chris P.H. Boyette III and Steve Boyette, and his wife, Xiaojian; three grandchildren, Amber, Chip P.H. Boyette, IV, and Adam; and a great grandson, Ellery, Jr. E.J..

Flip was a member of Centenary United Methodist Church. He was one of the founders and a charter member of the Ambassadors Club, as well as a member of Elks Lodge # 82, of which he was twice the Exalted Ruler. He was also a member of the Seaboard Masonic Lodge # 56 for over 50 years. Flip graduated from Woodrow Wilson High School and then went on to further his education at Virginia Tech, then known as VPI where he graduated in 1941. Like many men of his era, he enlisted in the Army during World War II where he attained the rank of Captain, while serving in the Canal Zone of Panama.

Once the war concluded, Flip came back to Portsmouth to begin, what was to be, a very varied business career. He started in the Construction industry by building free standing garages on " your lot " for \$1, 000. He quickly moved into to building starter type homes in Portsmouth, Norfolk, Lynchburg and Roanoke. At roughly the same time, he decided to try his hand in the restaurant business by starting Portsmouth's first Chinese restaurant on High

St. He quickly followed this with "Flippo's" Hot dogs, a small restaurant off of Confederate Avenue. To further broaden his scope, he purchased the now defunct Elco Movie Theatre in the Waterview section of Portsmouth and ran any and all of the current Disney films.

At this point in time, Flip decided on a different career path, and with his brother in law Joe Madden, they developed Boyette-Madden Oil Company delivering home heating oil in Tidewater. They also decided to bring the Phillips 66 service stations to the area. At the height of the service station boom, they had 12 locations. Branching out from here, Flip did a joint venture with George T. McLean, to build and develop Portsmouth's first shopping center, Town & Country, which is still in operation in Cradock.

It was here that Flip decided, once again, on a career change and started purchasing any and all property he could get in the Frederick Blvd and Airline Blvd area of Portsmouth, He started by developing and operating the 100 room, Quality Inn Midtown Motel. The family would like to thank the housekeeper/manager, Rosa Grey and her daughter Shirley and son Bobby for their dedicated service there. This also housed Portsmouth's first 24 hour restaurant, The Pancake House which was an extremely busy venue in its day. Across the street, still on Frederick Blvd, he developed the Embers Steak House, an upscale restaurant with Virginia's first salad bar. The family would also like to thank the restaurant manager Eloise Parker for her assistance in this venture. Above the restaurant stood something Flip was extremely proud of. It was the Midtown Club, a private club for members only. It was here where Flip would bring in weekly acts, some local, but mostly nationally known artists. Many big names of the day performed at the Midtown Club. With more property to be developed on Frederick, Flip started two more restaurants, Fishermans Village and The Spaghetti House. Never one to slow down, Flip moved the base of his operations to the Churchland area and along with his sons, went back into the construction business, by building several condo and apartment projects, as well as a Mini-storage and Car Wash. It was here,

along with his son Steve, Flip went into the "Foosball" game parlor business by opening three locations in Portsmouth, Suffolk and Hampton. Special thanks go out to Kenny Jolley for his help in this venture.

With Flip entering his eighties and not even considering retirement, he branched out with his two sons again in two entirely different directions. With his eldest son Chris, they designed and built many fine Custom Homes in the Western Branch section of Chesapeake, as well as Northern Suffolk. With his son Steve and business partner Dana Rice, they purchased Hair Clubs for Men with offices in Chesapeake, Washington DC, Charlotte, Raleigh, and Greenville, South Carolina.

Up to the very end it was Flip's strong desire to NEVER stop working. One of his favorite things to do was to come to work each day, sit behind his desk and go over the days game plan. Retirement was a four letter word to Flip.

We would like to express our thanks to Margaret Jicha, who was Flips CFO for over 43 years. No one could have been more loyal and dependable than Margaret.

The family would like to express our appreciation to Virginia Bolling who came into Flips life in 1998 and became the love of his life. She took great care of Flip in all aspects and this will never be forgotten.

A funeral service to celebrate Flip's life will be held at 2 pm Tuesday in Loving Funeral Home, Churchland Chapel by Rev. Wayne Carter with Masonic Rites. Burial will follow at Oak Grove Cemetery. The family suggests memorial contributions to Centenary United Methodist Church.

Tribute Wall



“ Chris & Steve,

Your dad and my dad knew each other for many, many years going back even before they went to VPI. And, as with all children of parents in that Greatest Generation, we learned one heck of a lot from them.

From my dad's passing, I know all too well how much you miss your father, but to hang on to the plain fact that a man just can't do much better than living to be 93 years old, having a full life and a loving family...that level of true success has gotta make you smile.

On behalf of the Shelton family, please accept our condolences.

Scott Shelton###imported-begin###Scott Shelton###imported-end##

January 21, 2014 at 12:00 AM



“ Chris and Steve ; Our family was deeply saddened to hear of the passing of your Father. Flip touched alot of lives he will be truly missed. God Bless you and your Families. Richard and Ricky Carawan and Family.###imported-begin###Richard Carawan###imported-end##

January 21, 2014 at 12:00 AM



“ Dear Virginia & Family!

We are very sorry to hear about Flip's passing. Our sincere condolences to you and your family!###imported-begin###The Marlowes###imported-end##

January 20, 2014 at 12:00 AM



“ So sorry to hear of Flips passing, we were neighbors on Faigle Rd. I had the privilege to work with Flip on a business level as well! Thoughts and prayers to the family!###imported-begin##Kelley Rea###imported-end##

January 19, 2014 at 12:00 AM



“ Flip was my favorite cousin and his mother, Ola my favorite aunt. He was a gentleman and a scholar.###imported-begin##Jim Shaw###imported-end##

January 19, 2014 at 12:00 AM



“ Flip was a friend for many years, and I always looked forward to an encounter with him through those years. I was a customer from the Quality Motel, The Embers, the Midtown Club and the Pankake House Days.

My dad always spoke highly of him as a tennis buddy from the Churchland Jr. High Courts.

He was a gem and will be missed.

My deepest sympathy is extended to his many friends and family.###imported-begin##Bernie Kirsch###imported-end##

January 19, 2014 at 12:00 AM



“ Stevie Steve and I were friends in the first grade. I remember going to the Elco to see Tarzan movies with Steve. Mr. and Mrs Boyette were always welcoming when I spent time in their home. I have fond memories of that time.##imported-begin##Phil bartley##imported-end##

January 19, 2014 at 12:00 AM



“ Flip will never be forgotten! He was a second father to me and the best boss anyone could ask for!

Steve, Chris, Virginia and families - We are sorry for your loss. Flip will always have a piece of my heart!##imported-begin##Margaret & Dean Jicha##imported-end##

January 18, 2014 at 12:00 AM