



## John Rucker, Sr.

November 2, 1915 - July 10, 2009

John Richardson Rucker, age 93, of Murfreesboro, Tennessee, died July 10, 2009. He was born in Murfreesboro and was the son of the late Annie Richardson Rucker and Ellis Suttle Rucker. He was preceded in death by his beloved wife, Margaret "Betty" Wolfe Rucker, and his brother, Ellis Suttle Rucker, Jr. He is survived by his four children, Richard W. Rucker and his wife, Sue Rucker, of Murfreesboro; Libbi Rucker-Reed of Murfreesboro; Debbie R. Combos of Franklin, TN; and John R. Rucker, Jr., and wife, Patty Rucker; eight grandchildren, Linda Long and her husband, Scott Long; Shannon Rucker; Todd Reed and his wife, Karen Reed; LeeAnne Rucker-Reed; Katie Combos; Andrew Combos; John R. Rucker III, and his wife, Ann Elizabeth Rucker; and Anne Loy and her husband, Josh Loy; and three great-grandchildren, Jordan Reed, Kyra Reed and Aiden Reed.

John Rucker attended East End Grammar School and Central High School in Murfreesboro. Upon graduation from high school in 1933, he immediately entered Cumberland School of Law in Lebanon, TN, graduating from law school in 1934. He passed the Tennessee Bar Exam in the summer of 1934 and was admitted to practice in the state of Tennessee on September 15, 1934, at the age of 18. In 1934, he began practicing law with his grandfather, John E. Richardson, and enrolled at Middle Tennessee State College. He graduated in 1938 and continued practicing law with his grandfather until he enlisted in the Armed Services.

John Rucker served in the United State Air Force during World War II as a glider pilot. He remained in the Air Force Reserves rising to the rank of full Colonel, prior to his retirement on November 2, 1975, at the age of 60. After World War II, he returned to Murfreesboro and resumed his practice of law. He continued in the law practice with his two sons, Richard and Jock until his retirement in 1990.

In 1948, he was elected General Sessions Judge of Rutherford County and served until 1962. He was elected to the Murfreesboro City Council and served as a councilman from 1962 to 1968. He served as State Senator from 1977 to 1989 and while serving as Senator, he was elected Speaker Pro Tempore of the Tennessee State Senate.

He was an active member of First Presbyterian Church. He loved traveling with Betty and was an avid pheasant hunter.

Chapel services for Mr. Rucker will be 10:00 A.M. Monday, July 13, 2009 at Jennings and Ayers Chapel. Burial will follow at Evergreen Cemetery with sons, Richard and John officiating. Family and friends will serve as pallbearers.

Visitation will be 4:00 P.M. to 8:00 P.M. Sunday, July 12, 2009. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to a charity of your choice. Jennings and Ayers, 820 S. Church St., Murfreesboro, TN 37130 615-893-2422 [www.jenningsandayers.com](http://www.jenningsandayers.com).

Book Travel to Services

# Comments

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“ I am so sorry to hear of Mr. Ruckers passing, I had no idea he had such a diverse background. His accomplishments were amazing. I have the honor of calling his daughter Libbi, a friend--and for that I am grateful. My heart goes out to your family. You are in my prayers for peace.

**Angelia Green - Murfreesboro** - July 15, 2009 at 12:00 AM

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“ Jock, I just read about your dad in the TBA Today. I am sorry to hear of his passing. Our prayers are with you and your family and with your dad on his journey. Please let me know if there is anything I can do to assist.

**Patrick Flynn - Columbia** - July 13, 2009 at 12:00 AM

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“ Debbie & Libby, You are in my thoughts at this time. Your father touched the lives of many people, and he will be greatly missed. Alice Morton

**Alice Morton - Nashville TN** - July 13, 2009 at 12:00 AM

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“ Richard and Jock: I am saddened at the loss of your father, but have many wonderful memories of working for him from 1975 to 1980. He was a wonderful man and a great boss. It was a real privilege to have known him and worked for him. You and your family are in my thoughts and prayers. God Bless you. With Sympathy, Edna McPeak

**Edna McPeak - Arlington, Texas** - July 12, 2009 at 12:00 AM

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“ Dear Dick, Libbi, Debbie and Jock, I am thinking about you all and remembering so much about our childhood times in Murfreesboro. Your dad was such an important figure in those memories -- such a strong, solid, good man. We all looked up to him -- and he was always a kind of hero to my own dad. My love to you all -- and I hope I can see you all soon. love, Suzie

**Suzie Freeman - Charlottesville, VA** - July 11, 2009 at 12:00 AM

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“ My sincere sympathy goes to the Rucker family. I worked in the Senate when Senator Rucker served as the Judiciary Chairman. He was a sincere, kind, honest and well-respected man. He will be missed by everyone who knew him.

**Deana Guenther - Old Hickory, TN** - July 10, 2009 at 12:00 AM