

Graveside rites planned Friday for former Scottsburg mayor Jim Campbell

Written by Administrator

Tuesday, 30 December 2014 10:21 -

Military graveside rites will be conducted at 11 a.m. this Friday, January 2, for former Scottsburg mayor James "Jim" Campbell at Scottsburg Cemetery.

A Yerkes, Ky., native, Campbell rose to prominence in the 1960s in Scottsburg and became the city's second mayor and the first Republican to lead the city in that office.

Campbell, 90, died on Saturday, December 27, in Winter Garden, Fl., where he and his wife Iona resided.

A graduate of Scottsburg High School in 1944, Campbell was the son of the late Woolery L. and Martha Hamblin Campbell. He was a U.S. Navy veteran of World War II and was a route salesman for Thompson's Dairy in Seymour.

Entering local politics, Campbell served as Republican Party chairman in Scott County and then ran against Scottsburg's first mayor, Democrat Blake Burns, and won, starting as mayor in 1968.

Campbell ambitiously started on several projects to better the community. In 1969, the city purchased property from Alvin Bishop that became Station No. 1 for the Scottsburg Volunteer Fire Department. Campbell also entered into the first negotiations with Jack Morgan of Morgan Foods for the city to buy acreage adjoining the old corn packing plant. That land was developed into the present Lake Iola.

In 1970, city officials had the county's first animal shelter built at its present location on North Third Street. An open house at the facility was held in June of that year. Campbell also negotiated with officials of the Town of Austin to share the expenses of its operation.

During his years of service, Campbell received an Indiana Sagamore of the Wabash award from then Indiana governor Edgar Whitcomb and was also honored as a Kentucky Colonel. Campbell served only one term as mayor, however.

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His old foe Burns turned the political tables on him in the next city election, winning that 1971 contest.

Campbell also owned and operated the Iona Dodge car dealership in Scottsburg, named in honor of his wife, which was located on U.S. Highway 31 South.

In 1977, the Campbells moved to Florida where he joined the staff at Starling Chevrolet in Kissimmee, Fl.

He was a former member of Scottsburg United Methodist Church, and, at the time of his passing, was an active member of the First United Methodist Church in Winter Garden, Fl, where he served in the United Methodist men's organization and attended the weekly Oakland Presbyterian men's prayer group. He was honored by his church as Disciple of the Year in 2000. Campbell was also active in the Hyde Park Homeowners Association in Winter Park.

"Jim greatly loved his church, the City of Scottsburg and its people. He will be missed," stated Mayor Bill Graham, the city's second Republican executive officer.

Survivors besides his wife Iona include a son, John Campbell and wife Joni of St.Cloud, Fl.; three daughters, Sandi Huddleston and husband Steve of Franklin, Sue Anderson and husband Larry of Otisco and Karla Pare' and husband Ron of Kissimmee; a brother, Orem and wife Irene Campbell of Leesburg, Fl.; eight grandchildren, James, Gabriel, Jeremy, Dustin, Matthew, Allison, Jordan and Tanner; and four great-grandchildren, Brooks, Auden, Jude and Jasmin.

A funeral service was conducted at his church in Winter Garden on Tuesday, December 30.

Pastor Valerie Wilson will officiate at the graveside service on Friday at Scottsburg Cemetery. Members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 1083 of Crothersville will conduct military rites.

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Staff of the Stewart & Hoagland Funeral Home in Scottsburg is in charge of arrangements.

In lieu of flowers, persons may arrange memorial donations to Scottsburg United Methodist Church through the funeral home staff.

Online condolences may be expressed to the family by visiting www.stewart-hoaglandfuneralhome.com.