



## Doyle Ernest Richardson

November 20, 1935 - December 28, 2024

Doyle Ernest Richardson, a former Mayor and attorney who practiced law in Tullahoma for over 50 years, passed away peacefully on Saturday, Dec. 28, 2024, in Jacksonville, FL, with his wife and children by his side. He was 89.

A man with a long, interesting life, Doyle had a lifelong interest in genealogy, and we believe he would have appreciated a very, very thorough obituary left behind as a record!

Doyle Richardson was born November 20, 1935, the youngest child of the late William

Thomas “Tommy” Richardson and Fannette Malcom Richardson. He was born in Good

Hope, Walton Co., GA, in a farmhouse situated on land that had been owned by the

Malcom family for more than a century. His parents soon moved to a nearby farm in

Fairplay, Morgan Co., GA, where he spent his elementary and high school years. He

attended the one-room elementary school in Bostwick, GA; helped his father plow (by

mule!) and harvest their cotton fields; and survived being gored by a bull he

was raising as a  
4-H project.

Doyle graduated from Morgan Co. High School in 1953. An outstanding  
football player and  
team captain, Doyle received a football scholarship from Vanderbilt University.

A timely  
and narrowly approved school consolidation plan added a 12th grade to the  
11-year

program, allowing for additional classes that helped Doyle meet Vanderbilt's  
admission

requirements. Doyle also had the distinction of serving as two-time senior  
class president

and was voted "Best All-Around."

Doyle had never been outside of the state of Georgia (nor had his parents)  
when he arrived

by bus at Vanderbilt in the fall of 1953. A hard-hitting 5'11, 175 lb. SEC center  
and

linebacker for the Commodores, Vanderbilt head coach Art Guepe once told a  
reporter

"Doyle Richardson is the hardest hitting tackler I ever saw. If he weighed any  
more it would

be illegal to play him." Doyle played on the Vanderbilt 1955 Gator Bowl team  
that defeated

Auburn 25-13 in the first nationally televised bowl game. Legend has it that he  
tackled

future Alabama governor Fob James and made him fumble. He never missed  
a five-year

reunion of the Gator Bowl squad, which was inducted into the Tennessee  
Sports Hall of

Fame in 2015 on Coach John Majors' nomination.

At Vanderbilt, Doyle was a member of ROTC and Sigma Nu fraternity,

graduating with a degree in business administration in 1957. He had a “red shirt” fifth year of football scholarship eligibility, which he used to enroll in Vanderbilt Law School. And there, he discovered his life calling.

After a year of law school, Doyle was called to active military service in 1958 as a Second Lieutenant. He completed U.S. Army Intelligence School at Fort Holabird, MD, and was assigned to active duty in 1959 as a U.S. Army intelligence officer at Redstone Arsenal, Huntsville, AL. He was promoted to First Lieutenant in 1960 while serving in the U.S. Army Counterintelligence Corps. He next served as an investigator (GS-9) in the Inspector General’s Office, Army Ordnance Missile Command at Redstone Arsenal. Among his duties was vetting German scientists brought to the U.S. to work in the rocket program. Doyle interviewed Dr. Wernher von Braun numerous times to verify information provided about work they had done under him in Germany during World War II. He also conducted security inspections at installations at Redstone Arsenal, Cape Canaveral FL, and White Sands NM. While in Huntsville, Doyle attended the University of Alabama and earned a certificate in Accounting. After completing military service, he re-entered law school and graduated in

1964. He was a member of Phi Delta Phi legal fraternity; member of Moot Court (awarded best brief); received the Edmund Morgan Award for Academic Achievement; and served as president of the Vanderbilt Bar Association. During these years, Doyle worked for law firms on behalf of Standard Oil of Kentucky in a prominent dispute involving the trade name "Esso" against Standard Oil of New Jersey.

Doyle was admitted to the Tennessee bar in March 1964, and joined the law practice of Henry & McCord (later Henry, McCord, Forrester & Richardson) in Tullahoma. Later law partnerships were Forrester and Richardson; Rogers, Richardson and Duncan; Doyle E. Richardson, Attorney; and Richardson & Richardson (with his wife Jan).

He achieved many distinctions in the practice of law, including serving on the Board of Governors of the Tennessee Bar Association; CoU'ee County Bar Association Vice President; CoU'ee County Court Magistrate; and through memberships in the American Bar Association, the American and Tennessee Trial Lawyers Associations, the National Network of Estate Planning Attorneys, and the Mid-South Forum of Estate Planning Attorneys. He was admitted to practice before the U.S. Supreme Court in 1987. After moving to Florida in 2000, he passed the Florida bar exam at the age of 66. He was member

of the Florida Bar Association and the Martin County Bar Association; the National Association of Family Wealth Counselors; and the Planned Giving Council of Martin, St. Lucie, and Indian River Counties. He was rated "AV Preeminent" – the highest possible rating for an attorney – through Martindale-Hubbell Peer Review Ratings. Doyle was also committed to public service and education. He served as President of the Tullahoma Chamber of Commerce; as a member of the Tullahoma Industrial Board; on the UTSI Support Council; as a CoU'ee County Commissioner; on the CoU'ee Co. Metropolitan

Charter Commission; as President of the CoU'ee County Mental Health Association; as President of the Tullahoma Quarterback Club; as Trustee of the Motlow College Development Council; as Vice-Chairman of the CoU'ee Co. GOP; as Vice President of Lakewood Country Club; and as Deacon and Trustee of First Christian Church. He founded the John Holland and Wollman Scholarships and served as Chairman, facilitating the college education of generations of Tullahoma High School graduates. In business, Doyle was co-developer of Macon Manor and, farmer at heart, he also bred Charolais bulls and raised cattle and hogs commercially. Doyle was a lifelong Rotarian, in Tullahoma and in Stuart, FL, where he was a Paul Harris Fellow, a member of the Paul

Harris Society, and sponsored his late wife Judy and wife Jan as Paul Harris Fellows. Also, in Florida, he served on the Board of the Hibiscus Children's Center; as a member of the Town of Sewall's Point Board of Zoning Adjustment; and the Stuart, FL Sunrise Rotary Club.

Doyle served as Mayor of Tullahoma in 1986 and 1987. Among his accomplishments, he was proud to have helped spearhead the approval of a "liquor by the drink" city referendum

that brought many new restaurants to Tullahoma. Doyle was honored with Tullahoma's

Community Service award in 1997 and, in recognition of his lifetime contributions to the

City of Tullahoma, the Mayor declared July 8, 2024, as "Doyle E. Richardson Day" during his

last visit to Tullahoma.

Doyle enjoyed a large extended family during his long life. He married his loving wife Janice

Bollinger Richardson in 1998 and, after they moved to Florida, he encouraged her to attend

Nova Southeastern Law School, from which she graduated to join the Florida Bar with him.

She continues to practice law in Jacksonville, FL and Tennessee.

He is survived by his son, JeU'rey Doyle Richardson (Mary Ellen "Missy" Neal) of Newport,

KY, and daughter Lee Ann Richardson Owens (David) of Knoxville, TN, from his marriage to

Ann Soesbe Rust (living, of Knoxville); Lee Ann's son Jackson Stuart Craig and daughter

Sydney Ann Craig (children with David Craig), all of Knoxville, TN; and Lee Ann's step-children Rachel Owens and Sophia Owens.

His is also survived by his wife Jan's daughter Mindy Bean Morgan (Johnny) and grandchildren Blake, Eli, and Isabella, all of Tullahoma; her son GeoU'rey Fair of Harrison, NY; and her grandson Andrew of Knoxville, TN (son of Melanie Bean Hasson, who predeceased him, and Taylor Hasson).

He was predeceased by his wife Judy Young Richardson and is survived by Judy's daughter Helen Dougherty Sewell (Chris) of Tullahoma and grandchildren Patrick Sewell (Toney, AL), Irene Thomas (Brian, Hixon TN), and Steve (Murfreesboro) and by Judy's son Jim Dougherty

(Jennifer) and her grandson James Dougherty (grandson Sam Dougherty predeceased him), all of Tullahoma.

Doyle was predeceased by his parents, Tommy and Fannette Richardson, of Good Hope, GA; his brother Thomas Mell Richardson and sister-in-law Edna (Daniels), of Good Hope, GA; and his sister Mary Agnes "Ricky" Currie and brother-in-law Roy Currie of Huntsville, AL. He is survived by his niece Sandra Richardson Malcom (Gerald) and nephew Thomas Mell "Tommy" Richardson, Jr. (Susan), both of Good Hope, GA, and niece

Pam Richardson

Hayes (Keith) of Canton, GA; and nephews Dan Currie (Susan) and Roy Currie, Jr.

(Paulette), both of Huntsville; David Currie of Shreveport, LA; and Don Currie (Patty) of

Houston, TX. He is survived by his mother-in-law Lola Mentch Bollinger of Evans, GA,

whose husband Charles "Chuck" Bollinger predeceased her; brother-in-law Jim Bollinger

(Yolanda) of Evans, GA, and sister-in-law Jackie Norman (Tom) of Chattanooga, TN.

He is survived by too many great-nephews, great-nieces, cousins, step-step-children and

all of their spouses to further count or list – though he would have wanted to – and will be

missed by his family and friends he loved and influenced from a life of significance and meaning.

Visitation will be Friday, Jan. 3, 2025, at Daves-Culbertson Funeral Home in Tullahoma,

with a private family viewing from 4-5 pm and open visitation from 5-8 pm. The memorial

service will be Saturday, Jan. 4, at 1 pm at First Christian Church in Tullahoma, officiated by

Pastor Drew Smith of Ardmore, TN. A family burial service will follow at Rose Hill Memorial Gardens.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to the George W. Malcom

Cemetery, 3725 Old Monroe Madison Hwy, Madison, GA 30650 or First

Christian Church,  
120 West Grundy Street, Tullahoma, TN 37388.

Online condolences may be made at [www.davesculbertsonfuneralhome.com](http://www.davesculbertsonfuneralhome.com).

Daves-Culbertson Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

JAN 3. 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Daves-Culbertson Funeral Home  
401 N. Jackson Street  
Tullahoma, TN 37388

## Funeral Service

JAN 4. 1:00 PM (CT)

First Christian Church  
120 W Grundy St  
Tullahoma, TN 37388-3514  
(931) 455-2200

## Burial

JAN 4 (CT)

Rose Hill Memorial Gardens  
4758 New Manchester Highway  
Tullahoma, TN 37388  
<http://www.rosehillmemorialgardens.com/>

# Tribute Wall

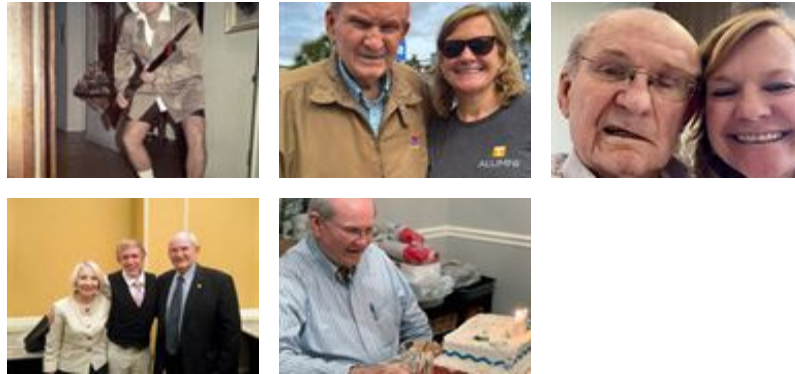
EE

“ Edward E. planted a grove of 3 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Doyle Ernest Richardson.

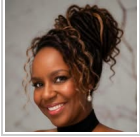
Edward E. - January 03, 2025 at 08:39 PM



“ 239 files added to the album LifeTributes



Daves-Culbertson Funeral Home - January 03, 2025 at 01:42 PM



“ Jeff and Lee Ann...I am so sorry for your loss. My family and I will be forever grateful for the times we needed an exceptional lawyer. I will never forget how your dad represented my sister when she was suspended for a fight at school. She was fighting in self defense (the girl jumped her from behind while she was climbing the bleacher stairs). My mother wrote countless letters and the whole school system of Tullahoma was investigated. Tullahoma High School was given 30 days to fix the students' records OR the government funds would be shut off! Doyle was the perfect lawyer and family friend! He also chose me to be a recipient of the Holland Scholarship and wrote recommendation letters for other scholarships, which aided me in graduating from college, debt free! We have lost a great man. Rest in paradise Mr. Richardson!

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**Gin Spaulding** - January 02, 2025 at 10:25 PM



*That is so sweet Gin! Thank you for sharing that memory!*

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**Lee Ann Craig** - January 11, 2025 at 06:43 PM



*Gin, thank you! You are awesome and so is everyone I ever met in your family!*

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**Jeff Richardson** - June 26, 2025 at 11:53 PM



“ Jan! Sending love! Sherry and John

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**Sheridan Brown** - January 02, 2025 at 03:31 PM



“ Sending much love and hugs to Jane! Love, Sherry and John

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**Sheridan Brown** - January 02, 2025 at 03:30 PM



“ Jim, Yolanda, Lola, Brandon, and Lexi planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Doyle Ernest Richardson.

Jim, Yolanda, Lola, Brandon, and Lexi - January 01, 2025 at 02:15 PM



“ Jim, Yolanda, Lola, Brandon, and Lexi purchased the Loving Lilies and Roses Bouquet for the family of Doyle Ernest Richardson.



Jim, Yolanda, Lola, Brandon, and Lexi - January 01, 2025 at 02:15 PM



“ Fiery Lily and Rose was purchased for the family of Doyle Ernest Richardson.



December 31, 2024 at 08:46 PM



“ Mindy Morgan lit a candle in memory of Doyle Richardson



Mindy Morgan - December 31, 2024 at 02:38 PM