



Ernest "Bucky" Jackson Curtis Jr.

March 3, 1929 - October 24, 2019

Ernest "Bucky" J. Curtis, Jr., of Louisville, Kentucky, passed away peacefully on October 24, 2019. He was born on March 3, 1929 in Gainesville, Georgia to the late Ernest and Frances Curtis. He will be remembered as a loving father, grandfather, great-grandfather, brother, and friend to many.

Bucky was a graduate of the 1947 class of Riverside Military Academy in Gainesville and Vanderbilt University where he shined as a Commodore on the football field. He was a member of SAE Fraternity and ODK Honorary Society. Among his many football accolades, Bucky was the co-captain of the South Team in the Senior Bowl where he was honored as the MVP of the game. He led the nation in several receiving categories in 1950 including a 29.3-yard average per reception, and was selected as an All-American tight end. The team's quarterback was Bill Wade. Curtis was then drafted in the second round of the 1951 NFL draft by the defending NFL champion Cleveland Browns. Curtis made the Browns for the 1951 season, but was drafted for service in the Korean War before the season started. Curtis served his four years in the Navy, expecting to be signed by the Browns for the upcoming 1955 season. When he and the Browns had trouble reaching a contract, he signed with the Toronto Argonauts of the Canadian Football League. He was elected to the Vanderbilt Athletics Hall of Fame in 2010.

In his professional life, Bucky served eighteen years as the national marketing manager for International Paper Company, and twenty-four years as the President of Courier Carton. He was a member of St. Francis in the Fields Episcopal Church.

Along with his parents, Bucky is preceded in death by his wife of 57 years and Vanderbilt Homecoming Queen, Sally "Peanut" Bradley Curtis and sister Frances Lillian Diefendorf. He is survived by his children, Tucker Curtis (wife Donna), Bibby Poropatich (husband Jim), Bradley Piper, and Nan Curtis (husband Martin Houston); 9 grandchildren, 9 great-grandchildren; and his sister Nancy Curtis Robinson.

Memorial service will be held at 3p.m. on Sunday, October 27, 2019 at Pearson's, 149 Breckenridge Ln.

Events

OCT **Memorial Service** **03:00PM**
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Pearson Funeral Home

149 Breckenridge Lane, Louisville, KY, US, 40207

Comments



“ I am a Vanderbilt grad and an avid sports historian. People even at Vanderbilt don't remember just how good Bucky Curtis was as a college football player. The #1 WR of his day, Bucky became Vanderbilt's second All-American as a result of 80 receptions and 17 TDs in his senior season alone. Would've been a star in the NFL if he hadn't chosen to enter the Navy as an officer.

A great student, a great athlete, a great teammate and a great man.

God Bless you, Bucky.

- Mark Lonergan
Woodside, CA

Mark Lonergan - August 27, 2021 at 04:53 PM



“ My three brothers and I loved to caddy for the Bucky Curtis group at Wyoming Golf Club. We knew that we would have fun and see some good golf. Bucky would usually show up at the first tee with comments like “I'm ready to play golf since I taped my ankles” or don't I look good since I lost all that weight?” Bucky was an very good golfer and hit a low driving gol ball. His wife Sally was an excellent golfer herself and very nice to us caddies. If memory serves me right, Sally had her best round at Wyoming when she was very pregnant - she said she got good distance with the added weight. A personal side note, my brother Cookie who also caddied for Bucky many times, also played football for the Cleveland Browns and died the same day as Bucky. I guess God needed these two players for his football team in heaven.

Rusty Brinkman - February 19, 2020 at 05:28 AM



“ I just heard of Bucky's passing. I worked with Bucky for 10 years at Courier Carton from 1981 to 1991. He was a valued friend and co worker with my dad Jim Dye.



William R. Dye - November 13, 2019 at 03:42 PM



“ Chuck and Linda purchased the Enchanted Cottage for the family of Ernest "Bucky" Jackson Curtis Jr..



Chuck and Linda - October 26, 2019 at 02:42 PM