

Iris Walter Carmack, also known as "Mack" or "Ike," 95, of Lake Burton and a former resident of Decatur, died Saturday, Feb. 4, 2006, in the presence of his family.

He was born on July 31, 1910, in Phenix City, Ala., to William Henry and Nora Belle Henderson Carmack. He graduated from the University of Alabama in 1930 with a bachelor's degree in commerce and business administration. He was known for his love for and devotion to the University of Alabama. He was a member of the President's Council and served as president of the Alabama Alumni Association. He was named Outstanding Alumnus of the Year in 1974. He also was a charter member of the Atlanta University of Alabama Alumni Club and a recipient of the Hall of Fame Award given in 1991 by the Commerce Executives Society.

He retired as a supervisor with Southern Bell in 1975 after a 45-year career. He was active in the Telephone Pioneers of America, serving as president of the Georgia Chapter. He received a Distinguished Service Award from the organization. He was sitting at his desk Dec. 7, 1941, in the Southern Bell operator room in Columbus when he was informed Pearl Harbor was under attack. He went home at 2 a.m. the following morning after having provided phone service to military personnel and families.

He was president of I.W. Carmack & Associates Inc. from 1975-97. He was a Paul Harris Fellow in the Decatur Rotary Club and was selected the Rotarian of the Year in 1984. He served as an elder, moderator of the board and Sunday school teacher for First Christian Church of Decatur, for which he was named "Layman of the Year" by the Georgia region of the Christian Men's Fellowship in 1995.

He was preceded in death by two sisters, Minnie Belle Cogdell and Willie Mae Stough, and a brother, Comer Aston Carmack.

Survivors include: his wife of 70 years, Willa Mima Nooe of Nashville, Tenn.; three daughters and two sons-in-law, Nancy and Jim Greene and Sally and Larry Anderson, all of Lake Burton, and Dr. Betty Carmack of San Francisco; three grandchildren and their spouses, Betty Greene and Pat Grogan of Milwaukee, Tom and Michelle Brooks of Cumming and Mona Anderson and Geoff Stevens of Savannah; six great-grandchildren, Grant, Clay, Ben, Abby and Sam Stevens and Blake Brooks; and many cousins, nieces and nephews.

A graveside service was held at Decatur Cemetery. A memorial service was held on Feb. 7 at First Christian Church of Decatur. Memorial donations may be made to First Christian Church of Decatur or to the Iris Walter Carmack Scholarship Fund at University of Alabama.

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