

Heck Christian Dodson Jr., 70, of Tifton, Ga., and of Highlands, passed away Friday, April 11, 2008, at Crawford Long Hospital after his battle with lung cancer.

Heck was born April 22, 1937, in Tift County, and is the son of the late Claudine Mobley Dodson and Heck Christian Dodson Sr. He was also preceded in death by a sister, Ara Dodson Pittman.

He graduated from Tift County High School in 1955, where he was active in FFA. He attended Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College before transferring to the University of Georgia in Athens. A member of Lambda Chi Alpha social fraternity, he graduated with honors, including Phi Kappa Phi, in June 1959, with B.S. degrees in horticulture and animal husbandry. Heck returned to work with the family farm in Tift County in 1959. In recent years, he had been in partnership with Phillip Grimes of Docia Farms.

For many years, Heck served as a member of the Board of Directors of the First Community Bank of Tifton (formerly Farmers' Bank of Tifton). He is a member of the President's Club at ABAC and the University of Georgia.

He is survived by his dear wife of 49 years, Paula Carter Dodson; their children, Duran, Chris, and Carla; his son-in-law, John Ellis; his grandson, Sam Leland Dodson Ellis; his nephew, Hank Pittman; his cousins, Earline Tolbert Ponder, Wylene Ponder Rickley, Toby Dodson Graves, and Gene Lowery.

Memorial services were held at 11 a.m., Monday, April 14, at St. Anne's Episcopal Church in Tifton, where the Dodson family has been longtime members. Family friend, Rev. Brian Sullivan, of the Episcopal Church of the Incarnation in Highlands, officiated.

Honorary pallbearers included members of the Board of Directors of First Community Bank of Tifton and personal friends and neighbors.

Memorial services to be held in Highlands will be announced at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, the family gratefully requests that donations be made in honor of Heck Dodson to the Winship Cancer Institute Memorial Fund, Emory University, 1762 Clifton Plaza 1000, Atlanta, GA 30322 (for lung cancer research), or to The Cancer Survivors' Fund, DeKalb Medical Center, 2701 N. Decatur Rd., Decatur, GA 30033.

Online condolences are available by visiting www.albritton-beaumontfuneralhome.com.

Albritton-Beaumont Funeral Directors is in charge of the arrangements.

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