

Frank Dawson Hall, 80, died Saturday, April 5, 2008, at his ranch in Arcadia, Fla., after an extended illness.

He was born Oct. 14, 1927, in Fort Lauderdale, Fla. He received a bachelor's degree from Duke University and a law degree from the University of Florida. He served in the U.S. Army during the Korean War as a judge advocate general. He then practiced law with his father and two brothers in Miami until he accepted the position of vice president and general counsel for Howard Johnson Company in New York City, where he developed his skill in franchise law. After five years, he returned to Florida and began practicing with Hall and Swann. He was instrumental in the beginnings of Sonny's Real Pit Bar-B-Q, Everglades Seasoning and AquaChem. He went into semiretirement and moved to his Prairie Creek Ranch in 1995. He received recognition for 50 years membership with the Florida Bar in 2001.

He was active with the American Bar Association General Practice Section and was recognized with the "Project of the Year Award" for outstanding service to the ABA General Practice Section. He also received the "Tradition of Excellence Award" from the Florida Bar for his work with the General Practice Solo and Small Firm Section. He also served as Honorary Counsel General of Thailand for Florida from 1978-2000, during which time the King of Thailand honored him with many awards for distinguished service. Upon retirement, he enjoyed fishing and hunting at his ranch and spending time with his wife at their home in Clayton. He was an avid University of Florida fan.

Survivors include: his wife, Rebecca Gessaman Hall; a daughter, Laurie Dawson Hall and husband Ron; three brothers and two sisters-in-law, M. Lewis Hall Jr. and Muriel Hall, Vincent T. and Shirley Hall and Lewshane Hall; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Memorial contributions may be made to Tidewell Hospice and Palliative Care, 5944 Rand Blvd., Sarasota, FL 34238; or by visiting www.tidewell.org.

A celebration of his life will be held at a later date. Ponger-Kays-Grady Funeral Home and Cremation Services in Arcadia, Fla., is in charge of arrangements. An online guestbook is available at www.pongerkaysgrady.com. This announcement courtesy of Beck Funeral Home

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