

Douglas Hotch, 90, of Sky Valley, died Sunday, April 20, 2008, after a brief illness.

He was born May 4, 1917, in Camp Hill, Ala. He attended Emory University, where he was a member of the varsity swimming, golf and cross country teams. He worked as an accountant with Brunswick Pulp and Paper. He married Ouida Kimbrough Ripley of Atlanta in 1941. They moved to Monroeville, Ala., where he worked for Vanity Fair. They later went to Jacksonville, Fla., where he worked as accountant and office manager for National Container Corp. His career took him to Big Island, Va., Valdosta and Toledo, Ohio, with several returns to Jacksonville as the company was bought and merged. He served as chapter president of the National Association of Accountants. He worked for a time with Rogers, Towers, a law firm in Jacksonville.

He and his wife moved in 1985 to Sky Valley, where they had maintained a vacation residence for several years. He worked in several jobs and officially retired at age 87. He enjoyed the ocean and sailing and was an avid golfer. He was a competitive runner until he was fitted with a pacemaker at age 80, though he kept running. He was an Eagle Scout and later served as a Scoutmaster. He was a skilled carpenter who rebuilt a sailboat and restored several homes. He was a lifelong Methodist. He served for many years as treasurer of Chapel of Sky Valley and was a member of its choir.

Survivors include: his wife of 66 years; two sons and a daughter-in-law, Douglas Ripley and John and Pamela Kimbrough, all of Asheville, N.C.; a daughter and son-in-law, Susan and Frank Arnall of Orlando, Fla.; an adopted son, Owen Sullivan; four grandchildren; six great-grandchildren; two sisters, Claire King and Lou McDonald; a niece; and six nephews.

A memorial service will be held in Sky Valley at a later date. Memorial gifts may be made to Chapel of Sky Valley's music fund.

Beck Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements. An online guestbook is available at www.beckfuneralhome.com.

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