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Visitation information

First Presbyterian Church Fellowship
 Hall following the service
 300 North Cherry Street, Winston-
 Salem, NC 27101
 Thursday, Feb 08, 2018
[map](#)

Service information

First Presbyterian Church
 300 North Cherry Street, Winston-
 Salem, NC 27101
 Thursday, Feb 08, 2018
 1 p.m.
[map](#)

Roddey Miller Ligon, Jr.

Sep 21, 1924 - Jan 31, 2018
 Forsyth County

Roddey Miller Ligon, Jr., 93, of Winston-Salem passed away January 31, 2018. Mr. Ligon was born September 21, 1924 in Rock Hill, SC to Roddey M. Ligon, Sr. and Zona Irene Ligon. He moved to Spindale, NC as an infant where his parents found work in the textile mills.

He graduated from Rutherfordton/Spindale Central High School in 1941. That same year he played semi-pro baseball and in 1942 played professional baseball with a minor league team of the then St. Louis Browns (now Baltimore Orioles). At the end of the 1942 season he joined the U.S. Army Air Corps. He received navigation training at the University of Miami, flew 50 bombing missions over Europe as the navigator on a B-24 bomber, and was discharged as a Major. In 1951 he was recalled to active duty during the Korean War and was again discharged in 1953. He received a number of medals and awards.

In 1945, upon discharge from the Army Air Corps, he entered the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and was given a semester of credit for his navigation training. He received a B.S. in Commerce from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 1948 and a J.D. with honors from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill School of Law in 1951.

Upon graduation in 1951 he joined the faculty at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill as an Assistant Professor of Public Law and Government and Assistant Director of the Institute of Government. In 1957 he was promoted to the full professor level.

In 1964 he moved with his family from Chapel Hill to Winston-Salem to take the position of full-time Attorney for Forsyth County. In 1968 and 1969 he served as both County Attorney and County Manager.

In 1970 he joined the law firm of Womble, Carlyle, Sandridge and Rice (now Womble Bond Dickinson). The majority of his practice over the years consisted of representing cities (especially Winston-Salem), counties, and hospitals (including Wake Forest Baptist, Forsyth Medical Center, Medical Park, Iredell Memorial, and others). He remained active with the firm for more than 40 years. He appeared as counsel of record before the N.C.

Supreme Court, N.C. Court of Appeals, and Fourth Circuit Federal Court of Appeals a combined total of 125 times.

He received a number of awards from his peers. In 1968, while Forsyth County Attorney, he received the Most Outstanding County Attorney Award from the N.C. Association of County Attorneys. In 1993 he received the first ever Achievement Award for exemplary service to the health care bar from the Health Care Section of the N.C. Bar Association. In 1996 he received the Ernest H. Ball Award for excellence in the Advancement of Municipal Law from the N.C. Association of Municipal Attorneys (he was the first ever attorney in private practice to receive this award). And in 2000 he received the H. Grady Barnhill Award for Service To Clients from his own firm (he stated that while he was very appreciative of all of the awards, this one from his own firm was the one that meant the most to him).

He was a faithful member of First Presbyterian Church in Winston-Salem since 1964. He served the church as a Sunday school teacher throughout much of that period. He also served as an elder and member of the personnel committee. He was a member of the Winston-Salem Civitan Club for many years and served on a number of community service agencies such as the Alzheimer's Association, Family Services, United Way, Senior Services (Meals on Wheels), public school tutoring, and others. He was a member of Forsyth Country Club for more than 40 years. He was an avid golfer and a true sports fan.

While at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill he met and married Anne Kimbrough of Richland, GA who was a student in the Graduate School of Social Work. They were married for more than 62 years before her death in 2009.

He was preceded in death by his parents, his brothers Samuel and Thomas, and his sister Janet Tomblin. He is survived by three children and five grandchildren. The children and their spouses are Delia Barger and her husband James Barger Jr. of Midway, GA; Susan Tisdale and her husband Warren Tisdale of Norfolk, VA; and, Roddey M. Ligon, III and his wife Marion of Lewisville, NC. The grandchildren are Ruthanne Barger of Virginia Beach, VA and James Barger, III of Lakewood, CO; Emma Tisdale of Norfolk, VA; and, Roddey M. Ligon, IV and Bryson Ligon of Lewisville, NC.

A memorial service will be held at 1:00 p.m. on Thursday, February 8th at First Presbyterian Church in Winston-Salem with a reception immediately following in the church Fellowship Hall. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to First Presbyterian Church, Senior Services Williams Adult Day Care Center, the Alzheimer's Association, or a charity of your choice.

Online condolences may be sent to www.salemfh.com.

Condolences

Reginald Stocks

I just wanted to express my deepest sympathies. Even when our dear loved ones live a long, satisfying life it is still so hard to part ways with them because we love them so much. No doubt this is a difficult time for you, but please draw comfort from the fact that soon our Heavenly Father will address this issue. He will make death "no more", here on Earth, and also bring back our loved ones that have already "fallen asleep" so we have a chance to be reunited with them (2Cor 1:3,4 Rev 21:3,4 John 5:28,29 & 1 Thess 4:14). Again, my condolences

- Sam Bickford Susan, so very sorry to hear of your Dad's passing. What a life he led! Deepest condolences to you and your family.
- M. Claire McNaught To the family of Ann and Rod Ligon, your loss is our loss. My mother, Sara, was a close friend and spoke fondly of all the Ligon children. Mr. Ligon (who tried without success to get me to call him Rod) was my guide, mentor and hero. His devotion to the best qualities of son, husband, father and community leader was inspirational. He was a gentleman who treated everyone with courtesy and respect. A more zealous advocate no client could have found. He taught many young lawyers how to argue a case fairly and decently. His passing is a terrible loss. Claire McNaught
- Ken Moser Roddey was a wonderful man, lawyer and friend, whom we loved and will truly miss. He was a dedicated husband and caregiver to Anne! We a lost a quiet, unassuming man, who was often an under appreciated giant and achiever in his profession and community. I read with interest Roddey's pride in his receipt of our law firm's Award for Service to Clients. Being his law partner who wrote and delivered the presentation to Roddey at a firm retreat some years ago, I can attest that no lawyer deserved an award more!
- peter robie md I offer the deepest condolences on the passing of your father. He was a great favorite of mine-as was your mother-and always had wise counsel about his profession and life in general. As a member of the great generation that served in Word War II he sets an example for all of us to follow. We will all miss him!

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