

## **Obituary of John A. (Jeff) Davis**

*"I Really Loved Working with People"*

Mr. Davis was born on Feb. 10, 1930 to George E. and Garnet McQuain Davis in Hendricks, West Virginia. He graduated from Gordon Military College in 1947 and was a Master Sergeant in the U.S. Air Force Reserve.

Upon completion of school he began working as a radio announcer in Barnesville, Ga. and from there entered into the television field in Mississippi. After opening two TV stations in Georgia, he joined the TV film industry with Official Films, Inc. where he was Regional Manager. Mrs. Bennie Hansen of the Biltmore Hotel in Atlanta asked him to become General Manager, a job he greatly enjoyed.

His career evolved into sales where he became top salesman for the Encyclopedia Britannica and the Great Books Collection, which he helped develop and distribute with Dr. Mortimer Adler, along with the Syntopicon, an index of all of man's great ideas. He was very proud of this achievement. He later became the CEO of Surfa Shield Corporation in Virginia and a renowned motivational speaker.

Mr. Davis was actively involved in many organizations in his lifetime including: joining Junior Chamber of Commerce (Jaycees) at the age of 18 and holding international, national, state and local offices, Jaycees International and the Fairfax County, Virginia Chamber of Commerce where he was named Citizen of the Year; Sons of Confederate Veterans, holding national, state and local offices and being a member of the 27th Georgia Regiment; Gainesville Camp 1404; Military Order of the Stars and Bars (holding national and state offices), the Longstreet Society and founder of the Georgia Heritage Council; the Tucker Shrine Club, the Yarab Temple of Atlanta, the Grand Lodge of Kentucky, F&A.M, he was a 32nd Scottish Rite Mason. He was also a member of the Rotary Club, the Kiwanis International, and the Order of the Moose.

He was very active in the Republican Party in Georgia, where he was instrumental in bringing Richard Nixon's campaign to Atlanta in 1960 and reviving the GOP in that state; gubernatorial campaigns in Kentucky and senatorial and gubernatorial races in Virginia.

He worked with the administrations of Presidents Eisenhower, Nixon and Reagan to bring economic justice to communist countries through the ideals of the Jaycees and was influential in the High Frontier project a/k/a President Reagan's Strategic Defense Initiative.

He was involved with the Miss Atlanta and Miss Georgia beauty pageants, the revitalization of George Mason University in Virginia and was the narrator for many of the Northwinds Orchestra performances in Gainesville, Georgia. He was a member of the Georgia Assoc. of Broadcasters, the Atlanta Variety Club and the Episcopal Church.

Through his exploits, he traveled the world many times over, making friends everywhere he went. He loved people and was most excited when their interaction produced a positive outcome.

Mr. Davis is survived by his daughters, Lee Lewis of Clarkesville, Ga., Kim Thompson of Demorest, Ga., Kristine McLendon of Atlanta, Darlene Emrie of Topeka, Kansas and son, Clay Davis of Lexington, Ky. He has 13 grandchildren and 2 great grandchildren. He was a loving grandfather and wonderful gardener.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to NE Georgia Hospice or organizations of your choice. The memorial service is to be held at the Elks Club, Gainesville, Georgia, Saturday, January 14th at 1:30, everyone who was a friend of Mr. Davis is welcome to attend the service.

The family has asked that any old photos, stories, archives, video/film footage of any kind that friends of Jeff may have to let us know...for a multimedia retrospective project we would like to do for this man who gave so much to us.

Please contact:

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### **In Memoriam...**

*Vincit omnia veritas -- Veritas Vos Liberabit*

*Truth conquers all -- the Truth shall set you free.*

**John A. 'Jeff' Davis - February 10, 1930 -- January 4, 2012**



J.A. 'Jeff' Davis crossed the river January 4, 2012. Jeff Davis always stood for truth. A retrospective on a life well-lived is coming here soon. This photo was taken December 28th, 2011 by Michael Givens, national Commander-in-Chief of the Sons of Confederate Veterans.