



## Sam P. Hensley Sr

January 5, 1932 - June 26, 2019

SAM P. HENSLEY, SR., 87, of Marietta, passed away on Wednesday, June 26, 2019. He was born on January 5, 1932, in Smyrna, Georgia, to the late Cicero Paul Hensley and Ober Penland Hensley. Sam attended Marietta High School, where he excelled in athletics and was voted Mr. Marietta High School. He was recruited by Coach Bobby Dodd to play football at Georgia Tech, where he was named Co-Captain and helped lead the Yellow Jackets to the 1952 National Championship. He was named All-American that year by the Football Yearbook. Sam was drafted by the Los Angeles Rams in the National Football League and the Edmonton Eskimos in the Canadian Football League. After a short stint playing professional football, Sam returned home to Marietta to marry his high school sweetheart, Iris Antley. Sam served in the United States Army at Fort Belvoir in Washington, D. C., and then opened a civil engineering firm, Hensley & Associates, which later became Hensley-Schmidt, Inc., with his brother Marble John Hensley in Marietta. During a long career as a civil engineer, Sam helped plan and implement the infrastructure of roads, water and sewer systems, and airports that served Cobb County and much of Georgia to this day. The firm also designed projects throughout the Southeast and internationally. Sam later obtained a law degree and was deeply involved in Cobb County politics. In 1966, he was elected to the Georgia Senate and chaired the Highway Committee for two terms. After an unsuccessful campaign for Congress, Sam was again elected to the Georgia General Assembly in 1986, this time to the House of Representatives. Sam also served for many years on the Board of Kennestone Hospital and later the WellStar Health System, which he chaired. Sam was active in the First Baptist Church of Marietta, where he served as a Deacon and taught Sunday School. Sam was preceded in death by his beloved wife of 47 years, Iris, who founded and directed The Georgia Ballet. He is survived by three children, Sam, Jr., Nevanne, and Shuler, and six grandchildren, Hannah, Skyler, Grayson, Annie, Jessie, and Harper. A memorial service will be held for Sam at the First Baptist Church of Marietta, on Saturday, July 20, at 11:00 a.m. The family will receive friends at the Mayes-Ward Dobbins Funeral Home in Marietta on Thursday, July 18, from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations either to The Georgia Ballet, Inc., or the WellStar Foundation

# Events

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**JUL Memorial Service 11:00AM**

**20**

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First Baptist Church of Marietta

148 Church Street, Marietta, GA, US, 30060

# Comments

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“ 1 file added to the album LifeTributes



Mayes Ward-Dobbins Funeral Home - July 18 at 07:40 AM



“ I met Mr Hensley 5 years ago at Louise's Restaurant only because he noticed I was wearing an NC&Stl RR cap and he commented that he grew up very near NC&Stl in Smyrna. Since then he has been one of my best friends of my life. He barely told me that he played football at Ga Tech then I found out on computer that he is in the Tech football Hall of Fame and much more. I would go to Louise's every few weeks and catch Mr. Hensley there and sports and life conversations with him were so enjoyable. Mr Hensley knew every person who entered the restaurant. Our conversations usually lasted an hour or until the restaurant closed, at which point he would tell me, "Well, I've got to go home and slop the hogs - if I had any hogs". I feel so fortunate to have had Mr. Hensley's friendship and I am so sad that I will never again be able to enjoy talking with him. Mr. Hensley was such a great human being. T F Frederick

T R Frederick - August 16 at 02:15 PM



“ 60 files added to the album LifeTributes



Mayes Ward-Dobbins Funeral Home - July 16 at 03:19 PM