



Edward Singleton

October 9, 1922 - May 12, 2011

Conway...Edward Marion "Dick" Singleton, age 88, died Thursday, May 12, 2011.

Edward Marion "Dick" Singleton was born October 9, 1922, in Bucksport, South Carolina, the son of Benjamin Franklin and Floride F. Brakefield Singleton. He attended Conway Grammar School and Conway High School, where he was president of his freshman, sophomore and junior classes and excelled in athletics. He served in the U.S. Army as a physical reconditioning instructor during World War II. He earned a Bachelor of Science degree in 1949, a master's degree in education in 1956, and a Ph.D. in educational administration in 1971, all from the University of South Carolina. He served as a member of the Board of Trustees of the University of South Carolina from 1952 to 1963. He was employed with the Conway Public School System from 1949 to 1962, as a teacher, coach, principal, and superintendent of the Conway City Schools. He served as director and later chancellor of USC Coastal Carolina College from 1963 until his retirement in 1983. Under his leadership, the institution began a period of dramatic growth and development; when his administration began, the two-year college had approximately 100 students and when he retired, the college had more than 3,200 students and awarded baccalaureate degrees. Upon his retirement in 1983, the Board of Trustees of the University of South Carolina named him chancellor emeritus. He was named senior consultant to the Coastal Carolina

University administration during the institution's transition from the USC System to its independence in 1993 and has continued in that role for both presidents of the university. He was a member of the Coastal Educational Foundation from 1986 to 1992, and has served as director emeritus since then. A lifelong sports enthusiast, he led the Chanticleers to NAIA status, NCAA Division I membership, and he served as the first commissioner of the Big South Conference from 1983 to 1989. As commissioner, he directed the effort to establish women's athletics in the conference, which began with five men's programs and later added six women's programs. Today, the Big South includes 18 men's and women's intercollegiate programs. He was an avid Boston Red Sox fan. He was the founder and first supervisor of the Conway Recreation Department. He coached the 1956 Conway American Legion state championship team that also won the championship among eight southeastern states. In 1991 he was inducted into the Coastal Carolina University Buddy Sasser Athletic Hall of Fame. In 2008 he became the first recipient of the Big South Conference Leadership Award, which is named in his honor. He was named Young Man of the Year by the Conway Jaycees in 1958 and was awarded the American Legion Distinguished Service Award in 1959. He served as President of the Conway Chamber of Commerce and belonged to the Conway Rotary Club, the Horry Technical Education Commission, was a board member of the Horry County Higher Education Commission, and chairman of the Advisory Board of C&S National Bank. He was a member of Kingston Presbyterian Church of Conway where he served as a deacon and ruling elder.

He is the father of three children: Francesca Singleton Seccafico and husband Peter of St. Augustine, Fla.; Stephen Singleton and wife Beth, and grandson Parker, of Lugoff, S.C.; and Kim and wife Sara Jo and granddaughters Morgan and Claire Singleton, of Conway, S.C. He leaves his wife, Patricia Baker Durant Singleton, four stepsons: Walter, Chip, Wesley, and Patrick; and four step-grandchildren. He leaves a sister Jeannie, wife of the late E. Cater

Floyd; and sister-in-law Rosemary Singleton, wife of the late James Singleton; as well as numerous nieces and nephews. He is predeceased by his brothers Joseph and James, and sister Betty.

Funeral services will be held 2:00 PM Sunday at Kingston Presbyterian Church with Rev. Rhett Talbert, Jr. and Edgar "Eddie" Dyer officiating. Burial will be private.

The family will receive friends from 4:00 until 6:00 PM Saturday at the Edward M. Singleton Building at Coastal Carolina University.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that memorials be sent to the Edward M. Singleton Scholar Athlete Scholarship, Coastal Carolina University, P.O. Box 261954, Conway, S.C. 29528-6054.

Sign a guestbook at www.goldfinchfuneralhome.com

Goldfinch Funeral Home, Conway Chapel is in charge of arrangements.

Cemetery Details

Singelton Family Cemetery

Conway, SC

Previous Events

Visitation

MAY **14**. 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM.

Edward M. Singleton Bldg. at Coastal Carolina Univ

Service

MAY **15**. 2:00 PM (ET)

Kingston Presbyterian Church
800 Third Avenue
Conway, SC 29526-5141

Tribute Wall

AP

“ Starting a college in an area that may not have been ready for one, and being successful with that venture, is an astounding achievement. Dick Singleton did that. And he nurtured it to maturity from there. He will be missed. - Alex Powers

Alex Powers - May 17, 2011 at 10:15 AM

RS

“ Heaven is even a better place now that Dick is there!! We are praying for your whole family. Love in Christ, Don and Sandy Stiens

Rev. Don Stiens - May 15, 2011 at 02:34 PM

KD

“ To the Entire Singleton Family,

Sorry to hear about your loss. Deepest sympathy from the Strobel family.

Kimberly Strobel Dulaney - May 15, 2011 at 11:17 AM

TE

“ Dear Pat,
My sincere condolences to you and your family on the death of your beloved husband Mr. Singleton. I am so sorry to learn of this news. The Angles have been watching over you both in these past years I have known you. You both are such a wonderful people and you are a person I treasure. Our friendship we have developed in these past few years is really special. Seems I have known you forever with our telephone conversations. You are an angel and Mr. Dick was blessed to have you caring for him, and being by his side as his beloved wife all these years. Mr. Singleton was my Conway Schools principal from the time I was in the eighth grade thru graduation. His son went to school with my children. So times of history go back a long way. You are a sweetheart and I want you to know you can call me anytime. I really would like that. Just know that I love you and my prayers are with you always.

Tessa Edmondson - May 14, 2011 at 01:33 PM

JJ

“ Thanks to Dick's encouragement and support, I achieved many of my dreams when a teenager. Such wonderful and warm memories of my year in Conway with the family will always be cherished. My thoughts and prayers are with each of you. . . .especially cousins Cesca, Stephen and Kim.
Jackie

Jacquelyn Harden Jankowski - May 13, 2011 at 07:08 PM