



## Mr. William Ridley Monk

July 24, 1921 - September 1, 2024

William Ridley Monk, a lifetime resident of Sylvester, Georgia, died peacefully at home on September 1, 2024 at the age of 103. He was married to Leah Yarborough Monk (1921—2020) for over 72 years. He is survived by his daughter, Sue Monk Kidd and his three sons, Chesley Wade Monk, Robert Ridley (Bob) Monk, and Don Thomas Monk; their spouses, Sanford Kidd, Gayle Monk, Ann Monk, and Karon Monk, as well as eight grandchildren and eleven great-grandchildren.

Born in Sylvester on July 24, 1921, he was the son of Judge Chesley Wade Monk and Ruth Ridley Monk, and the brother of Charlotte Monk Jenkins.

Ridley attended the University of Georgia, where he was president of the Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity and graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in agriculture. At the outbreak of World War II, he enlisted in the U.S. Navy and served for 4 years as a Lieutenant in the South Pacific aboard the Destroyer USS Eaton as a radar officer and navigator.

Upon his return from the war, he taught area farmers agricultural skills and worked eleven years for Selfco, an agricultural commodities business. In 1964, he founded Worth Insurance Agency in Sylvester. He was elected director of the Independent Insurance Agents of Georgia and awarded the organization's prestigious Edgar Dunlop Award based on honor, integrity, and

outstanding service to the community. He retired from Worth Insurance after 41 years at the age of 83.

Throughout his long career, he pursued an avocation as a farmer on the Worth County farm established by his great-grandparents in 1828. Known for his connection to the land, he was, at heart, a gardener and farmer, growing everything from peanuts to prize-winning roses.

As a dedicated and lifelong member of First Baptist Church of Sylvester, he served as chairman of the Board of Deacons on multiple occasions, director of the Adult Sunday School Department, and a Sunday School teacher.

His exemplary volunteer civic service included 17 years as a Boy Scout troop leader for which he received the Silver Beaver Distinguished Service Award from the Boy Scouts of America. He was a longtime member of the Worth County Hospital Authority, serving as its chairman and working diligently over the years to ensure a viable hospital presence in Worth Country. As a committed 68 year member of the Sylvester Kiwanis Club, he was presented the George F. Hixon National Award for his service. He was a decades-long member of the Worth Masonic Lodge. In 2008, the Sylvester-Worth County Chamber of Commerce presented him with its Lifetime Achievement Award.

In his later years, he wrote and published numerous essays and articles about his experiences in World War II and undertook a county-wide project to record the stories of World War II veterans for the archives of the Library of Congress.

Ridley was a devoted and loving husband, father, grandfather, great-grandfather, and friend. He will be remembered by his family as a man of integrity, who believed life is measured by the good we do and who lived accordingly.

A private family memorial service will be held. The family requests that in lieu

of flowers contributions in memory of Ridley's life go to Best Friends Humane Society in Worth County and Hospice of Tift Area.

# Tribute Wall

TL

“ So very sorry for the loss of your father Don, Bob, Wade & Sue. He was a fine man that I was very honored to have known. Although I haven't seen him in years, I have great memories of talks with him when I was younger. He was always a very positive and uplifting person to know and admire. Prayers for your entire family during this sad time.

Tammy & Jeff Lawhorn - September 17, 2024 at 05:20 AM

DB

“ Debbie Ray Banks lit a candle in memory of Mr. William Ridley Monk



Debbie Ray Banks - September 08, 2024 at 03:26 PM

DB

“ Debbie & Ray Banks lit a candle in memory of Mr. William Ridley Monk



Debbie & Ray Banks - September 08, 2024 at 03:22 PM

CJ

“ *Carole Burkhart Jones lit a candle in memory of Mr. William Ridley Monk*



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**Carole Burkhart Jones** - September 05, 2024 at 07:23 PM

MB

“ *Mr. Monk was the epitome of selfless service. A great man and role model.*

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**Michael Butler** - September 05, 2024 at 02:01 PM

RC

“ *Judy and I were saddened to hear of the death of Ridley. Judy and I enjoyed visiting with Ridley and Leah at their home and the many conversations we had with Ridley over the telephone. Ridley loved to talk about any subject you could think of. He was also very proud of all his children and grandchildren. Ridley rest in peace. You will be missed by all. Rick and Judy Crawley.*

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**Rick & Judy Crawley** - September 05, 2024 at 11:20 AM

SP

“ *A life lived to the fullest, a legacy left behind, and a family that withholds his standards and values...he had all that so many wish for. We are all better for having known him. Praying for the entire Monk family.*

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**Steve & Laura Patterson** - September 05, 2024 at 02:04 AM

JA

“ *Janice lit a candle in memory of Mr. William Ridley Monk*



Janice - September 04, 2024 at 05:06 PM

JB

“ *John Brownlee lit a candle in memory of Mr. William Ridley Monk*



John Brownlee - September 04, 2024 at 03:26 PM

CB

“ *Chris Burrell lit a candle in memory of Mr. William Ridley Monk*



Chris Burrell - September 04, 2024 at 03:07 AM

LC

“ *Larry Crowe lit a candle in memory of Mr. William Ridley Monk*



Larry Crowe - September 03, 2024 at 07:07 PM

EW

“ During WWII, Ridley and my husband Sid were fellow Lieutenants and became trusted friends aboard the USS Eaton-DD510.

*I recall being told they had exchanged letters written to their families —to be delivered if one of them did not survive the war. They were blessed and came home safely.*

*As the years went by, they enjoyed exchanging visits and traveling to Australia and New Zealand with their wives. Times together always included reminiscences of their Navy experiences and love for our country.*

*My heartfelt condolences to Ridley and Leah’s beautiful family.*

*E. Dollie Wolverton*

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**E. Dollie Wolverton** - September 03, 2024 at 06:51 PM

SD

“ So sorry to hear of Mr Monks passing, such a great gentleman, when I was working in Sylvester I saw him a lot at the Agency, And Mr Bob, rest high on that Mountain, love and prayers for all, Shirley (Mathews) Dixon

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**Shirley A Dixon** - September 03, 2024 at 04:25 PM

QS

“ Prayers for the family and community. Mr. Ridley Monk was a solid pillar of the Sylvester community a Great, honest and very likable person.

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**Quinton Smith** - September 03, 2024 at 02:58 PM

VT

“ I had the privilege to meet Mr. Monk only a few times over the past several years. Each time I would visit, I had to make sure my schedule was cleared for several hours because he had a way of captivating your attention into long conversations. I would go in asking about him but he would soon transition the conversation by saying, "now tell me about yourself". I don't mean quick, down the list basics about yourself. He wanted to know all about your life history, your family history, your likes, dislikes and life goals and dreams. The next visit, even if months apart, he would remember every detail of our prior conversations. He was already over 100 at the time but had the sharpest memory ever. You knew he was truly interested in what you had to say when he asked any question. He was also very proud to have served alongside many that became life long friends for the ones that made it back home in WWII. That was such a GREAT honor for him to share some of his life stories with me. He has definitely touched the lives of many in his lifetime hear on earth. Now go rest high on that mountain Mr. Monk!

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**Vicki Taft** - September 03, 2024 at 11:35 AM

MC

“ One of the finest Christian men I have ever known. Blessings on the remaining family.

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**Mike Carter** - September 03, 2024 at 09:54 AM

SL

“ Mr Ridley was the epitome of a Southern gentleman.....a much admired example for all.

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**Susan B Lawhorne** - September 03, 2024 at 09:22 AM

AB

“ *A shining example of a life well lived. We celebrate his life with his family and offer our thoughts and prayers.*

**Al and Andrea Bozeman** - September 03, 2024 at 05:05 AM

DR

“ *Debbie Redding lit a candle in memory of Mr. William Ridley Monk*



**Debbie Redding** - September 03, 2024 at 12:25 AM

DH

“ *Mr. Monk was a man among men and a gentleman among ladies. A true southern gentleman that made worth Co. what it is today. Well done my faithful servant, welcome in.*

**Doug Hughes** - September 02, 2024 at 09:35 PM

SY

“ *Every now and then I would eat Wednesday night supper at the church with Mr. Ridley and Miss Leah. They were always interested to hear what it was like being a teacher and a cheerleader coach. They were both just genuine people! Knowing how they lived and the work they did, clearly they were a part of the “Greatest Generation” that built this country. I never thought of one without the other. My greatest sympathy to Mr. Ridley’s family.*

**Sue Youngblood** - September 02, 2024 at 08:12 PM

MA

“ *Mr. Ridley was a great man! I loved having him and Mrs. Leah as neighbors. When I worked for the vet, Mrs. Leah would bring me the prettiest roses. I think she just wanted that German Shepard pup I had named Shadow. Lol. Mr. Ridley enjoyed a paper published in Savannah that I took over to him about the war. Prayers for all of you!*

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**Marilynn** - September 02, 2024 at 08:02 PM

MW

*Mr Monk. Was one Godly man. He will be missed by all*

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**Martha. Walker** - September 03, 2024 at 02:12 PM

CO

“ *Connie Thornhill Old lit a candle in memory of Mr. William Ridley Monk*



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**Connie Thornhill Old** - September 02, 2024 at 07:18 PM

R(

“ *Wonderful man, storyteller, and Scoutmaster. Condolences to his family & close friends. He always had a smile on his face and I never heard him say a disparaging word to anyone to my knowledge. Worth County has lost a good man.*

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**Robert "Roby" Golden, CPT, AR, USAR (Ret** - September 02, 2024 at 05:01 PM

DS

“ *My condolences to the family of such a fine man.*



Don Sizemore - September 02, 2024 at 11:51 AM

JC

“ *My deepest condolences to the family.... He was a fine man and I respected him very much. He and I shared a working relationship in the early sixties. Sending prayers to the family. JW CHRISTIANSEN*

JW CHRISTIANSEN - September 02, 2024 at 09:52 AM

RH

“ *Great storyteller and really good man. Our condolences to the family*



Ronald & Janet Hudson - September 02, 2024 at 09:30 AM

JW

“ *Ridley Monk did more to shape my life both personally and career than anyone.I did everything to mold my life like him.Ridley was a true angel on earth.I will miss his wisdom and dedication.Truly loved that Man.*

jesse way - September 02, 2024 at 09:28 AM

MK

“ Love, prayers and condolences to all the families and friends. Love, Melanie Golden Kirkbride



Melanie Golden Kirkbride - September 02, 2024 at 06:31 AM



“ Diana Pratt lit a candle in memory of Mr. William Ridley Monk



Diana Pratt - September 02, 2024 at 06:22 AM

JK

“ As others have said, Mr. Monk was a fine Southern gentleman with a smile and kind word for everyone he came in contact with. He was a great example to pattern one's actions by. Mr. Monk will be missed. Prayers and love to all his family members as you celebrate his life.



Jan and Alan Kimbro - September 01, 2024 at 10:58 PM

BS

Mr Monk will be dearly missed. He was a great man full of spirit and kindness to others.

Bo Slack - September 02, 2024 at 06:01 AM

TS

“ Tony Senkbeil lit a candle in memory of Mr. William Ridley Monk



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**Tony Senkbeil** - September 01, 2024 at 08:24 PM

JC

“ Joe Carter lit a candle in memory of Mr. William Ridley Monk



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**Joe Carter** - September 01, 2024 at 07:46 PM



“ Joe Forehand lit a candle in memory of Mr. William Ridley Monk



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**Joe Forehand** - September 01, 2024 at 07:45 PM

RL

“ Rita Leggett lit a candle in memory of Mr. William Ridley Monk



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**Rita Leggett** - September 01, 2024 at 07:34 PM

DB

“ *Debbie Banks lit a candle in memory of Mr. William Ridley Monk*



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**Debbie Banks** - September 01, 2024 at 07:06 PM

BH

“ *Brenda Hicks lit a candle in memory of Mr. William Ridley Monk*



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**Brenda Hicks** - September 01, 2024 at 06:44 PM

TD

“ *Tony Dato lit a candle in memory of Mr. William Ridley Monk*



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**tony dato** - September 01, 2024 at 06:22 PM

SW

“ *Sandra Watson lit a candle in memory of Mr. William Ridley Monk*



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**Sandra Watson** - September 01, 2024 at 06:18 PM

EA

“ *Eric Adams lit a candle in memory of Mr. William Ridley Monk*



Eric Adams - September 01, 2024 at 05:15 PM

DK

“ *Mr. Ridley Monk was a true southern gentleman! He lived his life showing others that Christ lived in him !!! He will be missed by his wonderful family and all who knew him ! May God's love surround his family during this sad time ! Sincerely, Davis and Donna King*

Donna King - September 01, 2024 at 04:18 PM

MF

“ *Mary Jane Fraley lit a candle in memory of Mr. William Ridley Monk*



Mary Jane Fraley - September 01, 2024 at 02:37 PM

SR

“ *So sad to hear Mr. Monk has passed. I know the whole community will miss him. He was a true gentleman.*

Sharon E Rhoads - September 01, 2024 at 01:44 PM

BA

“ *A fine man and a wonderful neighbor. A true gentleman and Christian. He will be missed. Prayers for all the family.*

Bill and Renee Acord - September 01, 2024 at 01:41 PM

EC

“ In my initial meeting with Mr. Monk, I was buying insurance. Immediately, I could tell what a kind, wise, and patient man he was. I asked him dozens of questions and we went down numerous "rabbit trails"! Oh, how I enjoyed our meeting! In every meeting since, that opinion has been confirmed. I am so sorry for this family's loss. They will be kept in our prayers.



Elizabeth and Charlie Cowles - September 01, 2024 at 01:39 PM

RS

“ Rhonda Saylor lit a candle in memory of Mr. William Ridley Monk



Rhonda Saylor - September 01, 2024 at 11:48 AM

BG

“ A true gentleman! Prayers for all of his family.  
Tommy and Bobbie Gay

Bobbie Gay - September 01, 2024 at 11:41 AM

EC

“ I am so sorry to hear this. Such a wonderful man and a testament to the Lord. He will certainly be missed. Prayers sent for all of his family. God bless you all!



Evelyn Fletcher Castleberry - September 01, 2024 at 11:37 AM

JC

“ June Coker lit a candle in memory of Mr. William Ridley Monk



June Coker - September 01, 2024 at 10:38 AM

MB

“ Mark Bibby lit a candle in memory of Mr. William Ridley Monk



Mark Bibby - September 01, 2024 at 10:31 AM

LP

“ Lamar Potts sent a virtual gift in memory of Mr. William Ridley Monk

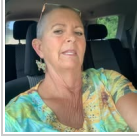


Lamar Potts - September 01, 2024 at 10:25 AM

BB

One of my heroes and a true Southern Gentleman. Mr. Ridley was my mentor from Troop 33 until now. We will miss him.

Bill Boone - September 01, 2024 at 12:56 PM



“ *Marilynn Mims lit a candle in memory of Mr. William Ridley Monk*



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**Marilynn Mims** - September 01, 2024 at 10:20 AM



“ *Randy & Nancy Dawson lit a candle in memory of Mr. William Ridley Monk*



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**Randy & Nancy Dawson** - September 01, 2024 at 09:33 AM



“ *Karen McDonal lit a candle in memory of Mr. William Ridley Monk*



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**Karen McDonal** - September 01, 2024 at 09:28 AM



“ *Mr. Monk was absolutely the nicest man I have ever known. Rest in peace now my friend. May the peace of God be with the family during this time of remembering.*

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**Roy Carroll** - September 01, 2024 at 08:28 AM

MH

“ *Mack And Mary Houston lit a candle in memory of Mr. William Ridley Monk*



Mack and Mary Houston - September 01, 2024 at 08:15 AM

BO

“ *Barbara Odom lit a candle in memory of Mr. William Ridley Monk*



Barbara Odom - September 01, 2024 at 07:46 AM



“ *Diana Pratt lit a candle in memory of Mr. William Ridley Monk*



Diana Pratt - September 01, 2024 at 07:29 AM

DK

“ *Mr Monk was a wonderful person ! His life was an example of a Christian gentleman! He was a friend to many! A loving husband, father, grandfather and a blessing to all who knew him! Prayers for All his family ! May the love of God surround each of you ! Sincerely , Davis and Donna King*

Donna King - September 01, 2024 at 07:17 AM



“ *"The Greatest Generation". Well done, good and faithful servant. All my love.* ”

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**Lila** - September 01, 2024 at 06:37 AM