

RBS Grieves Loss of Public Service Leader Tommy Spivey

Tuesday, November 4, 2008



A sudden heart attack claimed the life of former Red Boiling Springs Mayor Tommy Spivey on the morning of Tuesday, October 28th.

Spivey, who served as Mayor from 1991 to 1993, was appointed to the Red Boiling Springs City Council in October of 1993 and was elected to serve three four-year terms on the council in '97, '03 and '07.

In 2007, he was appointed Vice Mayor of Red Boiling Springs under current Mayor Kenneth Hollis.

“Tommy was a fine man and one of those people you just enjoyed being around,” Hollis explained, as he described his long-time friend. “For the last year-and-a-half, he’s served as our Vice Mayor, and you couldn’t ask for a better man to work with. Our community has suffered a great loss with his passing, and he will be sadly missed.”

A familiar face throughout Macon County, Spivey was well-known for his upbeat personality and friendly nature while working as a delivery man for the American Bread Company, a position he retired from after 30 years of service.

Red Boiling Springs Deputy City Clerk Paulette Pippin, who worked with Spivey during his time as City Mayor and city council member, remembers the way he could always bring a smile to the faces of those who knew him.

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“If you were down in the dumps, Tommy could cheer you up. The day before he died, he called us at City Hall to tell us what the weather was like on Bennett Hill,” she recalled, smiling. “He was always there with a funny joke, and he is sure going to be missed around here.”

Pippin also remembers Spivey’s accounts of the past and the stories he told about his boyhood in Red Boiling Springs.

“Tommy loved Red Boiling Springs and Macon County, and remembered every bread stop he ever made on his old delivery routes,” she said. “He would tell us stories about growing up in Macon County and how things have changed. If you needed to know any history about the county, he would know and remember.”

A life-long Red Boiling Springs resident and a member of the RBS Church of Christ, Spivey served as former Sunday School teacher and Deacon and was also a Korean War Veteran.

“Tommy was a big supporter of the RBS Church of Christ and the Red Boiling Springs community,” said preacher and long-time friend Jimmy Cook. “He was very faithful to his friends, always offered a helping hand and was a solid citizen that we will all miss very much.”

Besides his parents, Spivey was also preceded in death his son, Douglas Spivey and brothers, Billy Joe and Wendell Spivey.

On August 9, 1958, he married the former Thelma Williams, who survives, and leaves behind daughter & son-in-law, Janie & Jack Briggs, of Birmingham, Ala., step-daughter, Debbie Sadler, of Red Boiling Springs, and son & daughter-in-law, Billy & Betty Spivey, of Lafayette, Tenn.

Funeral service for Tommy Spivey were conducted Thursday, Oct. 30th, from the chapel of the Phillip Anderson & Son Funeral Home in Red Boiling Springs. Interment followed in the Anderson & Son Memorial Park with military honors.