



James Thornton Kirby Sr.

October 2, 2006

James Thornton Kirby, Sr. of Easton, MD died on Monday, October 2, 2006. He was 87.

Born May 6, 1919, he was the son of the late Davis Clark and Ada Naylor Kirby. Raised in Trappe, MD, he was a graduate of Trappe High School. He was a member of the University of Maryland Class of 1940, where he was a member of the Phi Delta Kappa Fraternity. During World War II, he served in the U. S. Air Force.

Devoting his life to the improvement of agriculture, Mr. Kirby was Vice President of J. McKenny Willis & Sons, a major agriculture supply company. In 1966 he started his own agricultural supply company known as Jaspers and opened a hardware store that was operated by his late wife, Pearl. He remained in the farm supply business until 1986. After retirement he became an avid rose gardener with over 300 hundred roses.

Pearl, his wife of 39 years, died in 1987.

He was an active member of St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Trappe where he served as an officer and vestry member, past President of the Easton Lions Club, served on the board of the Talbot Country Club, was past President and Treasurer of the Maryland Crop Improvement Association, an officer of the

Trappe Alumni Association, and served on the Old White Marsh Cemetery Board. In 1990 he was named "Man of The Year" by the Maryland Grain Producers Association. In the early part of 2000, a building at the Wye Research and Education Center was dedicated in his honor and proudly bears his name.

Mr. Kirby is survived by his wife of eighteen years, the former Joan Rice, whom he married November 5, 1988; a son, Dr. James Thornton Kirby, Jr., his wife Barbara, and their three sons, Joshua Thornton Kirby, and twins Benjamin Naylor Kirby and Nicholas Ross Kirby; a daughter, Dr. Elizabeth Kirby Pridgen and her husband Thomas; a step-daughter, Sandra Joan Sorrenti and her husband Donald; and a brother William Naylor Kirby and his wife Anne. He was predeceased by a brother, Davis Clark Kirby, on September 19, 2006.

Friends may call on Thursday, October 5, 2006 from 4 to 6 PM at Fellows, Helfenbein and Newnam Funeral Home, P.A., Easton, MD.

Funeral services will be held on Friday, October 6, 2006 at 11:00 AM at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Trappe, MD. Interment will immediately follow the service at White Marsh Cemetery, Trappe, MD.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to St. Paul's Episcopal Church, PO Box 141, Trappe, MD 21673.

Tribute Wall



“ *James Thornton Kirby Sr.*

October 26, 2023 at 06:42 PM



“ *James Thornton Kirby Sr.*

January 28, 2023 at 12:44 PM



“ *James Thornton Kirby Sr.*

January 28, 2023 at 08:03 AM