

IP

5-12-15



Jeremiah J. Barkie

Jeremiah J. Barkie, 95, retired Colonel in The United States Army and fourth Mayor of Hilton Head Island, died on Saturday, May 9, 2015 in Hilton Head Regional Medical Center after a short illness.

He was born on February 6, 1920, son of Dora and Charles A. Barkie. He was predeceased by his wife of 54 years, Justine A. Barkie, and his daughter Loyola. He leaves behind his four children, Claudia, Allison, Tracey and Griffin, eleven grandsons, and seven great-grandchildren.

Mr. Barkie was a graduate of Brooklyn Preparatory School, Fordham University, and command and General Staff College as well as the Industrial College of the Armed Forces. In civilian life, he retired as a vice president of Johnson and Higgins, an international insurance brokerage firm. During World War II, he served in the European Theater and among his awards and decorations, he received the Bronze Star Medal, four campaign ribbons, and the Belgian Fourragere for his actions in the Second Liberation of Antwerp and the Battle of the Bulge. Upon return to civilian life, he served with the New York US A.R. School in various positions including that of Assistant Commandment.

Upon his retirement in 1985, he and his wife moved to Hilton Head Island and they became active in the then Beaufort County Literacy Association where he served as instructor, board member and executive committee member. He also joined the local chapter of AARP and served as vice president, president and board member. While he was president, he acted as spokesman for the local chapter opposing the stand of the national headquarters who were supporting ill-fated catastrophic coverage law. He appeared before a subcommittee of congress and was ultimately mentioned in the Congressional Record as one of the leaders responsible for the repeal. He was also a member of the local chapter of the Retired Officers Association where he served as an officer, board member and president.

He was elected fourth

Mayor of the Town of Hilton Head Island in 1989. During which time he was Mayor, his council completed two major public beach parks and successfully negotiated for the purchase of several additional beach park properties. He also obtained the funding for the islands first beach nourishment project and brought it to its conclusion. He acquired a new town hall facility and began the original land acquisition program.

In 1991, he was asked to act as coordinator of the Antwerp Monument Committee, a committee dedicated to placing a monument in the City of Antwerp to honor those American military units which successfully defended Antwerp against the onset of the V1 weapons. In 1994, he was a guest of the City of Antwerp for the 50th Anniversary celebration of its liberation at which time the monument was dedicated. Upon his return, he dedicated a plaque at Fort Bliss, Texas where the Cadre of his unit was trained. Most recently, he was a member of the monument committee that developed the funds necessary to build the veterans monument which now stands at Shelter Cove Park.

He was a member of St. Francis Catholic Church, where he served as an usher and one of its early council members. The family requests that donations in Jeremiah's name be made to the St. Francis School building fund or a charity of one's choice.

Visitation will be held on Friday, May 15, 2015 from 1:00pm-3:00pm and 5:00pm-7:00pm at The Island Funeral Home 4 Cardinal Rd, Hilton Head Island. A Mass of Christian Burial will be held on Saturday, May 16, 2015 at 10:30am in St. Francis Catholic Church 35 Beach City Rd, Hilton Head Island. Burial will follow in the church columbarium immediately following with full Military Honors.

The Island Funeral Home and Crematory. theislandfuneralhome.com.