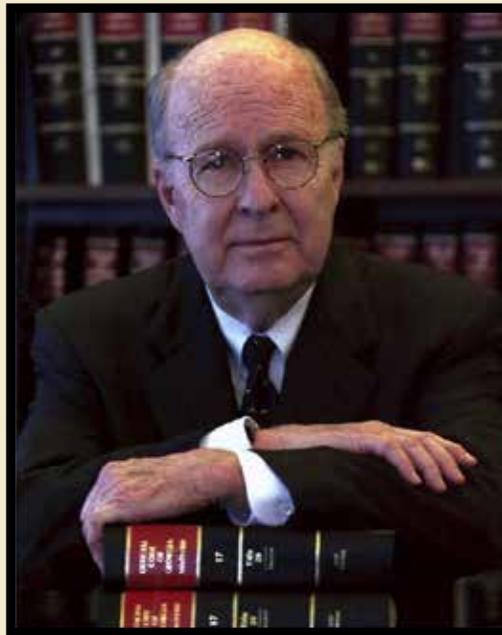


— 2019 —

Forsyth-Monroe County Sports Hall of Fame

Harold G. Clarke



Harold G. Clarke, who died in 2013 at the age of 85, played football for the Mary Persons Bulldogs, was a member of the 1943 team and was crowned as the "Football Hero" at the BETA Club Jamboree by popular vote of the student body. The roster listed him as #72 and a fullback. Some of the other members of the 1943 MP team were Charles Collins, Harry Calloway, Lumpkin Coffee, Charles Heard, and Willie Lee Seymour. Clarke enlisted in the U.S. Army following high school as WW II was still going on. While in the service he worked as a journalist and managing editor of the Pacific Stars and Stripes. Following the war he enrolled at the University of Georgia where he received a Bachelor's Degree, then a Law Degree, and then returned to Forsyth to set up a law practice, and work also as editor and publisher of The Monroe Advertiser, owned by his father. Harold, together with Harris Carter and Marion Dorner, was a founder in 1951 of the Monroe County Touchdown Club. For more than twenty years Harold was the Public Address Announcer for Mary Persons football games at Mitchell Field, and he also was a radio announcer for Mary Persons football games on the old WFNE radio station. One of the most influential Georgians of the 20th Century, Clarke served five terms as a member of the Georgia House of Representatives, first elected for the term which began in 1961. In 1976 Harold was elected President of the State Bar of Georgia. In 1979 Governor George Busbee appointed Harold to the Georgia Supreme Court, where he served as an Associate Justice until 1990 when he was elected by his colleagues as the 22nd Chief Justice of the Georgia Supreme Court, a position he held until June 1992. He stepped down from the Chief Justice position (but not from the Court) to allow his friend Charles Weltner, who was battling cancer, to serve the last few months of his life as Chief Justice, and resumed the position of Chief Justice after Justice Weltner died in August of 1992, continuing in that role until 1994. In 1985 Harold published a book, Remembering Forward, about growing up in Forsyth in the 1930s and 1940s. Clarke's wife, Nora, survived his passing on February 26, 2013. She herself died in 2017. Harold and Nora had four children, Harold G. Clarke, Jr. ("Hal") and daughters Lee Ann, Julie, and Beth

