



NEWS from the Shelby County Mayor's Office

Lee Harris, Mayor

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11th Floor, 160 North Main, Memphis, Tennessee 38103

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SHELBY COUNTY ANNOUNCES DEATH OF FORMER MAYOR ROY NIXON

It is with great sadness that Mayor Lee Harris shares the news of the death of the first Mayor of Shelby County.

Memphis, TN - Mayor Lee Harris is saddened to announce the passing of Roy C. Nixon, the first person to ever serve as Mayor for Shelby County.

“Roy Nixon was the first mayor of Shelby County government and one of our community’s earliest and most important leaders. Mayor Nixon set the standard for governance and service and, because of his efforts, our county today thrives. On this day of remembrance, it is important to keep front-of-mind that the current form and practices of our county government did not materialize out of thin air. Just the opposite, the restructuring of county government that lead to the system we have today was hard-wrought. We are thankful for the life of Roy Nixon. The system we benefit from every day in this county is the product of the determined will, good works, and devotion to community of individuals like Mayor Nixon,” says Mayor Lee Harris.

Mr. Nixon joined the Sheriff’s Office in 1964 as an administrative assistant. Within just a few months, he was promoted to a 4-star Chief Deputy, a position he held until he was elected Sheriff in 1970. Mr. Nixon served as Sheriff until 1975. On January 1, 1976 Mr. Nixon was sworn in as the first Shelby County Mayor under the newly constructed form of county government. Mayor

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Nixon served an abbreviated two year term until August 31, 1978. He did not run for the full four year term.

Mr. Nixon is survived by his wife of 19 years, Mrs. Betts Nixon, by three daughters, two step-sons, 13 grandchildren and 12 great grandchildren.

Mr. Nixon passed peacefully on June 2nd after a short illness. He was 85 years old. Services will be Saturday, June 8th at St. Patrick Presbyterian Church at 710 W. White Road in Collierville. Public visitation will be from 10am until 11am with a funeral service at 11am. A funeral service will follow at Memorial Park Cemetery.

(end of release)