



Mr. Theodore A. "Ted" Snyder Jr.

December 17, 1932 - June 29, 2018

Theodore A. "Ted" Snyder Jr., 85, died suddenly at his home in Walhalla on Friday, June 29, 2018. A son of Theodore Allen and Rebecca Clark Snyder, he was born on December 17, 1932, in Greenville, SC. Ted had a long and distinguished career as a lawyer and conservationist.

After graduating from the University of Chicago in 1952, he earned a law degree "with distinction" from Duke University in 1955. Following law school, he served in Korea as a Colonel in the reserves as a JAG lawyer with the 7th Infantry Division, eventually retiring.

Following his military service, Ted settled in Greenville, practicing law for many years with Thomas Wofford. After his partner's death, he opened his own law office in Walhalla where he practiced until his retirement in 1999. He was admitted to both the South Carolina Bar and the US Court of Appeals, allowing him to practice before the Supreme Court.

Concurrent with his law career, Ted Snyder became a committed environmentalist. After returning from an East African safari, he set out to protect wilderness in the Southeast. He joined the Sierra Club in 1966 and organized members in the Carolinas in 1968. He served as first chair of the Joseph LeConte Chapter, and in 1971 he organized the Appalachian Regional Conservation Committee. He was chosen to serve as chair of the National

Wilderness Committee in 1974 and the National Outing Committee in 1980. After serving as national treasurer in 1977, he was elected president of the national Sierra Club in 1978, serving for two years.

Ted Snyder was instrumental in establishing the Chattooga as a Wild & Scenic River and in protecting the Congaree Swamp as a national park. He was also intimately involved in the Cohutta and Kilmer-Slick Rock Wilderness designations and the passage of the Eastern Wilderness Act. One of his last achievements was successfully opposing the infamous “road to nowhere” in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park by helping to negotiate a fair financial settlement between the Department of the Interior, TVA, the state of North Carolina, and Swain County.

For his environmental work, he was honored with the national Sierra Club’s Special Achievement Award and Walter A. Starr Award, as well as the Joseph LeConte Award. In 2002, the National Parks & Conservation Association presented him with its Marjorie Stoneman Douglas Award for his efforts to protect the Great Smoky Mountain wilderness.

Ted is survived by his son, Theodore A. Snyder III, who is a wildlife biologist with US Forest Service in Helena, Montana, and by two brothers, John and Charles Snyder, and predeceased by his brother, Henry Snyder.

Ted embraced the Sierra Club motto to “explore, enjoy, and protect the planet.” He enjoyed photography, birding, skiing, climbing, paddling, exploring, leading trips and organizing camporees. He is remembered by his son for his unusual courage, sense of optimism, and unwavering willingness to sit and listen in times of need.

Family and friends will gather to celebrate Ted’s life at 11:00 AM on Monday, July 9, at the Ramsey Creek Preserve, 390 Cobb Bridge Road, Westminster,

SC. Driving instructions are available on the Ramsey Creek website.

Memorials may be made to The Carolina Mountain Club, the North Carolina Chapter of the Sierra Club, or a conservation organization of choice.

Tribute Wall



“ *Mr. Theodore A. "Ted" Snyder Jr.*

October 23, 2023 at 05:07 AM



“ *Ted and I were school mates and friends and we were all saddened when he left us for the University of Chicago. But we knew then that Ted was destined for great things and he did indeed accomplish great things. The world is a better place because of Ted Snyder. Sue and I send our sincere condolences to Ted III, to John and to Chib. With sympathy, Dick Underwood, Carlisle, Pa.*

John R Underwood - July 10, 2018 at 08:54 PM



“ *I was in Duke Law School at the same time as Ted. We frequently rode home to our families together. He was one of my pals in law school. He was a thoroughly good lawyer and a good man. His death reaches me with sadness. I also knew Ted as a member of the Greenville County Bar where we practiced for many years. My deepest sympathy to his son and brothers. With all good wishes and remembrances of Ted. John M. Dillard, born 1932 and now of Travelers Rest, S.C.*

John M. Dillard - July 08, 2018 at 01:35 PM



“ *Tom & Mary Mann lit a candle in memory of Mr. Theodore A. "Ted" Snyder Jr.*



Tom & Mary Mann - July 07, 2018 at 01:41 PM