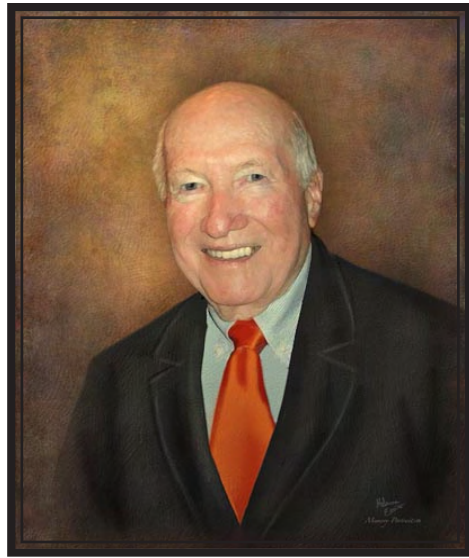


*A Journey  
Through the  
Life of*



*John Jefferson  
“Jeff” Hays  
1929 - 2008*

## *John Jefferson “Jeff” Hays Journey*

He was born the youngest of four on December 27, 1929 in Archer City Texas to the late Joseph Colin Hays and Vera Pruitt Hays.

Hays graduated from Evansville Reitz Memorial High School, class of 1947. In the fall of that year, he entered the University of Evansville on a quarterback football scholarship, later receiving a B.S. in Marketing with a minor in Journalism. Upon canceling college deferments, he was drafted into the U.S. Army in August, 1951. After service, he re-entered the University of Evansville at night completing degree work and was graduated in 1955.

Basic and Leadership training at Camp Breckinridge, KY. Was sent to Korea in May, 1952. Spent three months on the front lines with an infantry company of the 45th Division. Later transferred to Division Headquarters in the office of Public Information as an Army correspondent gathering news stories from soldiers in the front lines for publication in the Division newspaper, Stars and Stripes, American newspapers and in the soldier's home town newspaper. Later went to Tokyo, Japan to edit division newspaper at an Australian newspaper print shop.

Was awarded a Bronze Star in connection with military operations against an armed enemy in Korea during the period 14 August 1952 to 6 July 1953. Commended for front line coverage under enemy fire which contributed materially “to the morale and welfare of the men in the 45th Division.”

Sailed out of the port at Inchon, Korea and was at sea two hours when truce was signed at Pan Mun Jon, ending hostilities. When his ship was 2 hours at sea, the peace treaty was signed. Hays always boasted that “I stayed to the bitter end”. Honorably discharged from service at Camp Carson, Colorado in August 1953.”

Jeff Hays served in the House of Representatives of the Indiana General Assembly from 1970 to 1996, representing Evansville's Central City and Southeastern Vanderburgh County.

## *John Jefferson “Jeff” Hays Journey*

He was a member of the powerful tax writing Ways and Means Committee and later became an expert on utility issues as Chairman of the House Commerce Committee.

Also in politics, Jeff Hays supported Senator Edward Kennedy for President in 1980 and introduced him at a major speech in Evansville. Hays was a delegate at the 1992 Democratic convention in New York City when future president Bill Clinton was nominated for President. Hays was a Democratic Nominee for Mayor of Evansville in 1975, losing to the late Russell G. Lloyd, Sr.

Hays spent ten years as Editor of the Message Newspaper of the Catholic Diocese of Evansville. He also served as Director of Purchasing Emeritus at the University of Southern Indiana from 1977 to 1992. In 1999, he began work as a lobbyist for five years in the Indiana State Legislature with the Hays Murray Group, representing Anheuser-Busch, MCI, Grand Victoria Casino and American Express.

A philosophy of life that Jeff lived by:

Quote from Theodore Roosevelt  
The Credit Belongs

The credit belongs to those who are actually in arena, who strive valliantly; who knew the great enthusiams, the great devotions, and spend themselves in a worthy cause; who at the best, know the triumph of high achievement; and who, at the worst, if they fail, fail while daring greatly, so that their place shall never be with those cold and timid souls who know neither victory nor defeat.

*In Memory of*  
***John Jefferson (Jeff) Hays***  
*December 29 1929 - December 22, 2008*

*Funeral: 2:00PM Saturday, December 27, 2008 at*  
*Browning Funeral Home*  
*Officiating: Rev. Phil Hoy*

*Surviving children:*

*Lisa Hays Murray and husband Kevin*  
*Laurie Hays Becher and husband John*  
*Lynn Cosier and husband Rick*  
*Christine Henson and husband Heath*  
*John Jefferson Hays, II and wife Krista*

*Grandchildren:*

*Caitlin Murray and Conor Murray*  
*Andrea Donan, Kristen Becher, Jullian Becher*  
*Brooklyn Becher and Lauren Becher*  
*Courtney Cosier and Kelsey Cosier*  
*Bryce Henson and Briana Henson*  
*Jeffrey Hays*  
*3 Great-grandchildren*  
*Hannah Donan, Jackson Donan*  
*and Barrett Donan*

*Jeff Hays is preceded in death by his wife,*  
*Mary Lou Hays, his sisters*  
*Mary Louise Hays and Nelda Winiger,*  
*and brother Joseph Hays.*



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