



Robert Lee Burton Jr.



PRESERVING THE SHORE'S PAST

Robert Lee Burton Jr. ('39), of Cambridge, MD, was an avid collector of Eastern Shore memorabilia, including collections of oyster cans, souvenir ashtrays, canning company tokens and labels, city directories and a large library of Eastern Shore monographs. Through his interest in the preservation of Delmarva history and culture, Burton was introduced to SU's Nabb Research Center for Delmarva History and Culture by the Center's benefactor Edward H. Nabb Sr., an attorney and philanthropist also of Cambridge.

As Burton watched the Nabb Center increase its holdings and its services to the citizens of the Peninsula, he looked for a way to support the Center meaningfully, which culminated in his planned gift of \$225,000 to be directed toward the improvement of its reading room and services to the public. Toward that end, the advisory board of directors of the Nabb Center voted to rename the reading room the R. Lee Burton Jr. Reading Room. Sadly, Burton passed away in March 2007; however, his legacy will live on as plans have already begun to enlarge and renovate the R. Lee Burton Jr.

Reading Room with an expected dedication date of fall 2008.

Burton was born in Cambridge on May 5, 1918, and was the eldest son of the late R. Lee and Lula Mumford Burton Sr. Upon graduation from Cambridge High School in 1935, Burton attended Salisbury State Teachers College where he received a B.S. in education in 1939. In 1956, he attended graduate school at the University of Delaware and received an M.S. in education. He also completed special courses related to his work in vocational rehabilitation at Rush Institute of Physical Medicine and Duke University. For the first three years of his career he served as a teacher in Talbot County, which then was followed by four years of military from 1942 until 1946. In combat he was a line infantry officer in the 95th Division. In 1944, he was wounded in Germany and was awarded the Purple Heart, the Combat Infantry Badge and the European Theater of Operations Campaign with six battle stars. In 1950, he was recalled to active duty, served a year in Japan as an education officer in the Japan Logistical Command and held the rank of captain. He was a member

of Dorchester Post 91 American Legion.

As an alumnus of Salisbury University, he participated in numerous campus events and activities. In 1976 he was inducted into the Salisbury University Athletic Hall of Fame.

Primarily, he was employed by the Maryland State Department of Education as a rehabilitation counselor for the Lower Shore counties of the Eastern Shore.

While pursuing his hobby of collecting local history material, his book *Canneries of the Eastern Shore* was published by Tidewater Publishers. Still the only monograph on the topic, this volume is the product of Burton's decade-long quest for artifacts, memoirs and other mementoes of the once-thriving canning industry and illustrates the genesis, growth and vicissitudes of the industry which flourished from the 1890s to the 1950s which has now all but disappeared. Thanks to Burton's generosity, many local treasures will be preserved and enjoyed at the Nabb Research Center for years to come.



ONE OF OUR OWN IS HONORED

Salisbury University's Spring Commencement ceremonies in May honored not only the members of the Class of 2007, but also a dedicated alumnus and business leader, Herbert Byron "Herb" Parks. During the ceremony, SU President Janet Dudley-Eshbach presented Parks with an honorary doctorate.

From his humble beginnings in Kentucky, then growing up modestly in Cambridge, MD, he went on to found the North Carolina-based firm Byron Investments, Inc., which began brokering as much as \$500 million in annual sales within its first four years. Parks was the Perdue School's first Executive in

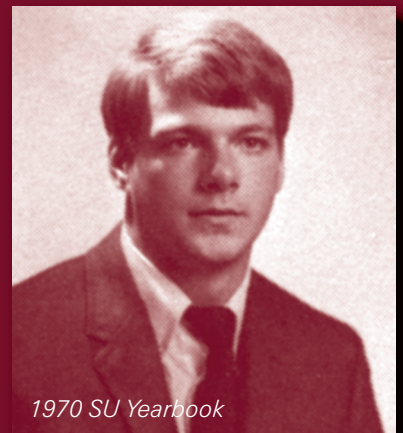
Residence in 1986.

SU has benefited from his generosity throughout the years. He has helped others from Cambridge, establishing a scholarship for students from that area who plan to pursue business degrees at SU.

He also funded Herb's Place, which for many years was a recreational area at the Guerrieri University Center. He joked that Herb's Place was a tribute to the large amount of time he spent as a student playing cards and billiards. In 2006, the game tables were relocated to another part of the Guerrieri Center, and the area was transformed into the state-of-the-art Student Writing Center at Herb's Place.

Parks also has served Salisbury University as a volunteer and as a founding member of the Salisbury University Real Estate Foundation, Inc., a separate charitable organization established to facilitate gifts of real property to benefit Salisbury University.

The Salisbury University Foundation, Inc. congratulates Dr. Herb Parks on his honor and thanks him for his continued support of Salisbury University.



1970 SU Yearbook