

Ray Simpson Farris, Jr. '62

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When he was in high school, Ray Farris, Jr. was an athlete like his father, Ray Farris, Sr. '30, who was a football star and captain of the team at Carolina in the late '20s. Ray's father was confident of his son's football prospects at Carolina. He said that his son might not have much ability, but that Ray would make the team anyway because he would contribute the effort. He was right. Ray did make the effort, and both father and son won the Patterson Award, the highest athletic award bestowed at Carolina.

Ray's wife, Cydne Wright Farris '65, says that next to his family and his church comes his love of the University at Chapel Hill. She says that effort is still important to Ray, and that the reason he loves this place has to do with the way he values the good that comes to people through effort. He wants to help preserve the University as a place of freedom of opportunity where people can come to express themselves through their effort.

Ray Farris, Jr. distinguished himself as a student at Carolina — on the football field and off. On the field almost all the distinctions were positive — touchdown passes and dramatic victories. But his friend, Tom Lambeth '57, remembers one that wasn't — for two years running a Tennessee defender intercepted Farris's passes at the same spot on the field. He was a member of the Phi Delta Theta fraternity, and the Orders of the Golden Fleece, Grail and Gimghouls.

Ray continues in his efforts for the University at Chapel Hill. He served as a director and vice-president and in 1980 was elected president of the General Alumni Association where his persistence and hard work were equal to that he showed on the football field twenty years earlier. He is permanent president of the class of 1962 and is past president of the Mecklenberg Chapter of the Educational Foundation.

Ray Farris, Jr. earned his law degree at Chapel Hill in 1967 and practices with Farris, Mallard, Cummings & Booe, P.A., a law firm in Charlotte. He is president of the Mecklenberg County Bar Association.

Ray takes an active part in the community life of Charlotte. He was a member of the Charlotte Redevelopment Commission and a trustee of Sacred Heart College, and he serves on the Board of Trustees of the Charlotte Latin School.

Tom Lambeth recalls that Ray experienced an extraordinary tragedy for a young man losing both parents in his senior year in high school. Mr. Lambeth says, "He recovered from this experience devoid of any anger or bitterness. Ray has a remarkable ability to live with the good and bad parts of life. This comes in part from his deep religious faith. Ray Farris is a blend of ego

Tom Lambeth confirms that Ray's will contains instructions for the playing of "Hark the Sound" at his funeral. "If there's any problem, I'm to go to the top to have it played," says Lambeth. "I'll have to contact the Pope for dispensation for non-liturgical music — however infinitely spiritual."