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Mathews, Charles Mathews  
**Charles Thomas "Pete" Mathews**

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**Charles Mathews Obituary**

**M**ATHEWS, MR. CHARLES THOMAS "PETE" Memorial graveside services for Mr. Charles Thomas "Pete" Mathews, age 87, of Ashland, Alabama, will be Friday, April 8, 2005, at 1 p.m. at the Ashland City Cemetery with Dr. Bill Meehan, Dr. John Holloway, Rev. David Holmes and Guin Robinson officiating. He is survived by one nephew, Charles B. Mathews of Jacksonville; one great niece; two great nephews; and one great great niece. His caregivers were Gerald and Becky Boddie of Ashland, Alabama. Mr. Mathews passed away Tuesday, April 5, 2005, at the Clay County Hospital. He was born in Ashland, Clay County, Alabama, in 1917. He was a member of the First United Methodist Church of Ashland, Alabama. He received his elementary and secondary education in Ashland, later graduating from Jacksonville State Teachers' College. He entered the United States Army at the outbreak of World

War II, served four years and was discharged as First Lieutenant. Following his Army service, he received a law degree from University of Alabama and practiced law in his hometown of Ashland until the residents of that district elected him to Alabama House of Representatives. During the next twenty years, he served the people of Alabama in the halls of their legislature in both the Senate and House. He was voted the outstanding State Senator by the Alabama Capitol Press, Radio and Television Corps. He was voted most effective member of the House of Representatives while serving in that body. Mr. Mathews was the only Alabamian to serve as both chairman of the House Ways and Means and the Senate Finance and Taxation committees. Upon completion of his legislative offices, Mr. Mathews was elected to the Alabama Public Service Commission, concluding 24 years of elective service to the State of Alabama. He also attended a number of Democratic National Conventions as a delegate. Mr. Mathews served for 19 years as the in-house counsel for the Alabama Farm Bureau and its insurance company. He followed that service as the legislative liaison for the Alabama Retail Association in both Montgomery and Washington D.C. from 1981 to 2005. In 1967, Governor Lurleen Wallace appointed Mr. Mathews to the Jacksonville State University Board of Trustees where he served 36 years, which included 20 as president pro-tem. He served as President of the Alumni Association and was named Alumnus of the year in 1962. He established two funds at JSU, which upon his death would provide tuition scholarships in perpetuity for the Clay County students. The board of trustees honored Mr. Mathews in 1974 by naming the largest coliseum in northeast Alabama as the Pete Mathews Coliseum. The JSU baseball field also bears his name. Mr. Mathews was awarded an honorary doctorate from the University in 1990. Mr. Mathews contributed more than \$1 million to the establishment of the Pete Mathews Foundation for tuition scholarships to students to Jacksonville State University. He served as Chairman of the Board of Trustees of Jacksonville State University from 1967 to 2002. During his legislative years, he was known as the "Bald Bachelor from the Backwoods" who was lauded for his hard work, intelligence, tolerance of differences and his ability to never let political fights interfere with friendship. Pete had a statewide reputation as a gifted orator, and newsmen considered him one of the state's outstanding humorists. He was well known for his quick wit, incomparable sense of humor and innate courtesy. He was quietly benevolent and motivated only by his desire to give others a helping hand as he himself had been helped. In lieu of flowers the family request memorial contributions may be made to Jacksonville State University Foundation Fund. Address: Pete Mathews Scholarship Fund, 700 Pelham Road North, Jacksonville, AL 36265. There will be no public viewing, but a visitation is scheduled for Thursday, April 7, 2005, from 5:30 until 8 p.m. at Benefield Funeral Home in Ashland. Benefield Funeral Home of Ashland, AL, is in charge of the arrangements. Published by AL.com (Birmingham) on Apr. 7, 2005.



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## **Memories and Condolences for Charles Mathews**

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### 1 Entry

My mom went to college at Jacksonville with Pete and loved him dearly. She is now 93 years old and lives with me. She called me at work and ask that I get the obituary for Mr. Mathews so she can see it. He was very well thought of and thought you would like to know that.

Mary Stewart (daughter of Ila)

**Ila Mae Jones Stewart**

April 7, 2005

Showing 1 - 1 of 1 results

## Memorial Events for Charles Mathews

To offer your sympathy during this difficult time, you can now have memorial trees planted in a National Forest in memory of your loved one.

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### Estate Settlement Guide

If you're in charge of handling the affairs for a recently deceased loved one, this guide offers a helpful checklist.

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### Obituaries, grief & privacy: Legacy's news editor on NPR podcast

Legacy's Linnea Crowther discusses how families talk about causes of death in the obituaries they write.

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## The Five Stages of Grief

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