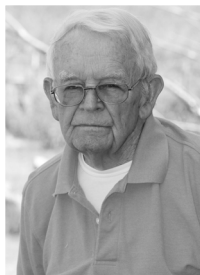


# Harold Kenneth Skidmore



Harold Keith Skidmore was born May 11, 1926 in Centralia, WV. He joined the U.S. Navy and served in the South Pacific from 1944 to 1946. He attended and graduated from Potomac State college and enrolled at West Virginia University where he received his Bachelor's degree in Animal Science and later his Master's degree plus thirty hours in Agriculture Education. He married Alberta Sutton in 1950.

He started his teaching career at the Veteran's Farm Training program in 1954. In 1957, he began teaching at Burnsville High School as a vocational agriculture teacher. Due to high school consolidation, he moved to Braxton County High School. He taught there until he retired in 1989. He was an integral part in establishing a horticulture program at Braxton Co. High School, he was involved in the construction of the greenhouse and the "hands-on" instruction.

During his time as the Braxton County Agriculture Education teacher, he touched many lives through his influence and encouragement. He also helped many students win several state and national awards. His efforts did not go unnoticed. In 1985, he received his Honorary American Farmer Degree at the National FFA Convention. Along with his involvement in the FFA, he mentored 4-H State Land Judging Teams at national level.

He was elected as Braxton County supervisor for the Elk Conservation District in 1999. In 2009, he received the WV Conservation Agency 20 Year Service Award for leadership and service to the Elk Conservation District. He is also an Honorary Member of the WV Association of Conservation District Supervisors.

While teaching, he operated a 50-acre cattle and grass forage farm and continues to raise Angus cross-bred cattle. After retiring, he operated a 9,000 square-foot greenhouse business where he provided the community with locally grown, high-quality plants at reasonable prices.

Skidmore served on the Braxton County Recreation Authority where he helped establish the recreation center now known as Holly Gray Park, a premier county park in WV. He continues to assist the park on request. He is also a member of the Heaters United Methodist Church and serves as a trustee. He continues to organize the annual land judging contests co-sponsored by the Elk CD.

