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The Unitor

Exchange Club of Tuscaloosa
Chartered February 9, 1923 • Affiliated with the National Exchange Club
www.tuscaloosaexchangeclub.org

Thursdays at Noon • Indian Hills Country Club • In service to community, state, and nation

TODAY: Al Dupont, former mayor of Tuscaloosa

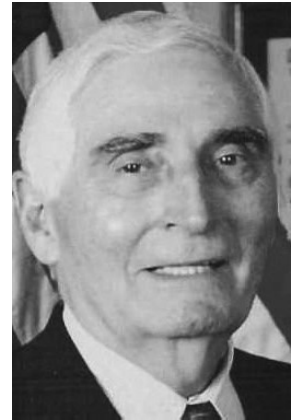
September 28, 2017

The following information was gathered online from an article by Jason Morton in *The Tuscaloosa News* and from website **Tuscaloosa Area Virtual Museum**:

Al DuPont served as Tuscaloosa's mayor for 24 years before opting not to seek re-election in 2005. DuPont, 91, volunteers at several locations across town, takes courses at Shelton State Community College and walks three miles a day. DuPont served as Tuscaloosa's mayor for six terms before stepping down from public life. He served more than 30 years as Tuscaloosa's city engineer and planner before embarking on his six terms in the mayor's seat.

As engineer, planner and mayor, DuPont was involved with many infrastructure projects and improvements, perhaps none more important than the creation of Lake Tuscaloosa. He was in office when Tuscaloosa landed Mercedes-Benz U.S. International and the now-shuttered JVC manufacturing plants.

Although he has been an Alabama resident most of his life, Al DuPont grew up 80 miles northwest of Baton Rouge in the small town of Bunkie, Louisiana.



Mayor Dupont shortly before he retired in 2005

He was raised on a farm and attended a very small school, which had a graduating class of only fifteen people. DuPont remembers that all food was grown or raised on the farm. In fact, the only purchases his family made was salt once a year.

Al DuPont entered the military after high school graduation and became a medic in the United States Army. He was trained at Abilene, Texas, and then stationed at camps in Pennsylvania, New York, Scotland, and England. [continued on page 2]

Character First



Evans Fitts (seated right) and **Brock Jones** delivered a lesson on "Virtue" on September 6 at the P.A.L. gym as part of the monthly Character First program that Exchange Club sponsors at the Police Athletic League. Contact Brock Jones to help out with the October lesson to be given next week.

NEXT WEEK: Dr. Ed Schnee
Tax Accounting Graduate Program
The University of Alabama

Coming in October

- 10/12 Firefighters of the Year Honored
- 10/19 Nicki Richadson, UA's Alabama Policy Institute
- 10/26 Sherri Miller, O.L.L.I. at UA

Send news & announcements to
Linda Jackson, Editor
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|-----------------|------------|
| Laura Gregory | October 1 |
| Justin Little | October 4 |
| Courtney LeCroy | October 6 |
| Gerald Hudson | October 8 |
| Libby Cochrane | October 16 |
| Bernard Harwood | October 17 |
| Jim Meherg | October 19 |
| Bill Goodwin | October 31 |
- Sam Gambrell provides birthday list.**

Mayor Dupont...

In England, DuPont was assigned to the 104 Medical Battalion. On June 6, 1944, DuPont landed on Omaha Beach where he saw eighty percent of his infantry killed in action. After D-day, DuPont was wounded twice, once by machine gun. DuPont was awarded two purple hearts and had fourteen operations due to injuries sustained.

One of the hospitals he was sent to was Northington Hospital in Tuscaloosa. After being discharged from Northington, he married Susie Margaret McLeod and became attached to the city of Tuscaloosa.

After the war, Al DuPont attended Louisiana State University. Before he could complete his degree from LSU, DuPont decided to move to Tuscaloosa to work on the decreasing water supply. DuPont completed his engineering degree at The University of Alabama.

Early in his career, DuPont worked as a land surveyor in the mapping of Lake Nichol. Later DuPont was employed as an assistant city engineer, helping to construct several water and sewage projects as well as other city infrastructure. After serving Tuscaloosa as an engineer for 31

years, DuPont ran for mayor in 1981.

Since his retirement, DuPont is still very active in the community and spends numerous hours helping others. Each year DuPont participates in many charitable events, i.e., Faunsdale Crawfish Festival, Salvation Army Christmas Dinner, and Stand-Up for Autism.

Below: first Tuscaloosa City Council in 1985 after the city changed from a commission form of government. **Back row,** L-R are John England, Tommy Dockery, Jerry Plott, Charles Steele, Ed Montgomery, and Sammy Watson. **Front row,** are Al DuPont and Bill Lanford.

