

## Richard Marvil Laws

Dec. 04

delmarvanow.com

---

**SALISBURY** -- Richard Marvil Laws, 80, of Salisbury died Monday, Aug. 31, 2009, at Peninsula Regional Medical Center.

Born in Salisbury on Oct. 2, 1928, Mr. Laws was a son of W. Ernest and Mary Marvil Laws.

Mr. Laws graduated from Wicomico High School in 1945 and attended Goldey-Beacom College in Wilmington for two years. He came back to Salisbury to help his father and brother run the old Laws Market & Confectionary on North Division Street, a local favorite in the 1940s and '50s. He also served in the U.S. Army for two years, achieving the rank of corporal.

On April 28, 1957, he married Ruth E. Wilson of Puckum, Dorchester County. Long interested in Democratic politics and an admirer of Franklin D. Roosevelt, Mr. Laws was elected in 1958 to a four-year term on the Democratic State Central Committee. Also that year, he was elected to the Salisbury City Council, on which he served until 1964. In 1969, he was appointed to finish serving the term of Homer White in the House of Delegates in Maryland's General Assembly, a post to which he was elected for a full four-year term the following year.

After buying the North Division Street store from his brother, Jack, in 1958, two years later Mr. Laws expanded his business to Ocean City, operating 64th Street Market for 30 years. In those days, 64th Street was part of the undeveloped north end of Ocean City, which featured sand streets. He and his wife also owned real estate in Salisbury and Ocean City, including the 64th Street Shopping Center and the Sea Joy apartment buildings and land on 59th Street. Today, Mr. Laws' son, Rick, owns and operates the 64th Street store, now known as Rick's Market.

Mr. Laws had one lifelong hobby: horses. When he was 13, his father bought him a chestnut gelding, Copper, who he would ride for hours after school on the then-dirt roads near Deers Head and Johnson's Pond. He also spent much time at the old Hooker Furbush stable near Fruitland, riding and showing whatever Hooker would put him on. In 1969, Mr. Laws and his wife bought Delight Farm near Hebron and began breeding and raising thoroughbred horses as a hobby, as well as foxhunting with the Wicomico Hunt. Mr. Laws earned his hunt colors in 1971 and enjoyed every minute spent in the hunt field on his big gray horse, Leroy.

In addition to his wife, Ruth, Mr. Laws is survived by a son, Richard M. Laws Jr. and his wife, Wendy; a daughter, Cathy L. Hyneman and her husband, Roger; and granddaughters, Shelby, Melissa and Ashley Laws, and Kelsey and Caroline Hyneman. He is also survived by his sister-in-law, Jean Laws of Salisbury; and nephews, Bill Laws of Salisbury and Joe O'Brien of Maryland, Del.

In addition to his parents, preceding him in death were his brother, Jackson F. Laws, and his sister, Nancy Laws O'Brien.

A funeral service will be held Friday at 2 p.m. at Holloway Funeral Home, with visitation at 1 p.m. Interment will follow in Wicomico Memorial Park in Salisbury.

Arrangements are in the care of Holloway Funeral Home PA at 501 Snow Hill Road in Salisbury.