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Charles A. "Tony" Bruce

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SALISBURY -- Charles A. "Tony" Bruce Jr., age 58, a prominent Somerset County attorney, passed away suddenly Saturday, Aug. 5, 2006, at Peninsula Regional Medical Center in Salisbury.

Born in Salisbury on Oct. 5, 1947, he was the son of Charles A. Bruce Sr. and the late Irene Larmore Bruce of Princess Anne.

Tony grew up in Mount Vernon and was an active member of the Mount Vernon 4-H Club, serving as president twice, winning several public speaking contests and gaining recognition as a 4-H All-Star in 1965. He received a District Award from the Lions International for his "Peace Essay" as well as an award for public speaking. He graduated from Washington High School in 1965, attended University of Maryland College Park and received his Juris Doctorate from the University of Baltimore in 1974. He was a member of the Phi Alpha Delta law fraternity. Tony was admitted to the bar in December 1974 and was also admitted to practice in Federal District Court. He began his law career in the Princess Anne office of Jones and Jones, practicing with Alexander "Sandy" Jones. After Sandy's retirement, Tony continued the law business, eventually changing the firm name to Tony Bruce, P.A. Assisting him throughout his career was his legal secretary, Janet Bedsworth.

Tony believed in public service and served on numerous committees throughout his life. Some of his civic activities included: The Somerset County Historical Society; McCready Memorial Hospital Board of Directors; Mercantile Peninsula Bank Board of Directors; MAC Inc. Board of Directors; Rural Development Center Advisory Committee; Agricultural Law Association; the Princess Anne Chamber of Commerce; the Community Foundation of the Eastern Shore; the Somerset County Economic Development Council, where he had served as chairman for many years; and the Princess Anne Coffee Club. He was selected as Somerset County's representative in the Maryland You Are Beautiful volunteer recognition program in 1991.

Tony also served as the chairperson for the Somerset County Library Building Campaign in 1987-1988; treasurer for the Tangier Sound Music Festival from 1990-1997; the general chairman of the 1981 Delmarva Chicken Festival; and as a member of the original Somerset County Tourism Commission.

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During his career he served many agencies as an attorney, including: Somerset County Public Schools; Soil Conservation District; City of Crisfield; Somerset County Liquor Board and Somerset County Board of Election Supervisors. He also served as the deputy state's attorney for Somerset County from 1978-1980. He was a current member of the Somerset County Bar Association; the Maryland State Bar Association; the Board of Visitors of the University of Maryland Eastern Shore; the Somerset County Democratic Club and the Somerset County Public Schools Master Plan Steering Committee.

Tony served as a delegate in the Maryland House of Delegates, completing the term of the Honorable Daniel Long. He was currently running for the delegate seat in District 38A.

He was a member of Antioch United Methodist Church in Princess Anne. He was a past chairman of the Pastor Parish Relations Committee and was a member of the Sharing and Caring Committee. Tony was a certified lay speaker, brought the morning message and assisted with Sunday services on numerous occasions.

He was preceded in death by his mother and his grandparents, Will and Lillian Larmore and Marshall and Marie Bruce. In addition to his father, he is survived by two aunts, Carole Beauchamp of Newark, Del., and Jean Mancuso of Berlin, N.Y., as well as several cousins, including a special cousin, Leslie Coven of Long Island, N.Y.

A service remembering Tony's life will be held Wednesday at 2 p.m. at Antioch United Methodist Church in Princess Anne, where friends may call two hours prior to the service. Officiating will be the Revs. Richard Walton and Olivia Costango. Interment will be in Beechwood Cemetery in Princess Anne.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be sent to Antioch United Methodist Church, c/o Mary Murphey, 11784 Somerset Ave., Princess Anne, Md. 21853; or John Wesley United Methodist Church, c/o Charles Otto, 14451 Reading Ferry Road, Princess Anne, Md. 21853.

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