

In Memoriam



Michael Kay Davis
1932 - 2003

Memories of Mike Davis

By Stuart Melver

On the night of October 7, 2003, I took my seat at the monthly meeting of the Broward County Historical Commission beside an old friend named Mike Davis. Before the meeting was called to order, I wanted to get in some serious discussion with him on matters that had nothing to do with our official duties with the commission. Mike and I both were graduates of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and fellow members of the Fort Lauderdale UNC Alumni Club. Now in October our football team was collapsing into probably its worse season in history. I hoped Mike would have some answers. After all, the burly Mike had been a lineman for the Tar Heels — and also as a defenseman for the Carolina lacrosse team. Later he coached in the Fort Lauderdale Boys Football League in Holiday Park.

While I panicked at the thought of another Carolina season going down the tube, Mike, a respected Broward County attorney, admonished me with his belief that the old school should be sure not to cave in to impatient alumni like me and lower its academic standards to win again in a college sports scene that was lurching out of control across the country. His arguments were on target and as usual rode in on a sharp, good-natured wit.

Then our meeting was called to order by Chairman Christopher Ryan. Our discussions moved into the world of Broward County preservation — Mike was particularly concerned with the old Davie and Fort Lauderdale South Side Schools — historical issues and plans for the annual Pioneer Days celebration. As always, Mike's booming voice brought the disciplined legal reasoning of attorney, University of Florida Law School, to the discussions of the commission that evening. And the old sense of humor was right there with him, the first Tuesday in October.

Later that night Mike Davis died.

Our Historical Commission will miss him, a valuable contributor to the cause of preserving the history and the legacy of our County. And so will his family, his many friends and a bunch of us noisy UNC alumni.



Davie School, circa 1970s



South Side School, circa 1923