

## H.C. WANN

### Registry of Honor

2017

Retired Col. H.C. (Chick) Wann was born March 7, 1918 in Wannville, Jackson County, Alabama just outside of Scottsboro. In 1925 Chick's family moved to Sheffield seeking work at TVA-Wilson Dam. During his time at Sheffield High School, Chick met his wife Marie Hobson. Chick and Marie have three children, all of whom graduated from the Sheffield City School system. Chick and his family were faithful members of the First United Methodist Church of Sheffield.

Chick joined the Alabama National Guard on November 11, 1940, as a member of Sheffield's first National Guard unit, "Company E" 151<sup>st</sup> Engineer Combat Regiment. Chick spent four years overseas serving his country in World War II and during the Korean Conflict. After four years Chick returned to the States and established, organized and trained Sheffield's second National Guard Unit. The original unit had two officers and eleven enlisted men. Over the next few years the unit grew to five officers and 126 enlisted men. In 1960 Mr. Wann was promoted to Major Colonel Wann where he served as the group operations and training officer until his retirement in 1970. Chick also worked at TVA on the reservation from 1945 until he retired in 1981 in the Chemical Engineering department.

Chick announced Sheffield Football games from 1955-1981. When Roland Atkins became the head Coach in 1970, he asked Marie (Chick's wife) to serve as the Bulldog hostess in the press box. So for over a decade the Wanns worked in the press box as a team. The 1974 season was very rewarding for the Wanns. Their son, Jimmy, played cornerback, and their nephew Mike Wann played offensive tackle. The 1974 team went on to the 3A state championship game losing a heartbreaker to Atmore 7-6. Many Sheffield fans became accustomed to Chick's famous words "Here come the Bulldogs!" Chick always gave credit to his father and Coach Walton Wright for teaching him about football and baseball.

Chick was also manager of the Sheffield Little League teams for 15 years. He coached minor league teams and worked his way up to Senior Little League. Chick retired from the Little League in 1968. Anybody that met Chick Wann will tell you Purple and Gold runs deep in his veins.