

Class of 1952 – Roy Clifford “Skip” Nixon, Jr.



He joined the Memphis Police Department as a patrolman in 1956 and was drafted into the U.S. Army in 1957. After basic training at Fort Hood, he married Patsy Hewlett and spent eighteen months serving overseas in Germany before being discharged in 1958. He returned to the Memphis Police Department and

was eventually promoted to the rank of detective in the homicide bureau, later earning the rank of Lieutenant. He served as Chief Deputy for six years under Bill Morris, during a crucial period of the civil rights movement in Memphis. In 1970, he ran for Sheriff and won by a landslide, holding the office from 1970 – 1975. As Sheriff, he deputized his good friend, Elvis Presley, a frequent visitor to his office. When the position of County Mayor was created in the Shelby County government restructure, he ran for the new position and won. He took office as the first Mayor of Shelby County on 1 January 1976, serving alongside City of Memphis Mayor Wyeth Chandler. As County Mayor, he was instrumental in many important local developments. In 1978, after an abbreviated first term, he decided not to run for re-election. He then turned his attention to pursuing real estate developments in Memphis. He later moved to Middle Tennessee to work for the

State of Tennessee when Governor Don Sundquist asked him to serve in his administration as Deputy Commissioner of the Department of Commerce and Insurance. He later served as Executive Director of the Tennessee Corrections Institute before his retirement from the State and settling in Murfreesboro