

Jack made the most of his time at Murphy, participating in multiple activities and clubs. He belonged to the Murphy Hi-Y, Movie and Radio Club, and M-Club; played basketball, and served on the Advanced Council and as basketball and football manager. After graduating, he continued his education at the University of Alabama. He also served as 2nd Lieutenant in the United States Army until his honorable discharge in 1948.

Starting work in the family business, Autry Greer and Sons, Jack began at the bottom bagging groceries and stocking shelves and working his way up the store business and the corporate ladder. In the 1980s, he reached the position of president and CEO. He retired in the early 2000s to make room for the next generations of family.

His 60+ years in business and service were nationally recognized in 2016 when Jack Greer was chosen for the NGA Spirit of America Award and for the Lou Fox Community Service Award. The NGA award was established in 1982 and honors “key industry and community figures who have provided leadership in areas of community service and government relations on behalf of a free and independent food distribution system” and recognizes the dedication and service to the independent supermarket industry. Other recipients include former Presidents George H.W. Bush and Gerald Ford. The Lou Fox Award was established in 2002 and honors the philanthropy and spirit of community service exhibited by Lou Fox, former President and CEO of Associated Wholesale Grocers.

Jack served as president of the Mobile Association for the Blind, the Mobile Exploreum, and the Downtown Rotary Club. A 20-year Board member of the Mobile Rotary Foundation Board, Greer oversaw “principal investments and disbursements.” He also served on the National America’s Junior Miss Program & Foundation. Jack Greer took an active role in historic preservation, moving the 1859 Toulminville School building to a new piece of land, restoring it, and setting it up as a museum. St. Michael’s Catholic Church has also been relocated and now serves as the Greer Family Chapel developed to provide educational opportunities and field trips for local school children and church groups, as well as a camp site for local scouts. The school house project was recognized by the National Society of Colonial Dames for its “meticulous restoration.” Greer is a founding member of what is now known as Mobile Baykeepers, a group regularly on the forefront of any battle regarding the health and cleanliness of our local waterways. “Mobile Baykeeper formed in 1997 as West Bay Watch when a group of concerned citizens joined forces to fight the construction of a chemical facility at the Theodore Industrial Park.” Although ADEM allowed the plant, the organization has continued to grow and fight for clean water, expanding its focus to include quality of life issues such as litter problems, sewage spill impacts, and oyster reef restoration.

Accepting Jack’s award to day is his wife of 70 years, Janice Greer, MHS Class of 1946.