

Young Leader, Struck Down

Burley Bedford Davis clearly had leadership ability at a young age. As a senior at Cowpens High School, Davis was elected president of the student body.

Davis arrived on the Clemson College campus for the fall semester of 1949. As a student, he majored in textile manufacturing and was a member of the nascent National Textile Manufacturing Society, an organization seeking to build ties between industry and undergraduates. Davis was also a member of the Spartanburg Club. He attended ROTC summer training at Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland between his junior and senior years and was appointed cadet executive officer of B Company, 1st Battalion for the 1952-53 academic year.

Following completion of his senior year, Davis was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the Army. He was assigned to the 782nd Airborne Ordnance Battalion at Fort Bragg, North Carolina. His battalion supported the 82nd Airborne Division and its rapid deployment mission.

Just 16 days before his 23rd birthday, Lieutenant Davis was killed in a vehicle accident at Fort Bragg.

Lieutenant Davis was survived by his parents, Mr. & Mrs. R. R. Davis and was buried at Mount Olive Baptist Cemetery in Cowpens on December 6, 1954.

We recognize the risks our military personnel face in times of war, but we sometimes forget that extensive travel, duty in remote locations and often hazardous training mean that these risks continue even in times of peace. Every Hero listed on Clemson's Scroll of Honor deserves to have his story told and deserves gratitude for his sacrifice to secure freedom.

