



Sidney Parker Davis Jr.

DEC 11, 1931 - FEB 6, 2026



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A great oak has fallen. Sidney Parker Davis, Jr. passed away at his home on February 6, 2026, at the age of 94. As news of his passing spread, tributes poured in describing him as a patriarch, mentor, legal giant, father figure, and remarkably, simply as "sweet." His loss will be deeply felt by all who knew him.

Sid was born on December 11, 1931, in Prescott, Arkansas, to Sidney Parker Davis, Sr. and Forrest Carrington Davis. He was the eldest of five children and was affectionately called "Son" by not only his parents, but his entire family. From an early age, he set a shining example as a hard worker and dedicated student.

Sid was gifted academically, as evidenced by being valedictorian of his high school class and also his college graduating class at Henderson State University. After serving his country in the U.S. Army during the Korean War, he attended the University of Arkansas Law School, where he wrote the top paper in his graduating class.

After law school, Sid remained in Fayetteville and went to work for a small firm that eventually became the Davis Law Firm. In a career that spanned more than 50 years, he specialized in insurance defense, particularly medical malpractice, and was considered to be at the top of his field. Among his many professional accomplishments were his induction into the American College of Trial Lawyers and being named Outstanding Lawyer of the Year by the Arkansas Bar Association.

Sid loved practicing law and wanted to ensure that the next generation of attorneys were taught by the best professors available. He taught Insurance Law at the University of Arkansas Law School for 19 years, where he was a demanding professor who earned the nickname "Suicide Sid." To further his commitment to legal education, he established an endowed chair at the law school.

Beyond his professional achievements, Sid was a masterful storyteller blessed with a remarkable memory. He could recount details from decades past with striking clarity, delighting family and



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friends with his tales. He loved to dance—particularly the jitterbug—and enjoyed a fine bourbon or milk punch. He was incredibly shrewd financially, whether managing his investments, playing the stock market, or trying to beat the house in Tunica, Tahoe or Vegas.

Despite his many honors and accomplishments, Sid always said his family was what he was most proud of. He loved taking his blended family on trips and attending Razorback sporting events. He especially delighted in "corrupting" family members by teaching them to shoot craps and sharing the finer points of handicapping at the horse races.

Sid's generosity extended far beyond his family. He would want everyone to follow his lead in a passage from his high school valedictory message: "We must also remember that our true worth shall never be measured by the goods we accumulate, but rather by the good we have accomplished."

He is survived by his loving wife of 13 years, Kay Wright Davis. He was the proud father and bonus father of Drew Davis (Susan), Gail Davis O'Donnell, Cathy McRee Hancock (Mark), Leah Tucker (Sterling), and Robert Wright. He is also survived by his brothers Jim Davis and Jean Davis. He was blessed with 10 grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren.

He is preceded in death by his parents, two siblings (John Davis and Anna Davis Birdsong), his wives Rita McRee Davis and Emma Sue Davis Ellis, his son Jim McRee, and his grandson Travis Hancock.

A special thank you to Dr. Jim Suen for an additional 30 years.

A memorial service will be held at 3:00 p.m. on Monday, February 16, 2026 at St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Fayetteville, with a reception to follow.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to:

Northwest Arkansas Food Bank at
nwafoodbank.org/donateonline

OR

University of Arkansas Foundation, Inc. for the Sidney P. Davis, Jr. Professorship
Mailed to Office of Development 1045 W. Maple St. Fayetteville, Ar 72701




Events


Sidney Parker Davis Jr.

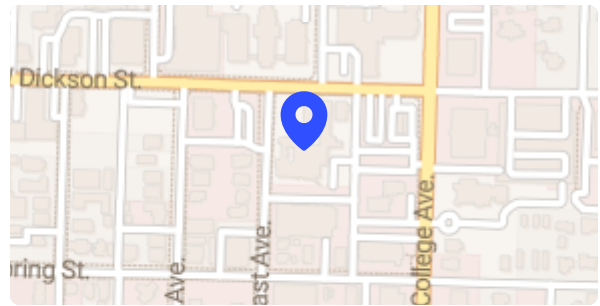
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Memorial Service

 **Monday**, February 16, 2026

 3:00 PM CT

 **St. Paul's Episcopal Church**
224 N East Ave, Fayetteville AR 72701





Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Sidney by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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