

campaign of charges and counter-charges; it was a campaign of ideas and what each man would accomplish. There was no name-calling and no accusations. It was almost a sedate and gentlemanly race. Ben Atchley won that campaign easily and remained in the Tennessee State Senate until his retirement in 2003.

But, Bill Brock, is seeking a second term that same year. Two years previously, former Congressman Ray Blanton had been elected governor over Lamar Alexander. The Democrats proved just how viable they were in 1978; Tennessee was Jimmy Carter's second best state in the country after his native Georgia. Bill Brock, despite meeting

Ben Atchley, really was a man whose word was always good, who believed in God, country, family, and community. Throughout his entire life, Ben Atchley embodied what his generation saw as the "American Dream."

Although an extremely modest man, it was readily apparent just how shrewd Ben really was when one

was appointed to serve a brief term in the State Senate, a recognition of her own ability and service to the community.

It is impossible to calculate the impact Ben and Sue had upon my own life, nor is it possible to measure their warm friendship. The older I've become, the more I've realized the greatest gift life has to offer are



*Curtis Bentley Atchley, Jr.*

those friendships that bring us love and comfort. I have loved Sue and Ben for a very long time and like so many others, will keep Ben Atchley alive in my heart and memories for the rest of my own life.



## Attorneys for sheriff retirees seek \$190,000 in fees

By Mike Steely  
steelym@knoxfocus.com

The original "settlement" proposed by the Knox County Retirement and Pension Board provided \$5,000 to each of the six retiring deputies and one widow named in the county law department's suit. Per the proposed settlement this money was