

Ex-agent who aided civil-rights efforts dies

By Diana
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Former Santa Teresa resident Frank P. Poulos, a former federal agent who helped protect the first black student at the University of Mississippi in 1962, has died.

Poulos, who was 82, died Tuesday in Dunwoody, Ga. The cause was complications from an accident, his relatives said.

He was among the U.S. marshals that then-Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy sent to protect James Meredith, whose admission to Ole Miss led to rioting by whites intent on keeping the university segregated. Two people died in the violence, including a reporter from France.

Poulos also was a target of the segregationists, his relatives said.

"My father was injured while he protected Meredith," said Vic Poulos, his son in El Paso. "I saw a picture of him in a national news magazine, laying on the ground with a brick next to his head."

Frank Poulos also was assigned to the federal team that stood against Gov. George Wallace, who wanted to prevent the desegregation of the University of Alabama.

"My father was a staunch civil-rights supporter," Vic Poulos said.

After working as a U.S. marshal, Frank Poulos was a security officer at La Tuna federal prison in Anthony, Texas. His colorful life also included service in the Navy during World War II and in Vietnam with the U.S. Agency for International Development.

Poulos worked for years in Vietnam to create humane prisons for Viet Cong prisoners of war. Before that, the prisoners were kept in



Poulos

bamboo tiger cages.

When he returned to the United States, Poulos went to work at La Tuna, and achieved the rank of captain while with the U.S. Bureau of Prisons.

He befriended numerous people in the region, including Dr. Dorothy Gault and her family.

"Frank was our first friend in Santa Teresa. He helped us find our home there," Gault said. "He made friends with everyone and was a hard worker. He helped organize the first fire department in Santa Teresa and was our first fire chief."

Poulos is survived by his wife, Mary Ann Poulos, sons Victor Poulos and Gregory Poulos, sister Mary Farquhar and two grandchildren.

Services will be in Georgia. His remains will be buried in Santa Teresa. The date for the service at Memory Gardens of Santa Teresa is pending.

POULOS

Frank Pete Poulos, 82, formerly of Santa Teresa, New Mexico, and currently of Dunwoody, Georgia, passed away on May 19, 2009. Born to Pete Poulos and Mary Avramopoula, of Dayton,



Ohio, Frank was a first American descendent of Greek parents. He is preceded in death by his parents, sister Georgia Poulos, brothers Bill and George Poulos, and his first wife of 43 years, Martha Satterfield Poulos. He is survived by his sister Mary Farquhar, wife Mary Ann Poulos, both of Atlanta, Georgia, sons Victor Poulos and Gregory Poulos of El Paso, Texas and Santa Teresa, New Mexico and grandchildren Ryan Poulos of Austin, Texas and Sarah Poulos of El Paso, Texas. During WW II Frank served honorably in the U.S. Navy. Upon returning from his military service, he graduated from college and law school in Atlanta, Ga. Frank's love of life and adventure led him to a distinguished career with the United States Department of Justice, where he served first as a US Marshal during the civil rights movement of the 1960s, receiving personal commen-

datations from both Attorney General Robert Kennedy and President John Kennedy. Frank continued his service with the U.S. Bureau of Prisons and the United States Agency for International Development, serving several years in the Republic of Vietnam assisting the Vietnamese in developing humane prisons for North Vietnamese and Viet Cong prisoners of war. Upon his return to the States after the Vietnam War, he returned to service with the Bureau of Prisons at La Tuna, Texas, where he eventually retired as "Captain". Frank then enjoyed a second career working for Charles Crowder and Santa Teresa Development Corporation where he established and ran the Santa Teresa security program and built and became the first Fire Chief for the Santa Teresa Volunteer Fire Department. Frank's love for life and family and his "can do" attitude will be remembered by all he came into contact with, and his many friends he was blessed with, both in Santa Teresa and Atlanta where he eventually retired with his wife Mary Ann. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that contributions be made either to the Greek Orthodox Church of Atlanta or the Humane Society of El Paso. Burial of Cremains at Memory Gardens of Santa Teresa, N.M., will be announced.