

## Message From 2021 Foundation President Brent Wheeler



### Plan to Attend Our Live Auction at the Beach!

As spring turns into summer, it is so wonderful to see our clubs meeting again. Your Foundation is also having regular meetings via our laptops. Our most recent meeting with Wells Fargo Investor Scott Carr showed we are on strong footings with our investments.

By now clubs taking part in Build Your Dollars (BY\$) should have submitted your claim form. The deadline of June 30th is fast approaching. For your \$300 you will once again receive \$600. We appreciate each club who took part in BY\$ and hope more of you will take advantage of this great Foundation program.

Again, this year we have been forced to cancel the Foundation Weekend. Alabama is finally opening back up for events but there is not time to plan our usual Foundation activities. Hopefully, next year will be different.

Many of you have asked about our silent and live auction at the National Convention. It is our plan to have both, but this is subject to change. We will keep you informed of any guidelines that we must follow. Have a wonderful and safe summer and let's all enjoy once again meeting with our Ruritan families.

*God Bless America and God Bless Ruritan.*

### Ruritan National Foundation

#### 2021 Board of Trustees

**President:** Brent Wheeler

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**Secretary:** Graham Bryant

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### Past National Presidents James Amick and John Dempsey Pass



James Albert Amick, "JA", of Columbia passed away Wednesday, March 24, 2021. He was born February 26, 1930, in Lexington, SC.

He was the son of the late Jonas and Bertha Amick. James is survived by his loving wife of almost 69 years, Martha Shealy Amick; a daughter, Ginger (Eddie) Hill of Rock Hill; and a son Leslie "Bill" W. (Darlene) Amick of Batesburg-Leesville. He was predeceased by a daughter, Debbie Amick. He had 7 grandchildren, 11 great-grandchildren and a special niece. He was predeceased by two brothers and four sisters.

James was an active member of Asbury Memorial United Methodist Church for more than 50 years serving in many capacities, including being a charter member of the Men's Club.

He was also a charter member of the Lower Richland Ruritan Club, a civic organization, 61 years ago and helped organize the first Easter Sunrise Service at Greenlawn Memorial Cemetery.

John Patton Dempsey passed from this life on October 8, 2020, just a few days after celebrating his 100th birthday. John was born in Floyd County, Georgia on September 20, 1920, to Lucille Patton Dempsey and John Reece Dempsey.

A lifelong scholar, John graduated from Model High School in 1937 and University of Georgia in 1941. After serving in World War II, he completed his Masters Degree in Agriculture Economics at UGA. Continually striving for higher learning, he received a Bachelor of Law Degree from Woodrow Wilson College of Law in 1962.

As a civic-minded person, John was actively involved in several organizations. With the Travelers Protective Association, he served as State President and National Treasurer. In the American Legion Post 5, John was Post Commander and a member of the Honor Guard. With the Cattlemen's Association, he toured farms and ranches in other states with the Georgia delegation several times. As a member of Ruritan National, John served in several capacities before becoming National President in 1989. John was preceded in death by his wife of 74 years, his parents, and his sister, Margaret Dempsey Heflin. His loving family includes daughter, Marie, and son-in-law, Jim Carney; grandsons, Jeff (Anne Marie), Chad (Jennifer), Kyle (Jessica), and Cabe (Emily) Carney. Great-grandchildren are Kevin (Reana) and Kayleigh Carney; Erin, Emmy, and Tate Carney; Laney, Davis and Dempsey Carney; Emma and Savannah Mae Carney.

