

POWELL NEWS

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Allen Wheeler passes away at 85

Powell karate instructor, author and resident Allen Wheeler passed away Feb. 14. He was 85.

Mr. Wheeler was born Oct. 11, 1919, in Knoxville and spent his career as an employee of the Southern Railway System. He began studying Isshinryu karate in 1961 and opened Wheeler's School of Karate in 1971 in Powell. He became an internationally recognized authority on Isshinryu karate and started the first Fellowship of Christian Athletes huddle in a karate school in the country.



Allen Wheeler

“He felt that karate training was the (same) as a Christian,” said Chuck Reynolds, who owned the school with Mr. Wheeler. “You are always striving for perfection but never reaching it. He always stressed character. His love for kids and for this community was just unbelievable. And his family was just everything (to him).”

Mr. Wheeler achieved the rank of Grand Master, 10th degree black belt, the highest Martial arts rank. He was a World War II veteran and was a member of First Baptist Church of Powell.

He is survived by his wife of 65 years, Ruth Hunter Wheeler; sons and daughters-in-law Ben and Brenda Wheeler of Indian Rock Beach, Fla.; R.N. and Jane Wheeler of Etowah; daughter and son-in-law Carolyn and Steve Vineyard of Knoxville; 10 grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren.

The funeral service is 7:30 p.m. tonight (Feb. 17) at First Baptist Church of Powell. Family and friends will meet Friday, Feb. 18, 10:45 a.m. at Bookwalter Cemetery for interment.