

## Joshua Evans, Jr.

(11 Feb 1877 – 29 Oct 1970)

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*The Evening Star, September 18, 1926, p. 11*

### **Joshua Evans, Jr., Lauds Truthful Advertising Better Business Bureau Chairman Talks at Richmond; Exchange Trade Thin George Harris Honored**

*By F.W. Patterson*

"Truthful advertising has done more to better living standards in the United States and to bring comfort and happiness into thousands upon thousands of homes than any other single factor of modern business" said Joshua Evans, jr., executive vice president of the District National Bank, in an address last night made before the Advertising club at Richmond, Va., "and the countless labor-saving devices and conveniences now common in modest homes, have come in this age of mass production, which has been made possible only through mass selling in the form of advertising."

Mr. Evans is chairman of the Better Business Bureau, of Washington, and was the guest of the Richmond Advertisers club in connection with its investigation of bureau methods looking toward the establishment of such an organization in the Virginia city.

### *Merchants Transfer Firm*

Merchants Transfer & Storage preferred held the spotlight in day of rather thin trading on the Washington Stock Exchange, and despite much more liberal offerings of these shares than has been made for many weeks price held firm and a total of

*The Washington Post, May 23, 1930, p. 1*

### **Harper Resigns Post At District National Joshua Evans, Jr., Will Succeed Retiring Bank President**

Retirement of Col. Robert N. Harper as president of the District National bank, election of Joshua Evans, jr., its executive vice president, as president and of Charles C. Rogers, a director, as a vice president succeeding the late N.L. Salsbury, were announced following the board of directors' meeting yesterday. Col. Harper, whose resignation as president will be effective at his request has consented to serve as chairman of the board, a newly created position, for the remainder of the year. Filling the office of executive vice president is not contemplated at present.

Saying he is seeking recreation, travel and freedom from detailed responsibility, Col. Harper after 52 years' work without loss of a single day of employment and with but two vacations, has disposed of practically his entire stockholding interest in the bank to a syndicate headed by Mr. Evans and described a "a group of important local and outside interests identified with banking, utility and industrial activities." The price was not reported, but is said to be considerably more than any recent exchange bid price.

Col. Harper, who has served longer than any present national bank president in the District, was born near Leesburg, Va., in 1861, and came to Washington in 1886, with \$450, after graduating from the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy in 1884. Entering the retail drug business, he was appointed Commissioner of Pharmacy and Druggist to the Poor, a District office, which position he held until entering active banking.

In 1903, he organized and became president of the American National Bank, which later merged with the Federal. He disposed of his interests in it to Senator Elkins, of West Virginia, and associates in

1909, and next established the private banking firm of Harper & Co., and organized the District National Bank the same year, being elected president of the latter institution.

Col. Harper is a past president of the District of Columbia Bankers Association, a past vice president of the American Bankers Association, organized

*The Washington Post, February 20, 1966, p. K3*

### **'Josh' Evans, 89, Honored With AIB's Highest Award**

No stranger to honors, Joshua Evans Jr. was presented last night with the Distinguished Service Award of Washington Chapter, American Institute of Banking.

Venerable 'Josh,' unfortunately, wasn't able to attend the fete at the Washington Hilton Hotel because he's recuperating in George Washington University Hospital from a fractured hip suffered Jan. 31 during the blizzard.

However, some 1300 bankers and their guests were on hand to cheer the presentation on his behalf to his son, Naval Captain Philip W. Evans. The rafters at Washington Hilton reverberated with the ovation.

"Josh," as most of his friends call him, is in his 71st year of banking.. He retired in 1951 as vice president of the Hamilton National Bank, but remains active on The National Bank of Washington's advisory board, of which he is now chairman. (Hamilton was merged into NBW in 1954).

Evans, 89, has made many contributions to banking and civic life here during his unparalleled career. But his greatest contribution, it is conceded, was the guidance and encouragement he gave to so many young bankers who are today's financial leaders.

He began his career with Riggs & Co., predecessor to The Riggs National Bank. In his 30-year career there, he rose through the ranks to become vice president and cashier. He left Riggs to become executive vice president of the former District National Bank and later became its president.

Among the founders of the Hamilton National Bank in 1933, he was vice president and a member of the board of directors there.

He helped organize the Community Chest and was chairman of its Budget Committee during its first three years of operation, it was he who obtained the loan to finance the first year of operation for Group Hospitalization, Inc.

He was chairman of the Better Business Bureau of Washington for seven years during its toddling days. He chaired the Municipal Finance Committee of the Board of Trade for ten years and was active in that organization since 1911.

Evans was one of the three original trustees elected when the American Institute of Banking was founded in 1906 to succeed the American Institute of Bank Clerks. A year later, he offered a motion which eventually led to the transfer of control of the Institute from the board of trustees to the individual institute chapters.

There are today over 600 such chapters and study groups with 200,000 members. The Washington Chapter has 1300 members, it also has an annual cash award for scholarship, established in 1964 in the name of Joshua Evans Jr., who was a charter member of the Washington Chapter, a graduate of its course of study and a past president.

*The Washington Post, February 11, 1969, p. C8*

### **Evans to Mark 92nd Birthday**

Joshua Evans Jr., chairman of the advisory board of The National Bank of Washington, will mark his 92nd birthday today.

Dean of the banking fraternity here, Evans is a past president of the D.C. Bankers Association and of the Washington Chapter of American Institute of Banking. He lives at 3405 Lowell st. nw.

**Evans, Joshua Jr.** Of Washington, D.C., beloved husband of the late Jessie Fant Evans; father of Capt Philip Evans and Mrs. Mariana Evans Creel. He also is survived by a sister, Sarah, and five grandchildren. Friends may call at Joseph Gawler's Sons, 5130 Wisconsin ave. at Harrison st. n.w. (parking on premises), Saturday, 2 to 4 and 7 to 9 p.m. Services will be held at St. Albans Church, Monday, November 2, 1970, at 10:30 a.m. Interment private. In lieu of flowers the family suggests that contributions be made to George Washington University, the Visiting Nurses Association, National Cathedral School for Girls, the Landon School, or the charity of your choice.

*The Evening Star, October 30, 1970, p. B5*

**Joshua Evans Jr. Dies; Banking, Civic Leader**

**By Harriet Griffiths, Star Staff Writer**

Joshua Evans, Jr., 93, banker and Washington civic leader for more than 75 years, died at his home yesterday. He lived at 3405 Lowell St. NW.

His contributions influenced the course of some banking procedures nationally and the growth of Washington through his association with Riggs and Co. and its successor, Riggs National Bank, and also with the District National Bank, Hamilton National Bank of Washington.

He was one of the three original national trustees of the American Institute of Banking when it was founded in 1906 to succeed the American Institute of Bank Clerks.

Although he technically retired in 1951 as vice president of the Hamilton National Bank, Evans continued until recent years to attend officers' meetings at the National Bank of Washington, with which Hamilton was merged in 1954, and served as chairman of its advisory board.

President Truman attended his retirement dinner in 1951, referring to him as "a man who had gained national renown in banking, but also found time to be a guiding spirit in many civic endeavors."

Evans was born at Marblevale in Baltimore County, Md. He moved to Washington from his father's farm near Cockeysville, Md., in 1895 to be a bank runner and messenger at a salary of \$25 a month.

His flair for accounting led to his promotion as Riggs and Co.'s youngest general bookkeeper, and in this capacity he installed the first adding machine in a Washington bank.

He was vice president at Riggs when he resigned in 1925 to become executive vice president and late president of the District National Bank.

In 1933 he was a prime mover in the founding of Hamilton. He was considered the sparkplug in forming Hamilton out of seven banks closed during the 1933 "bank holiday" and had large responsibility for its development into a major Washington banking institution.

He won national recognition for organizing and carrying out five Liberty Loan campaigns at Riggs National Bank during World War I. He sponsored the movement to install savings banks in District high schools.

A graduate, charter member and oldest living past president of the American Institute of Banking's Washington chapter, he won early national prominence among bankers with a paper, "The Making of a Bank Clerk," which was reprinted from coast to coast.

In 1964, the chapter established the Joshua Evans Jr. Award of \$100 to be given annually to the banking student with the highest grade average in graduate courses. In February 1966, he received the chapter's Distinguished Service Award.

He also was long active in the D.C. Bankers Association, and its former president. He was also active in the Washington Board of Trade, presided at the meeting which launched Washington's Community

Chest, and as budget chairman of the latter obtained the loan which helped finance the first year's operating expenses of Group Hospitalization Inc.

Evans has been called the catalyst in bringing together business and banking leaders to develop Washington's Better Business Bureau. He was an original member of the Committee of 100 on the Federal City and active for many years.

He had been a trustee of the American Association of University Women and an officer of the Visiting Nurse Association, the National Parks Association and the American Colonization Association Society. In behalf of the latter group, he and his late wife, Jessie Fant Evans, flew to Liberia in 1954 to inspect use of society funds to educate natives of that country, where the society began in 1816 to send free slaves.

He was a lifelong Republican. He served on the D.C Inaugural Committees of President Taft, Harding, Coolidge, Hoover, Franklin D. Roosevelt, Truman and Kennedy.

Evans became a 50-year member of the Chevy Chase Club in October 1964 and also belonged to the Metropolitan and Cosmos Clubs. He was a former Kiwanian.

He leaves his son, retired Navy Capt. Philip Wharton Evans of Chevy Chase; a daughter, Mrs. Robert C. Creel of Washington; a sister, Sarah Evans of Washington, and five grandchildren.

Services will be at 10:30 a.m. Monday in St. Alban's Episcopal Church, Wisconsin and Massachusetts Avenues NW, with private burial.

The family requests that expressions of sympathy be in the form of contributions to George Washington University, the Visiting Nurse Association, National Cathedral School for Girls, the Landon School or to a favorite charity.