

# Byron Thompson leaves legacy in banking, health care, education

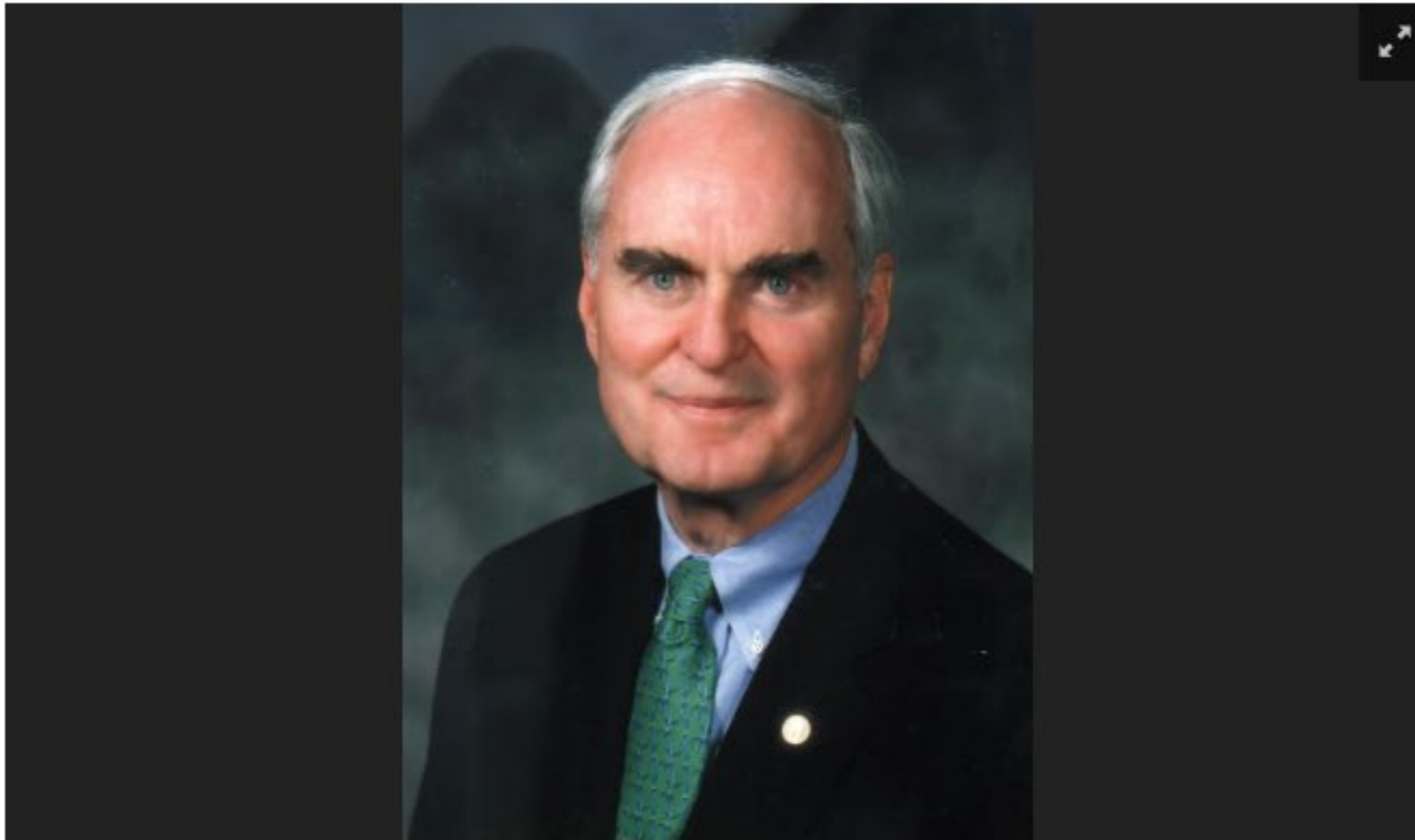
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FILE

Byron Thompson

Byron Thompson, an investment banker and chairman of Kansas City-based Country Club Bank, died peacefully at his home at age 83.

Thompson was the patriarch of a family with 11 children, including five who work as executives at Country Club Bank: [Mary O'Connor](#), [Paul Thompson](#), [Mark Thompson](#), [Chris Thompson](#) and [Tim Thompson](#). He often described his children as "his greatest wealth."

Born July 22, 1932, in St. Joseph, Byron Thompson spent 29 years as an investment banker in Kansas City, working as vice chairman of investment banking at United Missouri Bank of Kansas City. He left to buy Country Club Bank in 1985 with his late business partner, [Robert Buckner](#). Under his leadership, Country Club became one of the largest banks based in the Kansas City area; today, it has about \$1.3 billion in assets. It's also one of the nation's most diverse banks, with a trust company, a brokerage and an investment banking division. It even offers income management and risk assessment services to other banks nationwide, including many that are much bigger.

Thompson loved to spend time at the bank, and he continued to be a regular presence in the new headquarters at One Ward Parkway, [which was acquired and then renovated in 2013](#).

Thompson also spent several years on the board of [Kansas City Southern](#) and was a founding board member for [Benedictine College](#), graduating from its predecessor, St. Benedict's College, in 1955. He was a charter member of the board of trustees at what is now [Rockhurst University](#). He served on the boards for the Brain Injury Association of Greater Kansas City, Carondelet Foundation, St. Joseph Hospital and [Midwest Research Institute](#). He was a member of the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City's Federal Advisory Counsel in 2003, which met quarterly with former Fed Chairman [Alan Greenspan](#). He was inducted into the Greater Kansas City Business Hall of Fame in 2006.

Thompson was a veteran of the Korean War, serving in the U.S. Air Force as a crew chief on a B-26 bomber.

"We are deeply grateful for his life, his vision, his leadership and especially for the extra years God allowed us following his original diagnosis of pancreatic cancer nearly eight years ago," said [Paul Thompson](#), his son and CEO of Country Club Bank.

Visitation will be from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. on Sunday at Visitation Church, 5100 Main St. in Kansas City.

In lieu of flowers, the family recommends that memorial donations be made to: [Benedictine College \(Byron Thompson Scholarship Fund\)](#); [St. Teresa's Academy \(Jeanne Collins Thompson Scholarship Fund\)](#); [Rockhurst High School \(Thompson Family Scholarship Fund\)](#); [Catholic Charities](#); or the charity of your choice.