

## ROBERT SHANKS RECEIVES MAJOR FARM BUREAU HONOR

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**FRANKLIN** – During the 89<sup>th</sup> annual meeting of the Tennessee Farm Bureau Federation (TFBF) held last month in Franklin, Tennessee, five individuals were recognized for their commitment and dedication to improving agriculture and rural life in Tennessee by receiving the state organization's Distinguished Service Award. It is the highest honor the TFBF gives to its volunteer leadership and this year Putnam



County farmer Robert Shanks was a recipient of the award. Shanks received the award during a special presentation at the convention before the entire delegate body along with the showing of a video of his life and farming career.

Robert Shanks was the middle child of five born September 3, 1930, to Walter Robinson and Eula Warren Shanks. Besides the farm, his father ran an old fashioned country store in Buffalo Valley...and Robert remembers well the chores he had but also the carefree lifestyle that went along with the times.

(Pictured: Seated: Doris Lee (Gillen) & husband Robert Anderson Shanks. Back row: Grandson, Jason Robert Smith, his mother Jyl (Shanks) Smith and Joy (Shanks) Chadwell), daughters of Robert & Doris Lee (Gillen) Shanks).

Shanks attended a one room school near the farm for his first eight years and then went to Baxter Seminary School and graduated in 1948. Soon afterward he would volunteer and was enlisted into the Navy in January of 1949 and along with in-active duty he would serve until he was discharged in 1955. But it was a few years earlier when he met the love of his life, the former Doris Lee Gillen of White County and they married on March 20, 1952.

He would work one year in Detroit before moving back to the farm for good in 1954 and Mrs. Shanks started teaching third grade at Baxter Elementary and retired 42 years later. They had two daughters who also became teachers and they have 3 grandchildren.

Shank's farm continued to grow where he raised hogs and cattle and several acres of tobacco.

He has remained an active leader in several community and state organizations. He served as chairman for almost 10 years on the ASCS committee. He's been active on the Putnam County Livestock Association for over 50 years, serving as chairman for many years on the feeder calf and feed pig sales.

He served on the county's Election Commission for 32 years. In 1958, they joined the Baxter Church of Christ where he continues today as an active leader and elder.

(Pictured: the five

Robert Shanks has devoted much of his life to helping further the Farm Bureau movement.

He's served on numerous committees over the years both at the local and state levels and he's served on the Putnam County Board of Directors for over 40 years.

\*See History of Buffalo Valley, TN & Shanks family files at: <http://www.ajlambert.com>