Tribute to J. Roger Guffey

Sept. 11, 1929 – April 15, 2009



Each year, the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City is honored to host a distinguished group of guests for a discussion of the challenges facing monetary policy makers around the globe. The reputation that this event has built over the years is a direct reflection of its participants and a testament to the vision of its founders.

Under the leadership of Bank President Roger Guffey, the Kansas City Fed hosted the first of what

would become the economic policy symposiums in 1978. In 1982, the event moved to Jackson Hole, Wyo., in the far corner of the Bank's Federal Reserve District, where it has remained. After he retired from the Bank in 1991, Mr. Guffey still took great joy in coming back to Jackson Hole for the symposium. When he was unable to make the trip to northwestern Wyoming, he still followed the events and discussions closely from his home in Kansas City and spoke frequently with the Bank's staff. Although Mr. Guffey was quick to share the credit for the symposium, noting the many contributors who are necessary to make any event a success, he was the event's founder.

In April, we were saddened to learn of Mr. Guffey's passing after an illness. As the Kansas City Fed's seventh president, he certainly left his mark on our institution and, through this event, we believe he left his mark on the world. He will be missed.