



Claude "Ed" King

April 10, 1937 - June 19, 2014

A memorial service for Claude Edwin "Ed" King, Jr., 77, of Tyler, will be held on Monday, June 23, 2014, at 11:00 AM at Green Acres Baptist Church Worship Center with Dr. Paul Powell and Dr. David Dykes officiating under the direction of Stewart Family Funeral Home.

Mr. King passed away peacefully at his home on Thursday, June 19, 2014. He was born April 10, 1937 in Atlanta, Georgia to Claude Edwin and Ruby Odell Mann King.

Ed grew up in Atlanta, Georgia where he met the love of his life, Sandra, in high school. She was a cheerleader and he was a football player. They began their family while Ed worked 10 years as a fireman then later began a career with Xerox where he was eventually transferred to Austin, Texas. In 1978, Ed became the first Chick-Fil-A franchisee in Longview, Texas where his son, Chuck, still operates 2 locations. In 1983, Ed relocated to Tyler, Texas where he began building a legacy that has benefited so many.

Mr. King is best known as the owner of two Chick-Fil-A locations in Tyler, but he was so much more than just a successful businessman. He was a generous philanthropist for many institutions and non-profits including; The Salvation Army, Breckenridge Village, Bethesda Health Clinic, Toys for Tots, Meals On Wheels, The East Texas Food Bank and Champions for Children. He received the Passion Award from the Salvation Army, the Tyler Chamber of Commerce's Small Businessman of the Year and the 2012 Community Builder Award from the Tyler Masonic Lodge. Ed was a member of Green

Acres Baptist Church. He was a southern gentleman and a devout Christian but first and foremost, a loving husband and father.

His life was extended with a heart transplant Ed received in 1999 through the gift of organ donation from a gracious family who chose to give life even through the death of their loved one.

Ed is survived by his loving family including his wife of 59 years, Sandra King of Tyler, Texas; children, Chuck King and wife Rhonda of Longview, Texas, Kellie Ronan of Longview, Texas and James King and wife Norma of Flint, Texas; grandchildren, Josh Ronan and wife Amanda of Lufkin, Texas, Jason Ronan of Tyler, Texas, Katie Soape and husband Joel of Longview, Texas, Braden King of Longview, Texas, Corey King and Amanda King of Flint, Texas and Jeremy Johnston of Whitehouse, Texas; great-grandchildren, Sydney Ronan of Lufkin, Texas and Macey Towery of Longview, Texas; brother, John King of Gay, Georgia.

Pallbearers will be Josh Ronan, Jason Ronan, Braden King, Joel Soape, Corey King and Jeremy Johnston.

A reception is scheduled following the service on Monday, June 23, 2014 at Green Acres Baptist Church in the Crosswalk Center.

If desired, memorials may be made to; Breckenridge Village, 15062 County Road 1145, Tyler, TX 75704, East Texas Food Bank, 3201 Robertson Rd, Tyler, TX 75701, Bethesda Clinic, 409 W Ferguson St, Tyler, TX 75702, Meals On Wheels, 3001 Robertson Rd, Tyler, TX 75701, The Salvation Army, 633 N Broadway Ave, Tyler, TX 75702, The Hospice of East Texas Foundation, 4111 University Blvd, Tyler, TX 75701, Southwest Transplant Alliance, 5489 Blair Rd, Dallas, TX 75231 organ.org, or a charity of your choice.

Cemetery Details

Rose Hill Cemetery

2400 S. Donnybrook
Tyler, TX 75702

Previous Events

Mem. Service

JUN 23. 11:00 AM (CT)

Green Acres Baptist Church
1607 Troup Hwy.
Tyler, TX 75701

Reception following service

JUN 23 (CT)

Green Acres Baptist Church
1607 Troup Hwy.
Tyler, TX 75701

Tribute Wall

BC

“ *Mr. King was so gracious in flying out son's donor mom to Tyler, so we could meet her. We are forever grateful to him and the kindness he poured out to us and others.*
Becky Canal

Becky Canal - June 27, 2014 at 10:47 AM

 Mary Haynes

“ *Mr. King gave me my first job at chick fil a in the mall in 1992. He was such a kind caring man. He will be missed and forever remembered for his kindness and loving heart.*

Mary Haynes - June 23, 2014 at 04:44 PM

LC

“ *I met Mr. King and Mrs King when I worked at Marshall's In Tyler.Both of them were so friendly to me. Over the years I have continued to follow them through Chuck at the Longview stores.My thoughts and prayers are with the family.*

Lue Cross

Lue Cross - June 23, 2014 at 12:35 PM

GD

“ *As a young man working at JC Penny's, I met Mr. King when Chick-fil-a opened in the Longview Mall around 1980. A wonderful, kind man whose positive attitude was shared throughout the Longview Tyler area. Will continue to pray for his family.*

Gary Day

Gary Day - June 23, 2014 at 09:47 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Claude "Ed" King.*



June 23, 2014 at 09:10 AM



“ *My memories are not of Ed but my cousin, Eddie. I remember him as a teenager and young man - gentle, funny, kind and handsome. Because of his relocation to Texas many years ago we lost the family closeness that we once enjoyed. As a child I loved Sandra and Eddie and will always have warm and tender memories of them. I can tell from the many shared tributes that Eddie was loved and respected in Texas just as he was here in Georgia. Sandra, along with my brothers, Jerry and Steve, I would like to express our sympathy to you and your family.*

Brenda Gibson Wynn

Brenda Wynn - June 22, 2014 at 10:52 PM



“ *To the King family, my sympathy goes out to all of you. Your dad was such a fine man and friends to all. I feel so lucky to have known him. Prayers are with you.*

Marlene Browder

Marlene Browder - June 22, 2014 at 06:03 PM



“ My condolences to the family. I first went to work for Ed in 1978 not long after the Longview Mall opened. Back then everyone in the family worked there, except Chuck who was working at the home office in Atlanta. Ed and the family always provided a safe Christian environment for young people to grow and learn new responsibilities. He also made me a life long chick-fil-a fan. Working for the Kings, I earned a college scholarship which helped forward my education. I will never forget going to Lufkin and working on the blitz team to help open the store even if it was only for two days. He will be missed.

Todd Gamel - June 22, 2014 at 05:35 PM

JC

“ Dear Sandy, For what ever reason God brought Ed and I together in the same hospital, at the same time, for the same need (a heart transplant). All of us and our spouses became family and in a way, closer. We knew if each other meant it, if one said "Oh, I'm okay." and really he felt sicker than a dog. We knew each others mind, and physical feelings. God gave Ed and I more time to do work for him, but first he let us rest in the hospital a while so we would have no doubt that we were not in control of any circumstance or outcome. All God expected from us was to show up for work each day and trust him for the outcome. Ed truly bloomed where he was planted whether it be in the hospital, in business, in community service or helping those less fortunate. His loving spirit lifted all those around him, helping others feel worthwhile.

I am so sorry for the void for the empty space he is leaving in your life and in the lives of your family. Still I rejoice to know that Ed finished his work and graduated to home he so deserved.

I won't be able to come to the Memorial Service, but I shall forever hold wonderful memories of the times we spent together.

Love and Peace to you,
Julie Copley, transplanted 4/24/1999

Julia Copley - June 22, 2014 at 05:06 PM

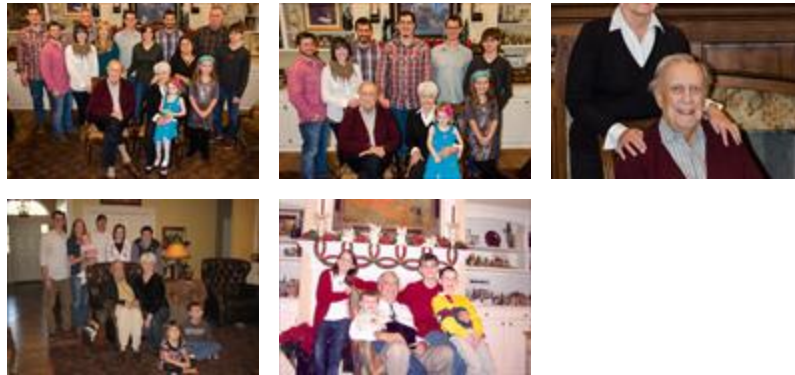
NI

“ My condolences to the family. I am very sorry for your loss. No matter the age, the death of a loved one is difficult. Though there aren't any words to take your pain away, may you find comfort in the promise soon to be at Revelation 21: 4: "And he will wipe out every tear from their eyes, and death will be no more, neither will mourning nor outcry nor pain be anymore. The former things have passed away."

Nicole - June 22, 2014 at 12:39 PM

RK

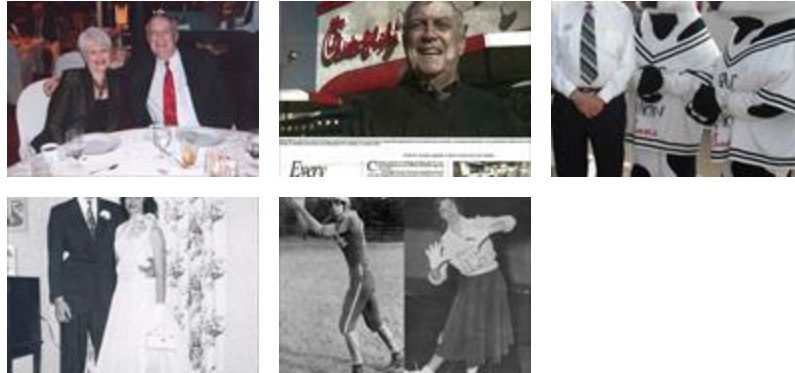
“ 15 files added to the album Memories from the Family



Rhonda King - June 22, 2014 at 10:47 AM

RK

“ 7 files added to the album Memories from the Family



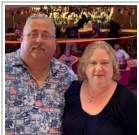
Rhonda King - June 22, 2014 at 10:44 AM

DO

“ Dallas Ft. Worth Area Chick-fil-a operators purchased the Care and Compassion Spray for the family of Claude "Ed" King.



Dallas Ft. Worth Area Chick-fil-a operators - June 21, 2014 at 12:43 PM



“ I was lucky enough to work for Ed at the Chick-fil-a in the mall for 5yrs in the early 80's until I graduated from nursing school. He was always so encouraging and rarely was he not smiling. Have enjoyed visiting with Ed over the years anytime I saw him at church or in the restaurant. He would give me a hug and ask me about my kids and family. I waved at him many times in the Rose Parade as he drove the Chick-fil-a van. He was a sweet and caring person and I am so glad I had the opportunity to know him. He will truly be missed. His family will be in my prayers. Connie Lucas (Saxon)

Connie Lucas - June 20, 2014 at 07:38 PM

LC

“ Liz and Julian Campos purchased the A Full Life for the family of Claude "Ed" King.



Liz and Julian Campos - June 20, 2014 at 04:07 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Claude "Ed" King.



June 20, 2014 at 03:01 PM



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June 20, 2014 at 03:01 PM



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June 20, 2014 at 01:47 PM



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June 20, 2014 at 01:47 PM



“ I cannot express how glad I am to have known Ed King. He was my boss in the late 1980s, my mentor thereafter, and my friend forever. He was among the funniest and most kind-hearted people I knew. I mourn his passing, but I celebrate his presence on Earth and in my life. -- Cole Bennett

Cole - June 20, 2014 at 10:46 AM



“ As we pass through this life we cross path's with many . I Thank God that I got to know Ed King. Ed alway's was the first to volunteer to help anyone. I do not have to tell those who knew Ed of his big Heart. I will miss my friend. I pray God's grace on Sandra and his family during the coming day's.

1st Corinthians 15;54-55

Jeff Jones - June 20, 2014 at 07:52 AM

Jl

“ I remember Ed from working in the mall in the 80s and through my parents(Larry and Jane Dike) So many wonderful memories; he was a blessing to everyone who ever met him much less had the privilege of actually knowing him. Heaven has indeed gained another angel. May the Peace of Christ be with you during this difficult time.



Jill Sturgis

jill - June 20, 2014 at 06:38 AM