



Jack Thomas Keeling

October 2, 1930 - August 8, 2022

Jack Thomas Keeling, 91, passed away peacefully August 8 in Tulsa. The heart of a large, tight-knit family, he was surrounded by those he loved. Fittingly, a favorite John Wayne movie played and the melody of Merle Haggard's "Okie from Muskogee" filled the room.

Jack was born Oct. 2, 1930, in Frisco, Texas, the third of five children to parents Jesse Jake and Velma Edith Keeling. He graduated from Sallisaw High School before joining the Marines and serving in the Korean War from 1951-52. Following his military service, he attended Connors State College and Oklahoma State University. He then took a job for the Oklahoma Department of Transportation in Muskogee, primarily working there for around 45 years until his retirement.

Jack always believed his greatest accomplishment was his family. He married Virginia Rose McDonald in April 1954. Together, the couple raised four boys — Mac, John, Sam and Paul — which led to a larger family he took pride in connecting and nurturing.

Jack loved traveling and the outdoors, often hunting and fishing. But he was never happier than when he was holding court with his boisterous voice, joyful demeanor and frank words. He always had a story to tell — often ending with a hearty smile and laugh — and advice to give. An old-school soul of high character, there was no favor or generosity he spared for family, friends and those in need. And it was an unspoken rule to never leave his home on an empty stomach.

Jack is survived by wife Virginia; son Mac and wife Cindy, son Sam and wife Michele, and son Paul and wife Kathy. Jack had 10 grandchildren and 11 great grandchildren. He is also survived by sister Nancy Steveson; brother, Ron Keeling and wife Carolyn, as well as numerous nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents; sister, Sue Norman; brother, Joe Keeling; and son, John, along with countless friends.

A memorial service honoring Jack's life will be at 11 a.m., Monday, August 15, at First United Methodist Church, 600 E. Okmulgee St., Muskogee, OK 74403. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Porta Caeli House, 2440 N Harvard Ave, Tulsa OK 74115 or online at www.portacaeli.org.

Funeral services are under the direction of Cornerstone Funeral Home, 1830 N York St Muskogee, OK 74403. Condolences can be made to the family at www.cornerstoneofmuskogee.com.

Previous Events

Memorial Service

AUG 15. 11:00 AM (CT)

First United Methodist Church
600 E. Okmulgee Street
Muskogee, OK 74403

Tribute Wall



“ *Jack Thomas Keeling*

October 23, 2023 at 09:38 AM



“ *I met Mr. Keeling at the family home a number of years ago after coming into Tulsa for the first time for a series of business meetings with his son Paul, one of the friendliest guys you would want to know - a true reflection of his farther Jack. I walked out onto the veranda and noticed a rocking chair, tobacco can, and .22 rifle looking out over a large pond surrounded by lots of chickens. It reminded me of my time in the Outback of Australia where homes were very similar but had problems with Foxes snatching up the chickens. I asked Jack if they had problems with Foxes like we did in Australia to which he replied while rocking back and forwards staring at the rifle: "not any more he said, not anymore". Mr. keeling was very welcoming, warm and friendly and a great Oklahoman, I will miss him but know his character and qualities lives on in his son and grandson - heaven is blessed today with your presence and grace.*

*Simon Abbott
Clermont FL*

Simon Abbott - August 17, 2022 at 03:57 PM

PG

Ronnie and I just found out that Jack had passed away. We are so so sorry to hear that he is no longer here. Ronnie and Jack became friends many years ago through a love of hunting. Many many trips to Colorado to elk hunt. I met Jack of course through Ron and the first time we said hello, I felt like I had known him forever. For those who knew the wonderful, loving, giving, very funny and intelligent man, he will be missed greatly.

Jack, happy trails to you and may the elk be abundant in your new residence with our Lord and Savior!! You will be and are missed by those who had the honor to know you and your beautiful wife Jingkes!! Much love and sympathy to your family. 💕💕💕

Peggy Gilliam - September 04, 2022 at 08:10 AM

RK

“ *My condolences go to wonderful family. I've gotten to know. Funny, caring and gave me advice everyday on the days I was working. Truly will be missed.*



Rachel Kinney - August 14, 2022 at 10:09 PM

SD

“ *What a great Man!!!! He will be forever missed, but not forgotten!!!*



Sheila Irene Olinger Daniels - August 14, 2022 at 04:27 PM

JT

“ Jack and I would swap war stories Saturday mornings over Bruce's bloody marys. I was, and am, very proud to have done so. He and I would "elk hunt" in the camp at Fish Creek, cooking and drinking while everyone else froze their butts off in the snow. I miss you Jack Keeling.



John Turner - August 13, 2022 at 09:19 PM

SE

“ Mrs. Keeling, this is Stephen Ezell--one of your former history students. I remember once around 30 years ago when you told me that Jack had been a Marine during the Korean War and that when he saw on T.V. Marines raising the U.S. flag that he would stand up and salute both the flag and his fellow Marines. He was proud of the fact that he was a Marine. I was very saddened to learn of his passing earlier this week. Although I did not know him personally, I wanted to send to you and your family my heartfelt condolences and prayers for God's blessings and care during these difficult times ahead. May we all take comfort in that since he was a Christian that we will see him again in the Light, Love, and Glory of Almighty God. Semper Fi, Jack! Ride boldy and swiftly with God, my Brother in Christ Jesus and in arms.

Stephen Ezell - August 13, 2022 at 07:49 PM



“ 2 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



Cornerstone Funeral Home and Crematory - August 13, 2022 at 06:28 PM



“ 1 file added to the album *Life Tributes*



Cornerstone Funeral Home and Crematory - August 13, 2022 at 02:31 PM

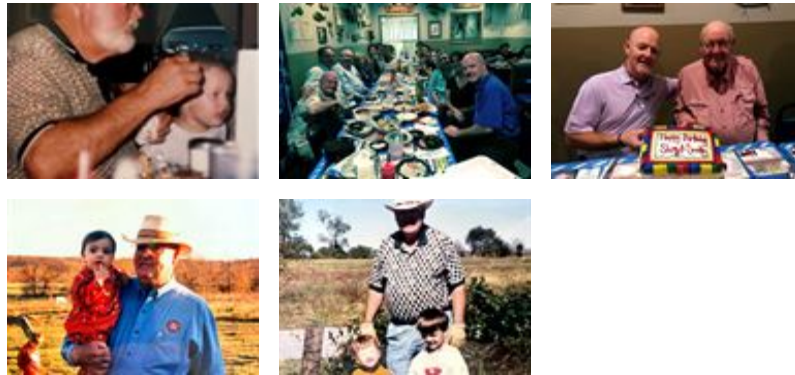


“ *Enjoyed Jack's stories while eating ribs at "Nasties" with he and Wilson and Legan. Happy hunting, Jack. N.J. Evans, Arkhola*

N. J. Evans - August 13, 2022 at 12:33 PM



“ 93 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



Cornerstone Funeral Home and Crematory - August 13, 2022 at 12:57 AM



“ *Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet* was purchased for the family of Jack Thomas Keeling.



August 12, 2022 at 07:18 PM



“ *Sorry to hear of your loss Keeling family. What a great bunch of Keeling boys! God Bless. Jim Flusche*

Jim Flusche - August 11, 2022 at 09:58 PM

SH

“ How thankful we have been to have our newest old friend, if even for a few short years here at Country Gardens. His door was always open, his heart was ready to receive and advice only given when asked. We couldn't have asked for more. Thanks for spreading sunshine, Jack and Virginia.
Tom and Sarah Harkins

Sarah Harkins - August 11, 2022 at 04:20 PM

LG

“ Laurie & Tom Graves purchased the Sacred Duty Spray for the family of Jack Thomas Keeling.



Laurie & Tom Graves - August 11, 2022 at 12:52 PM

TT

“ Tulsa FOP 93 Health & Welfare Trust purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Jack Thomas Keeling.



Tulsa FOP 93 Health & Welfare Trust - August 11, 2022 at 09:18 AM

MM

“ *Our sincere condolences to the Keeling family. Praying for all of you during this sad time. Jack was a special man that everyone loved and will be missed by many.*

Rick and Mary Kay McQueen



Mary Kay McQueen - August 10, 2022 at 06:35 PM

RC

Condolence Mac to you and your family!

Roy Campbell - August 11, 2022 at 05:55 PM

IM

The Medina family sends our sincere condolences to the entire Keeling family. Jack's high spirited wisdom, his decisiveness, his kindness and his genuine concern for others will forever live in our hearts. Without question, the very best neighbor one can ever hope to have.

Ian & Kiana Medina and the boys.

Ian Medina - August 12, 2022 at 03:31 PM