



Ray F. Kirk

April 5, 1942 - March 14, 2013

Ray F. Kirk, 70, of Muskogee, Oklahoma passed away Thursday, March 14, 2013. He was born April 5, 1942 in Tahlequah, Oklahoma to Clarence D. Kirk and Mary Kathryn Enlow Davis. Ray grew up in Tahlequah and graduated from Tahlequah High School in 1960. He continued his education at Connors State College where he lettered in football. Ray furthered his education at Northeastern State College where he graduated in 1965 with a bachelor's degree in education. After graduation, Ray taught school and coached girls' basketball at Stillwell High School and at Siloam Springs, AR before moving to Wichita, Kansas in 1967 to work for Boeing Aircraft. While in Wichita he completed his collegiate studies at Wichita State University.

In 1971, Ray was presented an opportunity with State Farm Insurance. For 32 years, he operated a successful agency and enjoyed a busy professional and civic career in Muskogee. He retired from State Farm in 2004. Ray served his state and community as Commissioner of the Oklahoma State Department of Rehabilitation from 2006 until the time of his death. As Commissioner, he exhibited a keen interest in bettering the lives of the students and faculty of the Oklahoma School for the Blind in Muskogee. Over the years, Ray was active in many civic and fraternal organizations including the Morning Optimist, Muskogee Masonic Lodge No. 28, the Bedouin Shrine and ROJ Court No. 99.

Ray was a member of First Baptist Church of Muskogee. Ray married his high school sweetheart and love of his life, Elada Diane Wheeler, on September

19, 1961 in Tahlequah, OK. They were married for over 51 years and were blessed with a beautiful daughter, Kimberly Renee. Ray loved animals and the outdoors. He enjoyed caring for his cattle and many other types of animals on his farm south of Muskogee but truly loved his horses. He was an active and successful owner and trainer of thoroughbred race horses up until the time of his death. Family was especially important to Ray. He loved the large family gatherings at holidays and special occasions. Ray was also active in the rural community south of Muskogee and was an almost daily participant of the Andy's Convenience Store Breakfast Group.

Ray was preceded in death by his parents and his sisters Mattie Panell, Bertie Carter and Geraldine Lamons. Ray is survived by his wife, Elada of the home; his daughter Kimberly Stotts and husband Steve of Muskogee; granddaughters Lauren Stotts of Los Angeles, CA and Sarah Stotts of Norman, OK; sister Bernise Scott and husband Clyde of Tulsa; his brothers-in-law Tom Lamons and Gene Carter and wife Phyllis all of Tahlequah; brother-in-law Mike Wheeler and wife Pat of Broken Arrow, OK; his Sister-in-law Brenda Wheeler of Tahlequah; and many nieces, nephews and other much-loved family members and friends. Funeral services will be at 11:00 am Monday, March 18 at First Baptist Church in Muskogee with Dr. Lance Sawyer and Bill Crow officiating. Interment will follow at Tahlequah City Cemetery at 2:00 pm with Joe Foster, Pony McCrary, Paul Porter, Glen Wheeler, Mike Ebert and Jim Adams as pallbearers. Honorary pallbearers are the "Andy's Convenience Store Breakfast Group". Funeral services are under the direction of Cornerstone Funeral Home and Crematory, 1830 N. York Street, Muskogee, OK. Condolences may be sent to the family at www.cornerstoneofmuskogee.com.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made on Ray's behalf to the Needy Student Fund, Oklahoma School for the Blind at 3300 Gibson Street, Muskogee, OK 74403 or the Bedouin Shrine Temple Transportation Fund 201 S. 6th Street, Muskogee, OK 74401.

Cemetery Details

Tahlequah City Cemetery

1251 West Fox Street
Tahlequah, OK 74464

Previous Events

Service

MAR 18. 11:00 AM (CT)

First Baptist Church Muskogee
111 S. 7th Street
Muskogee, OK 74401

Tribute Wall



“ *Ray F. Kirk*

October 23, 2023 at 09:38 AM



“ *Elada and Family,
Our thoughts and prayers go out to you during this time of loss. Ray was always a bright spot in our lives and his laughter will be remembered by many. May God give you comfort in the days ahead. Kenny, Kathy, Keline, Kim and Mark Jackson*

Kenny Jackson - March 18, 2013 at 09:34 AM



“ *I feel very fortunate to have known Ray. His bright smile & witty humor always made my work day better. Of all the men that came in for breakfast, he always made me laugh. My thought & prayers are with the family. May God bless you with peace, comfort & strength in your time of grief.*

Kimberly Richerson Stevens - March 17, 2013 at 09:51 PM



“ *Carol (Burk) Haney lit a candle in memory of Ray F. Kirk*



Carol (Burk) Haney - March 17, 2013 at 11:43 AM

AG

“ In highschool, Ray and I were on the basketball team. I remember I always knew he had my back, especially when larger opposing players gave us trouble. Ray would handle them and we managed to win a few games because of Ray. I moved away from Oklahoma but Ray looked me up in Las Vegas and came out to visit over a lunch once. That was so special to me that he would do that for me. He was a good man, had a good heart. I shall miss him, but never will forget him. Thank you Ray for being a part of my life.
Elada, I can't imagine what you are having to go thru right now, but I share in your pain and my deepest sympathies to you and your family.
Love,
a brother from your 1960 THS class.
Arnie Gray

Arnie Gray - March 16, 2013 at 09:21 PM

GW

“ I graduated from Tahlequah with Ray and Elada in 1960. Ray was always the life of the party at our class reunions and usually served as emcee. I co-emceed our 50th Class Reunion with Ray in 2010 and he was as funny as ever. My prayers are with Elada, Kim and all the family. Geraldean (Wheeler) Warren

Geraldean Warren - March 16, 2013 at 06:50 PM

RK

“ Prayer for his family. Mr. Kirk will be missed, Thanks for all his support and kindness to
Oklahoma School for the Blind.

Rocky Linda Jacob King - March 16, 2013 at 11:09 AM



“ *Elada and Kim...I was so very sorry to hear this. Just wanted you to know I am thinking about you all....Beverley Wayman*

Beverley Weedn Wayman - March 15, 2013 at 07:12 PM

TS

I had the priviledge of working for Ray for 10 yrs at his State Farm Agency. He was a great boss, a great man and a great friend to me! To Elada, Kim a Steve, just want you to know I am praying for comfort and peace for you all!

Tommie Jo Smith - Edmond, OK

Tommie Jo Smith - March 18, 2013 at 09:15 AM

LG

“ *Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family at this very sad time.*

Lawrence and Cricket Greuel

Lawrence and Cricket Greuel - March 15, 2013 at 05:23 PM

DN

“ *Elada, my heart goes out to you and your family. May Ray rest in peace. Take comfort in your family and friends. Dorothy (Lowery) Neve, class of 1960.*

Dorothy (Lowery) Neve - March 15, 2013 at 02:16 PM

BK

“ *one of the most talented boys i ever coached. he became a friend i treasured. he will be missed by many and certainly us. ben and marynelle kiger*

ben kiger - March 15, 2013 at 09:38 AM

RT

*Elada, you and Kim, and all of your family have my deepest
condolances. I will have your family in my prayers.
Ruthie Tudor*

Ruthie Tudor - March 18, 2013 at 06:38 PM