



Kenneth Watson Blackstone Sr.

March 14, 1928 - May 31, 2015

Kenneth Watson Blackstone, Sr. age 87, of Loganville, GA passed away on May 31, 2015 at his home in Loganville from congestive heart failure. There will be a gathering to honor him and our Mom, who passed away in October, at the Loganville Chapel of Tim Stewart Funeral Home at 2 PM on Sunday, June 7, 2015. Chaplain Joannah Cook will officiate. At a future date the ashes of our parents will be spread at Mom's family's burial site in Jacksonville, Florida, where they will both be welcomed by their infant son who preceded them in death many years ago. Kenn was born in Augusta, GA on March 14, 1928, the fifth child of Thomas Watson Blackstone and Katherine Curtis Blackstone. He is survived by his sister, Jacqueline Lyons of Jacksonville, FL and his brothers-in-law, Henry F. Thomas and James L. Thomas both of Jacksonville, FL whom he used to play cork ball with every weekend, and preceded in death by his sisters, Evelyn, Henrietta, LaVerne and his little brother, William Thomas Blackstone. Dad's father passed away suddenly in 1934 and he, his brother and sister, Jacqueline, were sent to St. Francis Orphanage in Tifton, Ohio where they remained for the next ten years. Even though it was an orphanage, Dad received the best of care and education and made lifelong friends. At age 16 the orphanage had to downsize and Dad was sent to the Junior Order Children's Home in Lexington, N.C. until he graduated at age 18. Despite being raised in an orphanage, Dad had nothing but fond memories of his time at the orphanage and of the great friendships he had with his fellow orphans. Until 2013 he always traveled to Lexington for the

orphan's convention (as we like to call it) and it was the highlight of his every summer. Kenn met our mom, Helen; his wife of 65 years, at the lunch counter in Walgreen's in Jacksonville, FL and married the love of his life a year later on July 22, 1949. Together they raised three happy children, Joanna B. White and her husband, Howard, Nancy Blackstone Blair and Kenneth W. Blackstone, Jr. and his wife, Lyndi. Kenn and Helen have six grandchildren, Kevin N. Blair and his wife, Nikki, Kenneth W. Blackstone, III and his wife, Melissa, Nathan E. Blair and Alice Kempf, Chrystopher A. Blackstone and his wife, Shannon, Katharine B. Colling and her husband Joel, and Marissa Blackstone. They have four wonderful great-grandchildren who provided them with endless happiness and wonder, Kenneth W. Blackstone, IV (K#4) and his little sister, Isabella Rose Blackstone and Cayden J. Blair and his little brother, Chandler B. Blair. Kenn is also remembered by his nieces, Carole McNaughton of Ventura, CA and Mary Moore of Jacksonville, FL, his step-granddaughter, Teri Crump of Panama City, FL, his dear neighbor-daughter Susie Bare of Jacksonville, FL, his life-long orphan buddy and friend, Charlie Newcomb of Monticello, KY, his dear friend from working at Duplex Products; Jerry Bluett and Dr. Spencer I. Rozin and his staff who took such great care of our Dad. WWII was over right before Dad became of age to be allowed by the orphanage to join the military. He served in the Florida National Guard in the early 1950's, but was never deployed to Korea. While in the orphanage Dad learned the process of printing and it served him well throughout his working life. He worked for Lewis Business Forms which later became Duplex Products, Inc. for more than 40 years. In 1970 he and his family moved to Atlanta, GA where he was manager of the Duplex Plant in Conyers and then in Tucker, GA until his retirement in 1992. Dad was devoted to his work and his family and was able to dedicate his life to both. He loved selecting gifts for Christmas, especially for the kids, and wrapping them, too. Once he feigned needing my help to find the perfect coat for my sister, Nancy, as a Christmas gift and he and I secretly went shopping. Unbeknownst to me; the next week he asked for Nancy's help finding the perfect coat for me. On Christmas Day

we both were surprised when our gift was the coat we picked out for each other. Dad loved working in the school Halloween Carnival and one year made a larger than life paper Mache skeleton when he was laid up with a foot-to-ankle cast. He would take the driver's seat and transport the whole family to Granny's house across town every weekend. He would sing aloud while driving and always end up missing the correct exit. If we kids were horsing around in the back seat, he would threaten to beat our butts until our noses bled; a threat he never carried out. On the few occasions it would get really cold in Jacksonville, he would keep the sprinkler running on the bushes overnight so we would wake up to a frozen front-yard wonderland. Dad loved chocolate and often told us that he was fed a chocolate drop when he was just two hours old. He ate chocolate all the day long and what he couldn't eat; he gave away. In his later years he discovered the kitchen and began baking cakes and brownies. Nothing fancy; but he made sure everyone he came in contact with, whether it be a family member or the barber or Elizabeth the Librarian, had a freshly baked goodie to nibble on. He had a special place in his heart for all the animals the family accumulated over the years and he will be greatly missed by Fanny and Brillo. Katie remembers her Grandfather as the man who liked to chew on a cup of ice while watching movies with her. It was before the days of ice makers and her Granddad would crush a cup of ice in tiny pieces just for her. Joel remembers that Katie's grandfather always called him son. Katie and Joel were married just last year and they wanted to pass on the legacy of her grandparents' marriage by celebrating their own wedding on the 65th anniversary of her grandparents. Kenn and Helen were able to attend the wedding and were given a standing ovation by all who were there. Katie and Joel's first anniversary on earth will be Mom and Dad's first anniversary in heaven. Dad loved jokes and the invention of email so he could exchange jokes with far off people. He never told me a dirty joke until I got married. Susie said of Dad that he is the greatest most loving man I have met in my entire life and I love him like a father. Melissa remembers that he played

games with little kids and babies where he would stick his tongue in one cheek and then the other cheek and then pull on his ear and then his nose and then stick his tongue out of his mouth. It doesn't sound very funny, but the kids and babies would laugh and laugh when his tongue came out. When we were little and bored standing in line, he would offer us a seat by sticking out his hand with his thumb straight up to lean against. He was never too busy to entertain a child. He was always honest, fair and true with his family, his co-workers, employees and friends. He was the most honest man I have ever known and I think this is a trait he acquired at the orphanage. There was no time in his adult life where he could have acquired this aspect of his personality. He was only 23 years and two weeks older than me, his oldest surviving child. He was protective of his family and worked harder than he needed to provide for us. The memories of our Dad as a loving, laughing and caring husband, father and friend will be with us forever. Arrangements by the Tim Stewart Funeral Home, 670 Tom Brewer Road, Loganville, GA 30052. 770-466-1544. Please sign the online guest registry at www.stewartfh.com

Previous Events

Memorial Service

JUN 7. 2:00 PM (ET)

Chapel of Tim Stewart Funeral Home Loganville
670 Tom Brewer Rd.
Loganville, GA

Tribute Wall



“ *Kenneth Watson Blackstone Sr.*

October 08, 2022 at 11:31 AM



“ *Sure am gonna miss my Ken. He was the sweetest, loving and kindest man I ever met in my whole life and my daddy too. Every time I came up for a visit he would grab me and show me all his pictures on his camera then we would go to the closet and see the millions of movie's he recorded. We would have to go through all the stuff he bought with his catalogs. He gave me presents to give to my son and grandson. Never got the bag of candy but he would bake me a sugar free cake to take home with me. Told me I could make a surprise visit anytime I wanted to. And have never met anyone in my life who was truly in love like he and Helen were. Wow such an amazing man he was. Eye's lit up like a Christmas tree when he would show me all his Ken 1,2,3,4 pictures. Loved his kids, grandkids and orphanage family with a passion. Will always be my daddy in my heart. And not to forget his love for Duke. Sure am glad they won this year. Glad you are back with Helen again. Love You Susie*



Susan Bare - June 12, 2015 at 09:03 AM

MM

“ My main Man - Kenneth Blackstone, you enriched my life with your love. By far, you are the kindest gentleman I have ever known. Although we met in the spring of 2004 picking weeds on your lawn, I felt like we had known one another for a lifetime. I would say you definitely made fine wine out of sour grapes. Your beautiful wife Helen was very special and you two complimented each other well - 65 years! Your children treated my family with the love and kindness you two instilled in them. Helen taught Alexis how to play piano. You shared your trinkets with Ben. You allowed me to tend your yard and payment was our friendship. You never forgot any of our birthdays and always baked us the best cake out of a box weve ever had not to mention the custom cake bottom! I always stopped in to get a hug and will continue to do so with your children. I am so grateful that we hugged on Memorial Day weekend when I came to town. Coach K and Duke gave you a farewell this year. I know your Brass Balls will be delivered ;) I know you are very happy with Helen in your arms again. I love you buddy and will collect my 2 boxes of brownies when I see you again.

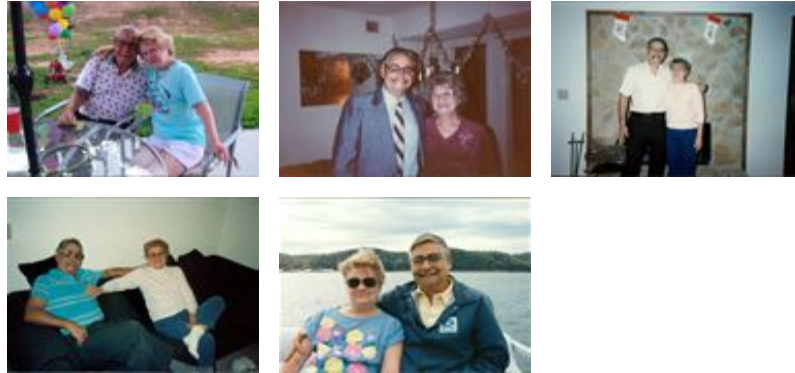
Your Neighbor and Good Friend,

Michael Melear and Family

Michael Melear - June 06, 2015 at 09:48 PM



“ 54 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



Tim Stewart Funeral Home - June 06, 2015 at 03:47 PM

JE

“ *I did not know Mr. Blackstone or any of his family, but the obituary you put in the Jacksonville newspaper was moving beyond words, and painted the picture of a wonderful man who will surely be missed by all who knew him. Thank you for sharing his story with those of us who did not know him; someone like him inspires us to be better people.*

Jerry - June 05, 2015 at 10:24 AM

JB

“ *The Byrd Family my husband Jimmy use to work at Duplex in Tucker. Jimmy thought a lot of Ken. We are very sorry for your loss. All of you are in our thoughts and prayers.*

Jimmy Byrd - June 04, 2015 at 02:49 PM

TF

“ We are so sorry about your dear loss. What a time it will be soon when our Loving God, Jehovah, destroys our enemy death forever, and we are reunited again with our loved ones (Isaiah 25:8; 26:19)! Then we will truly enjoy life the way God had originally purposed. May these thrilling promises comfort you in the days ahead.

Thomas Family - June 04, 2015 at 01:07 PM

JL

“ What a beautiful tribute you wrote. I very clearly remember having lunch with Kenny and Joe Sexton and some other Homekids on Friday at Lexington Barbecue the last time Joe was at Homecoming. Kenny was with his granddaughter, and, I'm sorry I don't recall her name, but he always seemed so happy and carefree. I remember thinking how sweet his granddaughter was to Kenny and how much she seemed to love her Grandfather. I didn't know him well, but he was a Homekid, and that made him family. Rest in peace, Kenny. We love you and will remember you fondly. Homekid love, Joanie Bright Larson, Homekid's kid.

Joanie Bright Larson - June 04, 2015 at 01:27 AM

VW

“ My Deepest Sympathy to the family and friends of this wonderful man. He will be missed and loved forever.

Victoria Woodall

Victoria Woodall - June 03, 2015 at 08:06 PM