



Edward Juleous Hopkins

November 25, 1929 - April 14, 2018

Edward Juleious Hopkins, 88, of Porter, Texas, passed from this life early Saturday morning, April 14, 2018, at Unlimited Care Cottages in Willis, Texas. E.J. was born on November 25, 1929, in Raven Hill (near Oakhurst), Texas. He was the youngest of 9 children born to Benjamin and Lieurett Hopkins. E.J. graduated from high school in Oakhurst, in 1946. E.J. entered the U.S. Army in 1951 and served his country during the Korean War until 1953. He married Violet Moody on May 8, 1952, in Evergreen, Texas.

Upon his return from the military, E.J. worked for Hughes Tool for 10 years. He and Violet became parents during this time. Firstborn was their son, Carl, and 15 months later they were blessed with twin girls, Sheila and Sharon. In 1963, E.J. became a Houston Police Officer. He eventually retired from HPD with 27 years of distinguished service. E.J was also a Mason for 60 years with the Park Place Lodge, No 1172.

Anyone that knew E.J., knew he was a “fiddler”. He purchased his first fiddle in 1949, taught himself how to play, and never stopped learning. His repertoire of tunes was perhaps unmatched. He entered his first fiddle contest in 1954 in Crockett, TX. He got the contest bug and came back to win the World Championship Fiddlers Contest in 1968 and 1969. By 1973, E.J had recorded three albums and several singles. He also began teaching his son, Carl, to play the fiddle and guitar. He was on the original board of directors for the Texas Old Time Fiddlers Association, and in 1991 E.J was inducted into the Texas Fiddlers Hall of Fame in Hallettsville, Texas.

E.J. was preceded in death by his parents: Benjamin and Lieurett Hopkins; his brothers: John Hopkins, Benjamin "K" Hopkins, Bernis Hopkins, and Odell Hopkins; his sisters: Sis Carter, Betty Queen, Reba Mannes, and Francis Hopkins.

E.J. is survived by his wife of 65 years, Violet; son, Carl Hopkins (wife Tonya); daughter, Sheila Hopkins Hendricks; daughter, Sharon Kenley (husband Clay); 7 grandchildren: Westley Trevino (wife Jenny), Shelley Jumper, Casey Kenley, Travis Kenley (wife Chloe), Sidney Kenley, Cassidy Marsh (husband Sam), and Hyatt Hopkins; 3 great-grandchildren: Katie Jumper, Kolton Jumper, and Reagan Kenley; 23 nieces and nephews; and numerous other relatives and friends.

E.J. was a wonderful husband, father, grandfather, and great-grandfather. He loved people and always treated people with respect and kindness. His friends and family will love him and cherish their memories of him forever. He will always be remembered as a TRUE "Texas Fiddler".

Services: Date: April 16, 2018 1:00 PM: Viewing at Sam Houston Memorial Funeral Home Chapel (Huntsville, TX) 2:00 PM: Celebration of Life at Sam Houston Memorial Funeral Home Chapel Graveside Service: Center Hill Baptist Church Cemetery (Oakhurst, TX)

Those wishing to leave memorial condolences for the family may do so at www.shmfh.com

Previous Events

Visitation

APR 16. 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM (CT)

Sam Houston Memorial Funeral Home - Huntsville
1700 Normal Park Dr.
Huntsville, TX 77340
(936) 291-7300
belinda@shmfmh.com

Service

APR 16. 2:00 PM (CT)

Sam Houston Memorial Funeral Home - Huntsville
1700 Normal Park Dr.
Huntsville, TX 77340
(936) 291-7300
belinda@shmfmh.com

Interment following service

APR 16 (CT)

Center Hill Cemetery
Oakhurst, TX

Tribute Wall



“ *Edward Juleous Hopkins*

November 15, 2022 at 08:33 PM



“ *My thoughts and prayers are with you all. EJ was a great man and was loved by many! I have many happy memories of fiddle contests and July 4th picnics in Oakhurst growing up. My Dad (O.B. Pierce) loved EJ dearly and so enjoyed picking and playing with him over the years. Thanks so much for sharing EJ with all of us. He truly entertained and enriched our lives.*

Sheryl Pierce Holmes

Sheryl Pierce Holmes - April 26, 2018 at 11:54 PM



“ *E.J. will be dearly missed by our family. He was the finest of finest. He was a brother law enforcement officer and a best friend. He was a mentor and a beloved member to our family that will always be cherished and never forgotten. Our prayers are with family.*

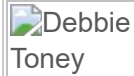
Jerry Bennett & family

Jerry L. Bennett - April 17, 2018 at 09:38 PM



“ *Wonderful memories and great times with EJ at the Cochran Store & many fiddle events. Our thoughts and prayers are with the family.*

Sherry Burnham - April 17, 2018 at 02:23 PM



Debbie
Toney

“ *My condolences to the Hopkins family. My dad (David Hoot) thought so much of EJ. He loved to hear him play the fiddle. I'm sure there is a big reunion going on in heaven right now with his brothers, and all the people that loved him and his music*

Debbie Hoot Toney

Debbie Toney - April 16, 2018 at 10:48 PM



HH

“ *E.J. Hopkins made a difference. He was a fine fiddler. A man that was fun to be around. I remember him from the times he came to the Grand Master Fiddler Championship in the 1980s, and he always had a crowd around him stealing licks! He could play Texas-style, bluegrass and about anything else he wanted. Dr. Harris and Howdy Forrester enjoyed his fiddling so you know he was good!*

The Grand Master Fiddler Championship and the Harris family send our heartfelt condolences to Vi, Carl, Sheila, Sharon, all the Hopkins family and friends. We can all take some peace in knowing his is with our Lord, and the wonderful legacy he leaves behind. His memory will live on in his children, grandchildren, and friends he touched and encouraged.

*Sincerely,
Howard Harris*

Howard Harris - April 16, 2018 at 09:27 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Edward Juleous Hopkins.*



April 16, 2018 at 09:25 AM



“ *Our deepest heartfelt condolences to the Hopkins family.*

*Shelley & Jerry Collard
Montgomery, TX.*

Jerry Collard - April 16, 2018 at 09:03 AM



“ *Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Edward Juleous Hopkins.*



April 15, 2018 at 10:27 PM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Edward Juleous Hopkins.*



April 15, 2018 at 10:12 PM

DW

“ *Our condolences and prayers to all the Hopkins family.
EJ was one of the truly “Good Guys”, and a most excellent fiddle
player and very
personable friend.
Always an honor and much fun playing music with EJ.
All our love,
Doug and Ingrid de Werd*



Doug and Ingrid de Werd - April 15, 2018 at 10:02 PM

“ Almost three decades ago, George Jones asked:

*Who's gonna fill their shoes
Who's gonna stand that tall
Who's gonna play the Opry
And the Wabash Cannonball
Who's gonna give their heart and soul
To get to me and you
Lord I wonder, who's gonna fill their shoes?*

When the legends pass on, they leave a hole that no one can really fill, and E. J. Hopkins is a legend in Texas fiddling. Nobody played the old tunes like he did.

But E. J. was much more than a great fiddler; he truly was a gentleman in every sense of the word. He was kind, courteous, always willing to help a struggling fiddler wanna-be learn a new tune or a new variation. I know, because I was a wanna-be fiddler the whole time I went to contests.

No matter how bad I played, E. J. was there with a kind word, encouragement, and an offer to help if I wanted it.

Mike Austell, Brian Utzman and I were fortunate to go to E. J. and Vi's home several times for jam sessions following contests in the Southeast Texas area. They were wonderful, gracious hosts, making sure that everyone was comfortable, everyone had more than enough to eat (Carl was particularly good at this) and that every musical--or wanna-be--got a chance to play.

Vi, Carl, Sheila and Sharon, you're in our prayers.

Richard Harrison - April 15, 2018 at 09:43 PM



“ *Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Edward Juleous Hopkins.*



April 15, 2018 at 08:36 PM



“ *Marianne Westmoreland lit a candle in memory of Edward Juleous Hopkins*



marianne westmoreland - April 15, 2018 at 08:35 PM



“ *Kalynn Kuykendall lit a candle in memory of Edward Juleous Hopkins*



Kalynn Kuykendall - April 15, 2018 at 07:29 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Edward Juleous Hopkins.*



April 15, 2018 at 07:26 PM

RM

“ Ronald W. McKee purchased the Lily and Rose Tribute Spray for the family of Edward Juleous Hopkins.



Ronald W. McKee - April 15, 2018 at 07:11 PM



“ Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the family of Edward Juleous Hopkins.



April 15, 2018 at 04:39 PM

Shelley Jumper

“ Shelley Jumper lit a candle in memory of Edward Juleous Hopkins



Shelley Jumper - April 15, 2018 at 03:46 PM

DG

“ Danny, Teresa and Gertrude purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Edward Juleous Hopkins.



Danny, Teresa and Gertrude - April 15, 2018 at 02:19 PM

CB

“ Carolyn G Baker lit a candle in memory of Edward Juleous Hopkins



Carolyn G Baker - April 15, 2018 at 01:06 PM

 Margie Crisp

“ EJ, Vi, and Johnny and I shared music, fun, friendship, and laughter for Forty-plus years! You will be so missed, EJ. Go Rest High on that Mountain, our friend. Our sincere love and condolences to the family. Margie and Johnny Crisp

Margie Crisp - April 15, 2018 at 10:54 AM

JF

“ James&Margret Mature and family purchased the Treasured Lilies Spray for the family of Edward Juleous Hopkins.



James&Margret Mature and family - April 15, 2018 at 10:39 AM

MC

“ What a nice man and a heck of a fiddle player!!!!

Mark T Chalker - April 15, 2018 at 08:53 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Edward Juleous Hopkins.*



April 14, 2018 at 10:49 PM



“ *Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Edward Juleous Hopkins.*



April 14, 2018 at 08:04 PM