



Jack Delbert Kyle

January 13, 1931 - January 25, 2018

On January 25, 2018, Jack Delbert Kyle, beloved husband, father, and grandfather, took his final earthly walk and walked into the presence of his Lord and Savior. Jack, the fifth child born to Jack Anthis Kyle and Birdie Mae Henry, greeted the world on January 13, 1931 in Rockdale, Texas.

Jack grew up in Rockdale, Texas where he was a star athlete. It was there he earned the title of the “Rockdale Rocket”, known for his speed and tenacity on the field. Jack thought he had hung up his football cleats for the last time when he caught the eye of a coach at Sam Houston State Teacher’s College. He was so impressed with Jack that he offered him a full football scholarship. Jack, who came from humble beginnings was astounded to learn he would be able to go to college, all expenses paid, all for playing a game he loved. At Sam Houston, he excelled on the field, starring as a running back, place kicker, punter, and defensive back. He was selected to the “Little All-American Team” in 1951, named All-Conference 2 years, as well as being named captain. His impact on the football program has continued to this day, where he still holds records, including the longest return in school history and the second-most points scored in a single game.

Jack’s love affair with Sam Houston State University (SHSU) began at the age of 17, the day he walked on the campus, and lasted until the last beat of his heart. It was only rivaled by the love he had for his wife of 65 years, Mary Charles Kyle, whom he met while at SHSU. Over the years, he served the University in many capacities, including devoting countless hours to the

Letterman's Association. In 1977, he was inducted into the Bearkat Hall of Honor and on three separate occasions, he served as its President of the Letterman's Association.

In 1983, he received the honor of being named one of Sam Houston State University Distinguished Alumni.

Public service was an integral part of Jack's life, which he demonstrated throughout his career. When Jack graduated from SHSU, he became an educator and coach in the Huntsville Independent School District. He was respected as a dedicated teacher and an excellent coach, helping lead the Huntsville Hornets to a 1953 State Championship. Jack left teaching in May of 1958 and joined the Texas Department of Corrections (TDC). At just 34 years old, he became the youngest warden in history in the Texas prison system, when he was assigned to the Ferguson Prison Unit. Jack often said his days at Ferguson were some of his happiest. Soon after becoming Warden, he was appointed as Assistant Director for Business at TDC. He was a hard worker, a fair boss, and a man of character in all he did. Before retiring in 1984, he was appointed by the Texas Supreme Court to serve as Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Texas State Employees Retirement System. In 1991, Governor Ann Richards appointed him as Chairman of the Texas Board of Pardon and Paroles.

In addition to his service to TDC and SHSU, Jack was deeply ingrained in his community. He was a Lifetime Silver Spur Member for the Walker County Fair, a Walker County and City of Huntsville Public Safety Executive Board Member, and an Honorary Judge for the Second Administrative Judicial District. He was pivotal in establishing and organizing the annual Criminal Justice Conference for Judges throughout Texas. Jack was a dedicated member of the First United Methodist Church of Huntsville, where he occupied the same pew for over fifty years. He was a member of the Forrest Lodge #19 AF&AM Huntsville Masonic Lodge for sixty-five years, as well as a member of the York Masonry, San Jacinto Chapter 7.

Jack was a devoted family man and friend. He most enjoyed his time at Club

Lake. Each year, he looked forward to hosting his college football buddies at Club Lake, as well as joining his brothers, Larry and Scotty, on a pilgrimage to the Texas Coast. Always a lover of animals, he always enjoyed quiet afternoons with his puppy, Pippin, curled up in his lap.

Jack was preceded in death by two sisters, Lucille (Kyle) Towery and Ila Odell Kyle; and two brothers, Graham Gillis Kyle and wife Dorris, Henry Welton Kyle and wife Helen; sister-in-law, Buttons Kyle. He is survived by his devoted wife, Mary Charles, as well as his daughters, Debbie Kyle McGee and husband Bobby McGee, Kathy Kyle Bankhead and husband Steve Bankhead; grandchildren, Kyle, Megan, and Anna McGee, Matthew, Deborah, and Michael Bankhead; Siblings, Ila Mae Kyle Cook and husband John, Phyllis Kyle Marshall and husband Fred, Larry Kyle, and Scotty Kyle and wife Dorothy.

The Family will receive friends at Sam Houston Memorial Funeral Home, on Monday, January 29th at 5pm. A celebration of life service will be held at 10:00 A.M. on Tuesday, January 30, 2018 at the First United Methodist Church of Huntsville with the Reverend Daniel Irving officiating.

In lieu of flowers, it was Jack's wishes that contributions should be made to the Life Member Fund of SHSU Letterman Association, the First Methodist Church of Huntsville, or a charity of your choice.

Memorial condolences may be made to the family online at www.shmfh.com

Previous Events

Visitation

JAN **29**. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

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

Funeral Service

JAN **30**. 10:00 AM (CT)

First United Methodist Church of Huntsville
1016 North Sam Houston Ave
Huntsville, TX

Tribute Wall



“ *Jack Delbert Kyle*

November 15, 2022 at 08:33 PM



“ *This is Kyle Jacks eldest grandson. It's been over 2 years and I think about the greatest man I have ever known almost every day. It's sad but I wonder what Americans would say today about the things we stand for. All we hear is success and money but it's freedom we're losing and virtuous people like Papa are gone it seems sometimes. That said he knew my dream was to make a film loosely based on him and today I finished the camera rig that will make a short film in hopes to garner the attention I need to make a feature film. Anyone interested in hearing about the project or helping is free to email me at mcgeedavidkyle@gmail.com Papa I love you and I know your guidance will see me where you intend.*

David McGee - April 09, 2020 at 12:26 AM

DB

*We knew Mr. Kyle from church. What an amazing example of God's agape love. He loved on my husband and I in our then young marriage. When we had our sons, he loved on them as well. He would talk to our "now 25 year old" son about his "pa" (pacifier) and his plush "Snoofy" (Snoopy) dog. To this day, a pacifier is a "pa" and Snoopy is and will always be "Snoofy". We moved from Huntsville in 2008. Until he passed, each year around Christmas we would get a special letter. Mr. Kyle would include a check and a wild story about how Santa had left that with him (with instructions for the gift which he passed along) to help with Tye and Milo's Christmas gifts. I came across one of his priceless letters a few days ago. What precious memories and what a legacy! It was an honor and privilege to have known him and to be able to spend a little time with him each week. I would be so blessed to see your film, if you could send me the details:
dawn_bratton@yahoo.com*

Brent, Dawn, Tye, and Milo Bratton

Dawn Bratton - January 15 at 07:47 AM

GP

“Debbie I am so sorry for loss. I pray for your family and you to have peace. 🙏🙏”



Gay McDougald Perry - January 30, 2018 at 10:47 PM

HO

“You are in my prayers. May God's choicest blessings be yours.”

Hattye Owens - January 30, 2018 at 01:31 PM



“ *Kosher Tower of Treats was purchased for the family of Jack Delbert Kyle.*



January 30, 2018 at 05:19 AM



“ *Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Jack Delbert Kyle.*



January 30, 2018 at 05:09 AM



“ *Laura & Rick Williams purchased the Country Basket Blooms for the family of Jack Delbert Kyle.*



Laura & Rick Williams - January 29, 2018 at 02:07 PM



“ *What an incredible life. Thoughts and prayers to the family.*

Dee Howard

Dee Howard - January 29, 2018 at 11:49 AM



“ *Magnificent Life Spray was purchased for the family of Jack Delbert Kyle.*



January 29, 2018 at 11:25 AM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Jack Delbert Kyle.*



January 29, 2018 at 10:12 AM



“ *Texas Gulf Bank purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Jack Delbert Kyle.*



Texas Gulf Bank - January 29, 2018 at 09:17 AM



“ *Sacred Duty Spray was purchased for the family of Jack Delbert Kyle.*



January 29, 2018 at 08:57 AM

JJ

“ I am so very sorry for your loss. My prayers are with you during this difficult time.

Jeannine Jacoby - January 29, 2018 at 07:22 AM

V(

“ Vicki (Pledger)Easley lit a candle in memory of Jack Delbert Kyle



Vicki (Pledger)Easley - January 29, 2018 at 01:25 AM

Person icon

“ Divine Light was purchased for the family of Jack Delbert Kyle.



January 28, 2018 at 08:42 PM

LF

“ Love, David, Paula, and our entire family. purchased the Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet for the family of Jack Delbert Kyle.



Love, David, Paula, and our entire family. - January 28, 2018 at 03:38 PM



“ I just had a very nice visit with Mr Kyle several months ago at Brookshire Brothers Pharmacy. His mind was still sharp and we talked about life in Huntsville 30-40 years ago. He was a good friend of my Dad's and I enjoyed the time I worked with Larry at TDCJ. Good times....Sending prayers & much love to this awesome family. ❤️ ❤️



Jamie Sue Brinegar - January 28, 2018 at 12:49 PM

MH

“ My prayers to the family for comfort and peace during this time.



M. Hyvl - January 27, 2018 at 11:08 PM

SU

“ Very sorry for the loss of your dad, Debbie. Thinking of all of you. Love you all.
Shelly

Shelly Utter - January 27, 2018 at 08:46 PM

DS

“ Prayers for his family.

Deborah Sledge - January 27, 2018 at 07:47 PM

BC

“ We have so many fond memories of Jack at Club Lake. You will all be in our thoughts and prayers in the days ahead.

Bob and Mary Carol Coffman

Bob Coffman - January 27, 2018 at 06:06 PM



“ Sorry for your loss.



Mellicent Wiley - January 27, 2018 at 12:00 PM

BD

“ Barbara Gordy Durden lit a candle in memory of Jack Delbert Kyle



Barbara Gordy Durden - January 27, 2018 at 08:56 AM



“ I remember Jack as my PE teacher and math teacher in Huntsville Junior High. My condolences to his family. Henry Steffen

Henry Steffen - January 26, 2018 at 11:06 PM

BC

“ *Bridgettte Neeley Clay lit a candle in memory of Jack Delbert Kyle*



Bridgettte Neeley Clay - January 26, 2018 at 08:56 PM

VC

“ *My thoughts and prayers go out to Mary Charles, Debbie, Kathy, and their families during this difficult time of transition.*
Vicki Christopher



Vicki Christopher - January 26, 2018 at 07:13 PM

DM

“ *David McKee lit a candle in memory of Jack Delbert Kyle*



David McKee - January 26, 2018 at 06:37 PM

SS

“ *Sue And Pat Sprott lit a candle in memory of Jack Delbert Kyle*



Sue and Pat Sprott - January 26, 2018 at 06:06 PM