



James Ted Carpenter

November 12, 1948 - December 6, 2006

Our friend was born on November 12, 1948 in front of the “Alamo” in a taxicab. Maybe that was why he was such a history buff and practical joker. He grew up in San Antonio and Abilene Texas. At seventeen, he and a few buddies decided it would be fun to throw a sledgehammer head at federal mailboxes to see the letters go flying and of course they got caught. As punishment for this federal crime the presiding judge gave him a choice of 10 years in prison or joining a branch of military service. He chose the Marines where he served his country during the Vietnam War. When he finished his tour of duty Ted contacted that Judge to tell him thank you for turning his life around. While in the Marines, Ted completed the High School Equivalency Requirements to receive his High School Diploma and found a profound appreciation for Texas and American History, as well as, a knack for useless trivia. This began his journey to improve his life and enjoy the knowledge so many others have shared with us all. In the earlier 70’s Ted launched his career in telecommunications with Continental Telephone Company in Granbury, Texas as a lineman. In the earlier years of this new adventure Ted met a gentleman named Fred Nelson. Ted so admired Mr. Nelson and his communication talents that he decided to pattern his career after him. It was not uncommon for Ted to tell people he wanted to be a “Fred Nelson” and somewhere along the line he received his wish by gaining the respect and admiration from so many people in this profession. Ted was a wondering spirit and the communications industry fit him to a “T”, taking him throughout the

United States. Although he never thought of himself as an outgoing person, he really never met a stranger. He would open his heart to anyone, offering his support and friendship. He is a lifetime member of the American Legion and has been a member the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks for the past eight years. He was first to volunteer for any charitable endeavor, sharing his insight, equipment, and labor. The Hearts Museum has a special place in Ted's heart, therefore, in lieu of flowers, a small donation for the new Hearts Museum Building would be greatly appreciated or to the Ted Carpenter Memorial Fund, ATTN: Laurie Morgan, First State Bank, 33SH 75 N, Huntsville, TX 77320. We will miss him, our friend " James Ted Carpenter". Ted is survived by his wife Kay Carpenter; son, Steven Yeager and wife Susan of College Station; daughter, Michelle Yeager of Bryan; Bonnie Leeann Orr and husband Daniel of Temple; daughter Mary Lou Carpenter Wilson and husband Clint of Huntsville; son Collin Yeager and wife Stephanie of Bryan; brother Kenneth Carpenter and wife Marlene of Cortez, Colorado; sister Stacie Tuggle and husband Bobby of Clyde, Texas; and 14 grandchildren. He was predeceased by his grandfather William Ovid Carpenter; grandmother Annie Lou Brookshire and step-grandfather Mr. Walter. The family will receive friends from 4-5:00pm on Wednesday, Dec 6 with a Celebration of Life Service at 5:00pm in the Chapel of the Sam Houston Memorial Funeral Home. Interment will be at the Peach Creek Cemetery on Thursday, Dec 7th with a graveside service at 11:00a.m. Services are under the direction of the Sam Houston Memorial Funeral Home Huntsville. Memorial condolences may be made online at www.shmfh.com. Peach Creek Cemetery-Bryan, Texas

DIRECTIONS From Huntsville take Hwy 30 West to Green Prairie Rd (just after you come out of the bottoms on 30 before you get to Bryan) and turn left. Go to Hwy 6 and turn left. Go approx. 5-6 miles and turn on Peach Creek Rd (sign may say Hwy 159/Miligan-that goes right and Peach Creek Rd is to the left). Cemetery is approx. 1 and ½ miles down Peach Creek Rd.

Tribute Wall



“ *James Ted Carpenter*

November 15, 2022 at 08:33 PM



“ *God I miss you! At the barbershop just today someone spoke of how much they loved the end of the road crawfish boil. They said they still have there T-shirt. I said me to!!
Life has definitely NOT Been the same without you.
Please look down from heaven, and put peace in sissy's heart daddy. She needs it so much. I ❤️ you*

marylou - March 01, 2016 at 10:01 PM



“ *I just found out about Ted's passing, I was real close to the family growing up in Clyde, Tx. Ted was an awesome person, he will truly be missed. To the family I hope you all are doing good I think about ya'll often. Love Richy*

Richy Strange - March 26, 2011 at 04:05 PM



“ *Kay,
Sorry I didn't hear about Ted sooner. He was a great friend and will be sorely missed.*

Ruben Lopez - January 09, 2011 at 04:15 PM

JK

“ i all will always thank of my granpaw as a good man and a great and wonderful granpaw there is no one in the world that can replace him in my heart i will all ways love him till the day i die he was a fun man the hang out with im just glad that i go to allways go places with him we had a lot of fun togeater and i just want to say i love u papa ted and miss kay

James Kyle - January 07, 2007 at 12:57 AM

BO

“ I would like to thank everyone for all the love and support that we have been shown. my dad was truely a great man as everyone's admiration has shown. He was a honest, special, and unique man. Who will be missed by no one more than myself and my childeren. who will live on thru him. thank you very much!

SISSY

BONNIE(SISSY)ORR - December 24, 2006 at 10:40 PM

BC

“ To Kay and family:

Ted was truly a remarkable, one of a kind person who truly loved people and did alot for mankind. To me, and I'm sure to alot of people, we can think of Ted often by things we see and hear everyday. Things that he has said and his ways are things that can help carry us through life with as they did when he was with us. Here is a website <http://susie1114.com/LiveALife.html> that was sent to me today that says it all for and about Ted. Best wishes.

Love, Barbara and Andy

Barbara Campbell - December 08, 2006 at 10:12 AM

JK

“ Kay, Delores and I want you to know that our thoughts & prayers are with you & your family at this time. Ted always made us feel that we were a part of your family, and I am sure everyone who knew him feels that way. I will miss his humor & that West Texas wisdom. Love, Father John & Delores

John & Delores Keller - December 08, 2006 at 09:53 AM

TD

“ Ted gave us many of laughs when having to work with him over the phone. He definitely didn't treat you like a stranger. So continuous prayers to the family. God will walk with you the whole way.

Tanya/Brenda/nec dispatchers - December 07, 2006 at 06:29 PM

VD

“ I always enjoyed talking and laughing with Ted over the phone. He made my job so much easier when I had to call him for an urgent call no matter the time of day. I'm glad he touched my life. He will be greatly missed

Vicki R/nec dispatch - December 07, 2006 at 05:44 PM

RP

“ Kay,
We too were very sad to hear about Ted. We remember the silly, funny guy who was forever laughing and making jokes. Ted was "one of a kind" and our prayers and thoughts are with you and your family.

Rick & Lisa Powers - December 07, 2006 at 05:31 PM

CB

“ *Miss Kay*

We were so sadden to read of Ted's passing. CW would have been over there for the service today but he has been babysitting me after a car wreck. Please call us when time premits and especially over the holidays. We will be here and have plenty of good cheer and an extra room.

Ted was one of the neatest's people we have known and are very glad we had the chance to walk alittle thro his life. You are one of the favorite friends that we know are there and wish we could seen more of.

Our love and prayers are with you and friends.

CW and Patti Benson

Chris and patti Benson - December 07, 2006 at 05:07 PM

JB

“ *Kay, words can not adequately express the feeling of loss you must have at this time. Ted was such a wonderful friend. Those days at UCS were special indeed. I will never forget Ted. He is in our thoughts and prayers as are you and your family. I wish that I could have made the services.*

James Brown - December 07, 2006 at 04:42 PM

KK

“ Mrs Kay- I am so deeply sorry for your loss. I knew Ted and loved him as my own family. He was such a loving and wonderous man, giving and giving as if his bank of emotions had no bottom. He was my father's best friend and was ALWAYS there for any of us, treating us like his own children. He was one of the funniest, good natured men I have ever met I can't express how I will miss him in our lives.

If you ever need anything, please do not hesitate to call. I will be there.

Love you - Kayde

Kayde Kerrick - December 07, 2006 at 12:08 PM

LP

“ Our thoughts and prayers are with you and the kids which I could be there. Our family has had many losses and Ted will be missed by all of us so much. He just was so funny and always was there for each of us when we need a shoulder. God bless you and all of us.

*My love always,
lisa, paul, danielle, mathew and uncle john*

Lisa Page-McGaugh - December 07, 2006 at 08:08 AM

LE

“ I met Ted many years ago through Jerry Ravel and learned to appreciate his wisdom and advice. Even after leaving Texas I called Ted for his advice on communications issues. He will be missed. My thoughts are with every member of his family.

Lonnie Eslick - December 06, 2006 at 10:12 PM

KB

“ Dear Family,
While I am a new comer to the Ted family that he created, there are two things that come to mind that explain what kind of person Ted was. He encouraged me beyond my own understanding to do a benifit fundraiser and when he saw my concern with failuure after the event he inspired me to continue to give back to the community. He said it was worth it. He was truly a giving man with a good and true heart. Ted was a gentleman. Ted never knew a stranger. Ted surrounded himself with good and loving people. Ted kept a smile on his face for everyone. Ted loved Kay and his family beyond words.

Kenny & Kyla Bray - December 06, 2006 at 07:54 PM

SP

“ Miss Kay and family, I am so saddened for you. I know this is a difficult time and will continue to be as you continue to mourn your loss and search for answers. My heart and my prayers go out to you.

Ted always treated me as if we had been old friends for years and years, while we had only talked on the phone and via email. When we actually met, it was like seeing an old friend AGAIN and it was then that we both said...WOW this is actually our first face to face meeting. He just made you feel so comfortable. His stories were wonderful and I know he will be missed by everyone.

Obviously he and all of you have many friends to see you through this. Although no words can actually help now, I hope they do soon.

God Bless you all.

Sparkie Davis Ray

Sparkie - December 06, 2006 at 07:54 PM

TP

“ *My thoughts and prayers are with you and your family. Michelle I love you and I am always here for you!*

Tina Price - December 06, 2006 at 07:39 PM

DG

“ *Mrs. "k"*

My heart was saddened today as I read about Mr. Ted. He was indeed a wonderful person, who always had a smile and a joy for life.

Many times he has offered his shoulder for me to cry on and many times he made me laugh when I wanted to cry harder. It is with great sadness that I write this. I know that he will never be forgotten. My deepest sympathy to you and the family.

Donna Gillis - December 06, 2006 at 05:07 PM

JP

“ Dear Kay and Family,
I was deeply saddened to hear about your loss from my sister Jean. I am also saddened that I never had the pleasure of meeting Ted. I know from both my sister and Ceil (another of her business colleagues and a dear friend) that he was a genuinely good man - thoughtful and kind and the consummate professional, always working ethically and professionally in his business dealings. From what Jean and Ceil told me about their project in SNOWLAND, NY, it would really have been "the winter of their discontent" were it not for the lightheartedness and professional support Ted provided.

My Mom also send her deepest sympathy. She told me that although she never met him, she feels she knows Ted from my sister. She is very sorry for your loss.

Both of us are praying for you all. May God grant Ted eternal rest in peace for all the goodness her shared with others, and may God send you strength and comfort in your sorrow.

Love, JoAnn P.

JoAnn Paslawsky - December 06, 2006 at 03:30 PM

MM

“ Ms. Kay & Family, my heart is with you. I am extremely saddened by this situation, but I have been so blessed to have met and known such a genuine person. The one person who always believed in me was Ted. During a recent conversation he told me to keep my head up and stay strong. Please know that my heart goes out to everyone in your family. See you later Ted. I love ya!

Monica Macias - December 06, 2006 at 01:29 PM

FS

“ Kay,

What a great and glorious day when you and Ted met. I was always so happy that you two found each other. Please know that I am thinking of you in this sad time and praying for you and your family.

Ted was a real joy and a genuine person. He will be missed.

Love ya

Fawn

Fawn Simpson - December 06, 2006 at 12:43 PM

“ Dear Texas Family-

My eyes brim with tears at the mere thought of our losing Ted. He was a true, honorable & tough gentle man and one of the wittiest and kindest hearts ever to settle anyplace on this earth. I can also very easily laugh right out loud, though, just to mention one or another conversation I have had with him over the years.

We met almost 20 years ago on a job in “SNOWCountry,” NY; I was a contractor for UCS at that time. His love for the snow intrigued me since he seemed such the tried and true-blue Texan. He told me once after that job that he never saw anyone do so much with so little in such a short time (I took it as a compliment). While there, he not only supported all of us fellow workers, but he also brought a great and high level of professionalism and talent with him everywhere. He was smart talented and had a penchant for lightening even the heaviest load- whether it was work related – or not. Ted also sought to always make the customer’s first and the workers just about beside them & that is one tall order! Somehow, though, Ted seemed to always come through- especially in “Real Life.”

Over time, we further cemented our friendship with phone calls and my visits too- hence I feel you are my Texas family. As I spoke with him the last time a little while back, I remember telling him that I had just been reading something that I had written during my last visit. I always consider that I am truly blessed having seen your genuine love and true compassion for neighbor most folks can only talk about- let alone put into everyday practice. The special & kind reaching out to anyone I saw Ted and Kay encounter was a gift from God for all of us.

Of the many, many folks whom I have met in this life, professional and personal- Ted will always hold his special place in my heart. Ted Carpenter was a true and gentle giant among men. It is truly an honor to be counted among those he considered friends. I am

grateful to have know this honorable man who lived the Marine motto every day- Semper Fidelis Ted!

My condolences and prayers are with you all. I so very sorry that I cannot join you as you honor Ted today. His spirit is among always for he touched so many folks with his goodness- he will never be gone from this earth. Please tell him I will miss him dearly until we meet again.

With love & prayers~

Jeannie P.

Jean Paslawsky - December 06, 2006 at 11:39 AM

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With love & prayers~

Jeannie P.

Jean Paslawsky - December 06, 2006 at 11:39 AM

DR

“*Ms. Kay, Michelle & family, our hearts and prayers go out to you in this time of sorrow. Teddy Pooh was a great man who was so good to so many people. His laughter was infectious and he truly made many of my days with just a simple smile and a "Hello Beautiful". My family and I will remember him always. Our Deepest Sympathies, Love Deanie & Roy Rose*

Deanie Rose - December 06, 2006 at 11:09 AM

FJ

“*My thoughts and prayers are always with you. Michelle I will always be here for you if you need me. I love you and the whole family very much. Call me if you need anything. Love always, Frances*

Frances Johnston - December 06, 2006 at 08:12 AM

JB

“*Kay, I was always so proud to be Ted's friend. He is so deeply missed. Please know that you are in Robyn and my prayers. John Brewer*

John Brewer - December 06, 2006 at 08:00 AM

SH

“ To Kay, and Ted's Family and Children - I never met a more genuine person. Words can not lessen the depth of your loss, but a man's worth is measured by the number of friends and loved ones. Ted had many, and he will be truly missed.

Stan Hodges - December 05, 2006 at 10:23 PM

RS

“ I'm really sorry this happened to you .My deepest regards for you and your family.My prayers are with you i believe Blessing come from tragedies.May
JESUS our Savior
Be with you

I love you all,Randy

Randy Snodgrass - December 05, 2006 at 08:24 PM

FB

“ Kay and the Carpenter family, you are all in my thoughts and prayers and please accept my condolences for your loss. Ted was a good person and always had a joke or piece of history to enlighten me, in our conversations.He will be missed.

Frank Burgy - December 05, 2006 at 07:11 PM

SB

“ Ms. Kay and Michele, and family, I want you know that my heart goes out to you at this most difficult time. Ted meant the world to me, and I know if not for him and his help I wouldn't be the person I am today. I will always remember Ted and his joking ways, but also Ted was always there when I needed help, advise, or just a shoulder to lean on. I will always remember Ted as I travel the West Texas Area, knowing theres always part of Ted at nearly every stop I make. Just always remember that we love ya'll and will always love Ted, and we will be together again. Stephen, Judy & Ryan Boyd

Stephen Boyd - December 05, 2006 at 05:35 PM

MB

“ Miss Kay and LuLu,

I am thinking about you, and am so very sorry for your loss. We will all miss Ted so much...

Love, Michelle

Michelle Lyons Burnett - December 05, 2006 at 04:08 PM

WH

“ Kay and the extended family of Ted. This world will not be the same now that Ted has left us. We will all miss him. I enjoyed his stories, loved his laughter and knew his friendship. Have faith and know that you are in my thoughts and prayers. - Love Whit

Whit - December 05, 2006 at 03:10 PM

JW

“ Kay, its been a long time but I have not forgotten my UCS friends. Ted will be missed but remember this, he is not gone he is just away. He will alway be in our hearts. I remember all the fun times we shared & it seems like it was just yesterday. I am so sorry I am unable to make the services but my thoughts and prayers are with you and your family. God Bless!

Joyce Watson - December 05, 2006 at 02:38 PM

JD

“ Hey guys. I know its been a while, but I heard what happened. I just want you'll to know our thoughts and prayers are with you. We became like family and I have missed you'll greatly although it seemed like such a short time we had with Ted. But, I know our little Mandy loved him like a grandpa. Give us a call sometime. 830-964-55 or Jen's cell 830-237-1020.

Jenny Dickerson - December 05, 2006 at 02:29 PM

PL

“ Kay and Michelle, you are in my thoughts today with the hope you are finding peace. As I worked with Ted throughout the years at NEC, he always had funny stories to share. He had a great sense of humor and a big heart for his family and friends.
Phyllis

Phyllis Lively - December 05, 2006 at 02:01 PM

PL

“ Kay and Family, we are so sorry for your loss. So many great memories of Ted... exploding cigarettes @ OU! Almost made me quit smoking! Or, me with the broken leg and you guys bailing out on me when the elevator started to ring alarm bells. Love you all.
Pegi

Pegi and Kelly Lair - December 05, 2006 at 12:26 PM

BL

“ *Kay and family, you are all in our thoughts and prayers. Ted was such nice, friendly, careing and funny friend. He will be missed by all. Bret*

Bret LeFevre - December 05, 2006 at 11:50 AM

LW

“ *Kay and family you are in my thoughts and prayers. I met Ted while we worked together for UCS what feels like a hundred years ago and we managed to stay in touch on and off through the years as our paths crossed. I will always remember his sense of humor, his laugh, his support and his friendship. I*

May you find peace and comfort from those who love you and loved Ted.

Leigh Wolfer - December 05, 2006 at 11:06 AM

CM

“ *Miss Kay,
Ted was a great friend and coworker. Always good for a laugh and a word of wisdom or a folksy bit of Texas trivia. He had a big heart and was never afraid to show his emotions. Even could laugh after having his cigarette blown to bits in front of a whole college cafeteria....well, eventually he laughed. I cherish many happy memories from our "cutover" days and most include you and Ted.*

I've always admired both of you for the depth of your compassion and your "open door" to anyone in need. Your crawfish boils were like visiting a family reunion. Everyone having a good time and comfortable in your hospitality.

Know that you and your family are in Dick and my prayers. Sorry we can't be there for the services but you will all be on our minds and in our hearts.

*Our love to you and the entire family,
Cheryl and Dick Morton*

Cheryl Morton - December 05, 2006 at 10:55 AM

LR

“ *MY THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS ARE WITH YOU AT THIS TIME.*

LUCY RUSHING - December 05, 2006 at 10:33 AM

TW

“ *Ted, you are gone, but not forgotten
Your memory lives on
Ted, you were a blessing
Who fulfilled our lives for so long.
Now our eyes are filled with sorrow and tears
For without you is how we face tomorrow
Laughter is how we remember you best
Full of faith, sunshine, and happiness.
Always a word to spare
Always a smile to share
Always a laugh or two
Always loved, Ted, that's you.*

*Miss Kay and family;
Know that you are in our hearts
We love you and God bless*

Love Terry, Lorie, Jaimie, TW

Terry and Lorie Wattenbarger - December 05, 2006 at 09:48 AM

VW

“ *Miss Kay and family, my thoughts and prayers are with you. Just remember he will always be with you and his friends. My love and support to you all. Vickie*

Vickie Hinson Wells - December 05, 2006 at 09:45 AM

TK

“ *Miss Kay, I am so sorry for your loss. I was proud to call Ted a friend, as well as a brother Marine. He will not be forgotten. Semper Fi, Thaddeus. Keep the faith...*

Trey Klonower - December 05, 2006 at 08:30 AM

MC

“ *Kay and Family,*

I will always be thankful for Ted and his wisdom. He was a friend and mentor. I will think of him often and will miss him forever. My thoughts are with you and may God be with you during this time. If you need anything please let me know.

*Love,
Martha*

Martha Cooper - December 04, 2006 at 08:49 PM

DL

“ *Kaye, My deepest condolences are with you and your family. I was blessed to have worked with Ted at NEC and had such a wonderful friendship with him. I will certainly miss him.*

David Lillis - December 04, 2006 at 06:18 PM

JM

“ *Kay and Family - Please accept my deepest condolences for your loss. We were all so lucky to have known this very special man and I cannot imagine life without "Ted, the Telephone Man". I will miss his smile, his sweet words that always made me laugh, his wisdom and guidance and most of all our special talks. He was also a special friend of "Uncle Harry" and don't you just know that they are together hashing things over once again. Kay, he loved you and his family so very much and he was so proud to be a husband, father and grandfather. May you find peace in a lifetime of memories of him.*

Love, Jeanmarie

Jeanmarie Murray - December 04, 2006 at 05:58 PM

KT

“ Kay and Chele, you are both in our thoughts at this most difficult time. Please know that Ted was a joy for us both and touched us deeply with his friendship. Our love and support to you as always.
Kim

Kim and Pete Theodorsen - December 04, 2006 at 04:53 PM

TS

“ Ted, I will miss you. You always made me laugh and smile. Kay, I love you and if you need anything let me know. Love you, Tammy

Tammy Horn Seay - December 04, 2006 at 04:35 PM