



Joe Eckley Kirk Jr.

May 17, 1939 - March 31, 2021

Joe E. Kirk, Jr., age 81, passed away at Methodist West Hospital in Houston on March 31, 2021.

He was a 1956 graduate of Huntsville High School. He went on to earn degrees in Mathematics and Physics at Sam Houston State University, and a PhD in Mathematics from the University of Texas. While at UT he met his wife of 54 years, Carol.

Jodie taught Mathematics at the University of Wyoming, the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga, and taught over thirty years at Sam Houston State University.

As well as being an Eagle Scout and Lieutenant Colonel in the US Army Reserves, he loved flying and was a licensed pilot and instructor for many years.

His commitment to God, his family, and his community was illustrated in his years of active church membership, swim meets, maintaining many pets, music recitals, and 4-H with his daughters, and serving on boards of organizations like the Good Shepherd Mission.

Jodie is survived by his wife, Carol, his daughter Carin Kirk Fredere, her husband, James, and son, Nathan, of New York, NY; his daughter Christin Kirk Lyday and her children, Peter and Vivian, of College Station, TX; his daughter Angela Kirk Fidati and her husband, David, of Chattanooga, TN. He is also survived by his sister Catherine Kirk Harris, her husband, Jim, and family of Austin, TX.

He was dearly loved and will be missed.

The funeral will take place at Sam Houston Memorial Funeral Home on Tuesday, April 6th at 10:00 AM. There will be a visitation at the same location on Monday, April 5th from 5:00 PM — 8:00 PM.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be sent to the Joe E. and Mary O. Kirk Endowed Scholarship, SHSU Office of University Advancement, P.O. Box 2537, Huntsville, TX. 77341-2537.

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

Previous Events

Visitation

APR 5. 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

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

Funeral Service

APR 6. 10:00 AM (CT)

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

Tribute Wall



“ *Joe Eckley Kirk Jr.*

November 15, 2022 at 08:33 PM



“ *We met Jodie and Carol when we first moved to Huntsville and have very fond memories. He was a very good man and I feel certain the Lord said “Well done good and faithful servant “ when Jodie transferred to heaven. Casey and Colleen Spencer*

Colleen Spencer - April 06, 2021 at 07:32 PM



“ *Many fond memories of the Kirk family. Blessings during this time and always.*

Greg and Dani Gathright - April 06, 2021 at 11:41 AM



“ *Catherine, so sorry to read about Jodie. You and the family are in my thoughts and prayers!*

Beverly Niederhofer - April 05, 2021 at 03:19 PM



“ *Fond memories of getting to know your wonderful family when attending Westminster Presbyterian Church in College Station. Jody was a committed Christian and dad who truly loved this family. May God comfort and bless you in the days ahead.
Andy and Barbara Crane*

Barbara & Andy Crane - April 05, 2021 at 02:39 PM

AP

“ Thinking of you and wishing you moments of peace and comfort as you remember a husband, father and grandfather who was so close to you. My prayers and love are with you.

Amy Perry - April 03, 2021 at 10:24 PM

BH

Fond memories of Dr. Kirk at SHSU, he loved telling stories and we were often off topic! Prayers to all who knew and loved him!

Belle Hansen - April 05, 2021 at 12:25 PM

LS

“ Jodie & Carol had been members of our Adult Class at Nortsude Baptist Church, Reagan Cooksey, Pastor, When our Class Leader was Bill Broach. Both Bill & Jodie were very knowledgeable of the Bible we had Very good Power Point lessons each Sunday, along With printouts if each lesson. Jodie & Carol have been missed, as has Bill Broach, who moved to Conroe.

Lydia Martinez Schraeder - April 03, 2021 at 04:36 PM

CN

“ Dear Carol and family, we are so sorry for your loss. Our prayers are with you all. We have wonderful memories of our times together. We love you all!
Carol and Mike Nichols

Carol Nichols - April 02, 2021 at 02:38 PM

MH

“ *M. Hyvl sent a virtual gift in memory of Joe Eckley Kirk Jr.*



M. Hyvl - April 02, 2021 at 12:31 PM

KS

“ *When I thought about returning to Texas in 2007 and interviewed at Sam Houston, Jodie Kirk made me feel welcome, showing me around the community. When we got to the department questioning me (as a candidate for the SHSU position), Jodie had several questions that contained the phrase "here in the GREAT STATE of Texas...." So finally, hearing this proud emphasis on "Great State", I responded along the lines, "Back when I taught in the GREAT STATE of Michigan..." Jodie laughed and said, "But see how hard that is to say!" Clearly "Great State" only works well as a description of just one state -- the state which Jodie so clearly loved.*

Jodie loved Texas, loved Huntsville and was a good friend during some tough times. I thank God for Jodie and Carol. My prayers go out to Carol and their family.

Ken W Smith - April 01, 2021 at 07:29 PM