



Judge Kenneth H. Keeling

July 26, 1939 - October 24, 2014

JUDGE KENNETH HALL KEELING Born in Leona, Leon County, Texas on July 26, 1939, his Honorable Kenneth Hall Keeling succumbed to his battle with cancer in the early morning of Monday, October 20, 2014. Judge Keeling is survived by his loving wife of 52 years, Sharon Kay Mask Keeling, and their three children, Karen Keeling Fuller and her husband, Michael Fuller of Flower Mound, Texas, Kimberly Keeling Gerdes and her husband, Jeffrey Gerdes of Old Bridge, New Jersey and William Mac Keeling and Christine Waites of Huntsville, Texas. Additionally, Judge Keeling was blessed with four grandchildren: Payne Fuller and Paige Fuller of Flower Mound, Texas; Jeffrey Gerdes and Robert Gerdes of Old Bridge, New Jersey. He is also survived by his sister, Margaret Keeling Erwin and her husband Frank of Dallas, Texas; brothers: Len Keeling and his wife Marlene of Montgomery, Texas, Mickey Keeling and his wife Virginia, Pete Keeling and his wife Nancy, both of Houston, Texas, Jack Keeling and his wife Mary of Centerville, Texas. Also survived by Robert P. Mask, (Nell) brother-in-law, Dumas, Texas and sisters-in-law, Connie Mask Morris (Steve) of Willis, Texas and Kathy Mask Emerson (Jess) of Spring, Texas. Numerous nieces and nephews, whom he cared deeply for and tried to mentor and assist them in any way. Also acknowledging his love, respect and admiration for a special aunt, Ethelee Mask Hubble, Navasota, Grimes County, Texas and uncle, Cecil Mask of Southlake, Texas. Judge Keeling was preceded in death by his parents, Alvis and Eloise Keeling and his grandparents, Freddie and Ruby Hall and Len and Gertrude Keeling.

Kenneth graduated from Centerville High School, Centerville, Leon County, Texas in 1957 and then earned his BBA from Sam Houston State University in 1961. Upon graduating, he moved to Houston, Texas and while working as an accountant for Cameron Iron Works, attended law school at South Texas College of Law, graduating in 1970. Serving for six years in the United States Air Force reserves at Ellington Air Force Base, he remained a life-long patriot. In 1971, Kenneth returned to Huntsville, Texas, hired by W.T. "Bill" Bennett, the former District Attorney whom he had long admired. In 1981, Governor Bill Clements appointed Kenneth to the newly created 278th District Court. After a number of years, he chose to return to private practice. He was again appointed to the judicial district bench by Governor Rick Perry, as the presiding judge again of the 278th District Court. He remained in that position until his death. Judge Keeling's family would like to publicly recognize and thank the following: his loyal and devoted office staff, Loretta Murray, Casey Robertson and Johnny West. A special love and thank you to Dr. Thomas Cole for his friendship and constant care. And to all the many Judges, lawyers, personal friends and supporters throughout the Walker, Leon, Grimes and Madison Counties, that he served, who supported him and cared about him a very special and sincere thank you. He loved the law and attempted to serve in a manner honoring his position. Services will be held on Friday, October 24, 2014 at 10:30 AM at the First United Methodist Church, 1016 Sam Houston Ave, Huntsville, Texas. A visitation and prayer service will be held at the Leona United Methodist Church, 189 Hwy 75 North, Leona, Texas, Leon County, Texas from 1:30 PM to 3:00 PM. followed by burial in his beloved Leon County at the Leona Cemetery, Leona, Leon County, Texas. Because of his great love for the law, the family request, in lieu of flowers, that memorials be made to the Honorable Kenneth Hall Keeling Law Scholarship Fund. Mailing address: American National Bank & Trust, C/O Karen Fuller, Trust Department, 1201 Cross Timbers Road, Flower Mound, Texas, 75028. A recipient to be chosen for study at Sam Houston State University, Huntsville, Texas and/or South Texas College of Law, Houston, Texas. Pallbearers

include Michael Fuller, Jeffrey Gerdes, Payne Fuller, Kermit Keeling, Marcus Keeling, Cyndi Erwin Larsen. Honorary Pallbearers include Wm. Robert "Billy Bob" Bitner, Dan "Red" McKaskle, Henry Batten, Johnny West, Wilburn Woods, Ernst "Hotshot" Cannon, Roger "Sonny" Knight, Jr., Kevin Knight, Bennie Rush, DeWitte Lindsey, and Dan Rodell. Memorial condolences may be made to the family online at www.shmfh.com.

Tribute Wall



“ *Judge Kenneth H. Keeling*

November 15, 2022 at 08:33 PM



“ *Condolences on behalf of the DeLong family,for your loss! Judge Keeling was a good man! I remember meeting the judge back when I worked for my Uncle (Robert DeLong Jr.), Huntsville has, in my opinion lost another great Judge. I'm sorry to post this so late however,I no longer live in Huntsville but do try to keep up with those who had been friends and colleges of my Uncle via the Item online. Again, my deepest condolences for your loss.
Risa (O'Donnell-Benedict) & the DeLong family*

Risa Benedict - December 01, 2014 at 08:01 AM



“ *Add my name to the long list of those who were recipients of Judge Keeling's kindness and wisdom. I first met him in 1978 in Leon County as the Child Protective Services worker. He was always compassionate and fair. His smile was infectious and he will be greatly missed. Praise God that he is now in perfect health and perfect peace. Prayers for comfort and strength to his family.*

Janice Willett - November 02, 2014 at 08:13 AM



“ *My deepest sympathy to the Keeling Family.Judge Kenneth Keeling will be deeply missed but remembered with memories of a very special person.*

From: Linda Coleman Harvell 10/25/2014 7:18 PM

Linda Coleman Harvell - October 25, 2014 at 07:43 PM

DC

“Well done!”
In Sympathy and In Prayer...

D. Cherry - October 24, 2014 at 10:42 PM

MG

“Sincere and heartfelt condolences to Judge Kenneth Keeling families.
May God's peace, grace, and continued blessings sustain and keep each of you in the days to come.
He was loved and will be missed by many!

Mary Joyce Archie Gilford - October 24, 2014 at 02:05 PM

BR

“He will forever be missed. The world needs more people as passionate as Judge Keeling.

Brandy R. - October 24, 2014 at 01:39 PM

HJ

“My thoughts and prayers to the family of Judge Keeling. May God Bless each of you! He will be missed.

H Jones - October 24, 2014 at 11:00 AM

JB

“Kay and family,
We are deeply saddened by the loss of Ken Keeling. Texas has lost one of its prime citizens, but you as his family have lost much more.
In this time of grief you are in our hearts and prayers.

Jerry & Betty

Jerry & Betty Bruce - October 24, 2014 at 08:31 AM

AE

“ Uncle Ken was devoted to his family and his profession; he was most deserving of the title "Honorable". We'll miss him and are praying for his whole family.

Andy, Lauren and Luke Emerson - October 23, 2014 at 10:20 PM

MW

“ I am sorry to hear of your loss. He was a good man. I am praying for your family.

Mellicent Wiley - October 23, 2014 at 09:20 PM

FG

“ Our deepest sympathy is extended to the whole Keeling family. Our thoughts and prayers are with you all. We know Ken will be deeply missed and remembered.

Fred & Charlotte Gerdes - October 23, 2014 at 08:08 PM

BL

“ Thanks for supporting, backing, and believing in me. I respected you immensely. Through the many gunfights, you were always by my side. I could always count on you in a pinch.
Your friend,
Buck

Buck LaQuey - October 23, 2014 at 07:04 PM

EN

“ My condolences to the Kneeling family. Judge Kneeling gave me my first "real" job and taught me so much. He has made a great impact on his community and he will be missed.

Erin Newcomb - October 23, 2014 at 04:27 PM

SC

“ Kay - May you and your family find peace and strength through God's love. He will not leave you nor forsake you. Msy you remember and enjoy those wonderful moments you shared with each other and with your family during the years you had together. My prayers.

Sandra Collier - October 23, 2014 at 11:07 AM

AT

“ I am very saddened to hear that Ken passed away on Monday.. He was a very special person and I so enjoyed my acquaintance with him. I have committed to memory some funny stories and conversations I had with him. He surely will be missed by so many people and especially by his precious family. My sincere sympathy to all of you. Kay, you are in my thoughts and prayers. Angela Towler

angela towler - October 23, 2014 at 09:59 AM

PG

“ Kay, My deepest heartfelt sympathy and condolences upon the loss of your husband. Such a loss slowly fades as time passes, but we always want to keep the good times and warm memories alive in our hearts. I pray that God will hold you and your family in His hands to comfort and heal your hurt.
My prayers will be for you and your family and my Sunday School class will also hold you up in their prayers.
Love, love, love
Phil Gilbreath

Phil Gilbreath - October 23, 2014 at 12:08 AM

PC

“ Kay, Karen, Kimberly and Bill, Our thoughts and prayers are with you. Having been through this, we know that it is very hard. God gave us the ability to remember and those memories will sustain you in the years to come. Peggy, Kathy and David Cole

Peggy M. Cole - October 22, 2014 at 10:45 PM

DT

“ Dear Kay and family. Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family at this time of sorrow in your lives. Ken is now out of pain and is with our Lord Jesus. He was a good friend and will be missed. May God wrap his loving arms around you and give you comfort and strength. Please let me know if there is anything I can do to help you through all of this. Love you, Dorothea and family.

Dorothea Tarver - October 22, 2014 at 02:52 PM

RM

“ Mrs. Keeling, We are so very sorry to hear about Mr. Keeling passing. He was the best attorney and friend that Gene and I could ever ask for. You and him took such good care of us. Our thoughts and prayers are with you and the whole family during this time.

Rhonda & Gene Mauldin

Rhonda Mauldin - October 22, 2014 at 12:46 PM

DK

“ Kay and family,
Our thoughts are with you all during this difficult time as it is not easy to lose a dear loved one. May you find peace, comfort and reassurance that Ken is no longer in pain and suffering and he is now resting in the peace which only the Lord can give! Blessings to you!

Judge Don and Sylvia (Sibi) Kraemer

Don & Sibi Kraemer - October 22, 2014 at 12:42 PM

NJ

“ What a GREAT person Ken Keeling was! Kay and family, my thoughts and prayers are will you all! He will be missed by all who knew him! Norma Dell Jones of Lovelady, formerly of Huntsville.

Norma Dell Jones - October 22, 2014 at 10:34 AM

KP

“ My thoughts and prayers are with you Karen and your family. Hugs to you my friend!!!

Kenda Primeaux - October 22, 2014 at 09:35 AM

RH

“ My thoughts are with you. I will miss my talks with Ken about issues, law and life. What a powerful force of life he was.

Rich Heiland - October 22, 2014 at 08:54 AM

MH

“ My prayers and thoughts are with you Kay and family. May our Lord give you strength, comfort, peace, and guidance only He can provide you . Ken was a person I will never forget. He always had time for people. Ken helped so many. When my parents needed help Ken was there and helped them when all there was nothing but confusion. I will never forget that. We enjoyed each others company and life's experiences. Those precious memories are never lost.

M. Hyvl - October 21, 2014 at 11:37 PM

SP

“ Judge Keeling was one of the most loyal and best friends I've ever known and I was blessed to call him my boss for eleven years. He was my mentor, my critic, and most of all my supporter. He always beamed with pride when telling me stories about his family, he loved all of you deeply. I pray you find comfort in knowing he is no longer in pain and shining brighter than ever before.
All my prayers, Susan A. Pugh.

Susan A. Pugh - October 21, 2014 at 10:20 PM

MK

“ Kay and family, Our thoughts and prayers are with you all at the time. GOD BLESS!!!!

Milton and Peggy Kroesche - October 21, 2014 at 10:06 PM

CS

“ Kay, Karen, Kimberly and Bill, My thoughts and prayers are with you all. I hope knowing he is at peace gives you some comfort. Please let me know if there is anything I can do. Ken was always very kind and always offered help and advice if needed.

Celia Mask Shaver - October 21, 2014 at 07:36 PM

EM

“ He was a Dear Friend that will be Greatly Missed! Many Thoughts and Prayers are being sent to his Family in their time of sorrow!

Earl H. Moore - October 21, 2014 at 06:38 PM

JM

“ It was my honor and privilege to work for the Judge, even for a short time. He cared deeply for his family, the law, and those with whom he worked in the courthouses where he practiced and presided from the bench. God bless him and his family.

John McGuire - October 21, 2014 at 05:30 PM

DB

“ My deepest sympathies are extended to the members of the Keeling family. Ken was a good man, whose many contributions to the justice system will be remembered for years to come. We can all take comfort in the knowledge that he is no longer suffering and that he is now enjoying the company of his Maker.

Dan Beto - October 21, 2014 at 02:27 PM

CP

“ My sincere condolences for your loss. My thoughts and prayers are with you and your family.

Cynthia Prehoda - October 21, 2014 at 02:20 PM

JM

“ Kay & family, may God wrap His loving arms around you and give you peace that passes all understanding. We are praying for you.

Jim & Linda McKenzie - October 21, 2014 at 02:18 PM

RF

“ *My thoughts and prayers are with you Kay and the family. Judge was a very good friend to me and I will never forget his guidance and advise when I first took office. I couldn't have asked for a better mentor. He will be missed.*

Robyn Flowers - October 21, 2014 at 01:51 PM