



Thomas Willard "T.W." Keeland

April 28, 1924 - November 4, 2014

Thomas Willard (T.W.) Keeland

T.W. Keeland, age 90, passed away peacefully in his home on November 4, 2014. He was born in New Waverly, Texas, on April 28, 1924 to the late Llewellyn Milikien Keeland and Kirby S. Keeland. He was preceded in death by his wife of 63 years, Sue Whitley Keeland. He is survived by two sons: Thomas S. Keeland (wife Kathy) and Robert W. (Bob) Keeland, 4 grandchildren: Kelly Keeland Peck (husband Tom), Ryan L. Keeland, Kyle R. Keeland (wife Stefanie) and Lauren Keeland Alphonso, 4 great-grandchildren: Katelyn Keeland, Ty Keeland, Trace Keeland and Alden Alphonso, and two special family friends: Jan Herklotz and Joe Whitehead. By his family and close friends he was lovingly called "Nena".

As a young man, T.W. attended Allen Academy in Bryan, then Texas A&M University before leaving to proudly serve in the 8th Air Force during WWII. He returned to complete a degree from the Southwestern Graduate School of Banking from Southern Methodist University. He was a businessman and entrepreneur in the New Waverly and Huntsville areas throughout his life. He owned and operated a ranch, an insurance agency and a hardware store in New Waverly, but banking became his true interest, owning banks in New Waverly, New Caney and Huntsville. He enjoyed the banking business for 50 years before retiring.

He developed many interests, with the primary one being hunting with his wife, Sue, his sons, and later with his grandchildren. He was an avid 42 player and was known among the family for “renigging” occasionally. He loved music and singing; he served as the song leader of the Methodist Church in New Waverly for many years, and enjoyed singing with the Huntsville Men’s Choir. T.W. served in a variety of civic positions in both New Waverly and Huntsville, with his most memorable being the election as Mayor of New Waverly and President of the New Waverly ISD School Board. He especially loved sports, and for many years played golf with his family and friends, and was an active supporter of the Sam Houston Golf Teams. Later in his life he loved to watch baseball, football and golf on T.V. and would passionately discuss plays, scores and strategies with visitors in his home.

T.W. was a member and a Past Master of the John Sims Masonic Lodge #458 A.F. & A.M. in New Waverly. He was recently recognized for 68 years of membership there, an honor he treasured.

Services for T.W. Keeland will be held on Friday, November 7, at 10:00AM at the Sam Houston Memorial Funeral Home, Huntsville, Texas with Pastor Scott Dornbush officiating. Burial will follow a graveside service at 11:30AM in the Hill Cemetery in New Waverly. Viewing and visitation with the family will be held on Thursday, November 6, from 5:00-7:00PM at Sam Houston Memorial Funeral Home. In lieu of flowers, the family asks that donations in his honor be made to the First United Methodist Church, 1016 Sam Houston Avenue, Huntsville, TX 77320.

The family wishes to express a special thanks to Dr. Tom Cole, Claudie White, Nancy Lara, Melissa Lara, Betty Humphreys, Karen Henriquez, and Elva Johnson for the dedicated care and attention they provided.

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

Tribute Wall



“ *Thomas Willard "T.W." Keeland*

November 15, 2022 at 08:33 PM



“ *My condolences to the Keeland families. I'm sorry to hear about the loss of your loved one. Mr. Keeland did so much for so many people! Some Bible scriptures that have helped me during times of loss include Isaiah 26:19 and Psalm 37:29 which states "Your dead ones will live...They will rise." And the Bible also says: "The righteous themselves will possess the earth, and they will forever reside upon it." Therefore, the Bible promises that there will be a time when we may be reunited with our loved ones lost in death by means of an earthly resurrection. This is further confirmed by John 5:28,29 which says "Do not marvel at this, because the hour is coming in which all those in the memorial tombs will hear his voice and come out." This is possible thanks to Jesus Christ's ransom sacrifice. Thus we have a genuine hope of everlasting life in a world without wickedness or suffering. I hope these scriptures will be of some comfort to you. For more encouraging thoughts on this subject, please visit www.jw.org*

Janice Marsalis - November 18, 2014 at 08:29 PM

TP

“ I did not know Nenaw (my wife's grandfather) for very many years, but in my experience, he was one of the most kind and giving people I have ever met. A part of my heart will forever be grateful for our relationship.

That man could drive a 200 hp New Beetle like he stole it!!!! I'll never forget the look on everyone's face when they found out I let him take it. He had a Cheshire grin and a lead foot.

My condolences to the Keeland Family.

Tom Peck - November 07, 2014 at 07:16 PM

CM

“ Dear Bob and family: Your family is in our thoughts and prayers. May your Dad rest in peace.

Sincerely, Annie Mae Snoe, Robert Snoe and Carolyn Snoe McClure

Carolyn McClure - November 07, 2014 at 01:59 PM

JB

“ Tom and Bob, I just found out late yesterday about your dad's passing. Sorry but I am out of state and was unable to make services. Your dad was a great man and true friend and helper to many people. Our thoughts and prayers are with you.

Joe Billnoske - November 07, 2014 at 12:06 PM

VE

“ Dear Keeland Family Members,
What a kind, wonderful man Mr. "T Dub" was. Always cheerful and interested in the well being of others. He was definitely an icon in the New Waverly community for so many years. He will be missed. We are all better people for having known him. Let your memories be your comfort.

Hugs,
Vergie

Vergie - November 06, 2014 at 10:03 AM

SD

“ Tom, We are out of town and just read the sad news about your dad in The Item-on-line. He was a wonderful person and always a joy to be around. Please know that you and all of your family are in our prayers. Jan and Steve Davis

Steve and Jan Davis - November 06, 2014 at 09:49 AM

CS

“ Thinking of you all during these difficult days. I can only imagine the rejoicing & domino games happening in Heaven today!

Charlotte Swor - November 06, 2014 at 08:18 AM

YH

“ Mr. Keeland was the president of the New Waverly I. S. D. school board when I was hired to teach there nearly fifty years ago. It was my first job after a newly acquired degree from Sam Houston State College. The week before school started, he and the board gave a fish fry for all the faculty and staff at his deer camp in Hawthorne, if memory serves me correctly. “Miss” Sue had made curtains for the camp house from “a bolt of unbleached domestic” as she so stated. I had the privilege of visiting with him just a year or so ago while waiting at the eye clinic in Huntsville. Mr. Keeland was as sharp minded as ever. He was always for making better the community in which he lived and he did. May God comfort his loved ones at this time.

Ynette Boyce Hermes - November 06, 2014 at 12:52 AM

DU

“ Our thoughts and prayers are with your family during this difficult time. May God wrap his comforting arms around you.

Danny & Pam Upchurch - November 05, 2014 at 08:27 PM

NJ

“ What a job it was to know this great man. He was always so nice to me when I was the SHSU Alumni Director at Sam. He will be missed by all who knew him. Norma D. Jones of Lovelady, formerly of Huntsville.

Norma Dell Jones - November 05, 2014 at 06:18 PM

TW

“ Thinking of your family during this difficult time. Prayers for peace and comfort. Cherish the many years together and wonderful memories made along the way!

Tandi Wright - November 05, 2014 at 11:00 AM