



Hastings Key

July 22, 1922 - April 24, 2007

Retired Senior Master Sgt. Hastings Sullivan Key Jr., 84, of Corsicana and formerly of Austin, passed away Tuesday, April 24, 2007, at Heritage Oaks Retirement Village. Visitation will be held from 6 to 8 p.m. Thursday at Griffin-Roughton Funeral Home, Corsicana. Service will be 11 a.m. Friday at New Beginnings Family Fellowship in Blooming Grove with the Rev. Bryan Connally officiating. A full military graveside service will be held at noon Saturday at Luling City Cemetery in Luling. Mr. Key was born July 22, 1922, in Port Lavaca to Sullivan Key Sr. and Thelma Roberts Key. He graduated from Runge High School in 1940. He attended The University of Texas until the war started. He joined the Army Air Corps to serve his country. He was the only survivor of a mid-air collision and then was shot down over Germany and was a POW of World War II. Hastings returned to Austin and worked at Western Electric. While in Austin, he met the love of his life, Delores Thurman, and they married May 5, 1950. He was recalled in 1951 to the Air Force and retired in 1979 after serving in Turkey, Germany, Japan and Thailand. He worked for GTE and retired after 10 years. Then he volunteered at the VA. Hastings was an avid baseball fan. In 2002, he moved to Blooming Grove to be closer to his grandsons and watch them play ball. He then became an avid Lions fan. He attended New Beginnings Family Fellowship in Blooming Grove. Survivors include his wife, Delores Key of Corsicana; son, Jim Key and wife Sharon of Austin; daughter, Jane Connally and husband Bryan of Blooming Grove; grandchildren, Parker Connally and Garrett Connally of Blooming

Grove, Christy and Van Hilderbrand of Austin, Brandy Key of Houston, and Misty and Scott Green of Houston; and nine great-grandchildren.

Tribute Wall



“ *Hastings Key*

October 08, 2023 at 12:04 PM



“ *I loved him and he knew it and he loved me back. What more could anyone want from a friend? I will miss him but have faith that someday we will meet again. Until that day comes, I will cherish the memories.*

Wayland D. Clark - April 24, 2007 at 12:00 AM



“ *What a privilege and an honor to have known Key. I am so thankful that he and Dodie moved to Blooming Grove. From the minute he moved here, he was at home with everyone. Always that smile and kind words. He had a way of making you really feel special. He loved everyone. My family has been blessed by his presence. We all will miss him.*

Diane Richards - April 24, 2007 at 12:00 AM



“ *Key, you always lit up the ball park when you showed up. I'll miss you. My condolences to all your family.*

Larry Rogers - April 24, 2007 at 12:00 AM

MD

“ *"The Old Man" shared himself unselfishly. Always quick with a smile, a handshake, a joke. He didn't just brag about his kids and grandkids, he bragged about everybody's kids. He asked how everybody was doing and sent his best to those he missed visiting with. A chance meeting led to a cherished friendship.*

Our Love and Prayers,

Terry, Slick, Susan, & Mic

Mickey Dorsey - April 24, 2007 at 12:00 AM

KZ

“ *Key was a great guy. Always in a good mood at the ballyard, always with a funny remark. His UT family will miss him. God bless.*

Kurt Zeitler - April 24, 2007 at 12:00 AM

VW

“ *THE TIMES WE SHARED CONVERSATIONS WITH HIM HE WAS A VERY FRIENDLY NICE MAN. DELORES MAY YOU AND YOUR FAMILY CHERISH THE MEMORIES YOU ALL HAVE GATHERED THROUGH THESE YEARS MAY GOD BLESS YOU ALL.*

vernon and virginia wattinger - April 24, 2007 at 12:00 AM

JS

“ *Key you will be missed by everyone at Disch Falk Field. God bless and Hook Em Horns*

John Sanders - April 24, 2007 at 12:00 AM

RM

“ *Hunting Story (one of many).*

Key was tough as nails. One year, hunting in Colorado, Key flipped his 3-Wheeler as he was coming DOWN a steep hill. He ended up beneath it . We got him out of the mud and got his 3-Wheeler back on track. He said he was OK and we kept going. We didn't find out until much later that he was walking around on a broken ankle. Jim applied a heating pad that night and made it better for a while. Key's moto - don't stop while there's still daylight.

Camping Story (also one of many).

This year will mark the 24th Annual "4th of July Picnic Without Willie Nelson". Back in 1988, at the 5th Annual Picnic, we were playing the regular horsehoe tournament to pass the time while we had a few adult beverages. Key wanted to play washers, so we pulled together some of the best washer pitchers around. After several hours of exhausting play Key ended up beating everyone, even his partner. With that 1st win Key became the founder of washer tournament we play today at the annual event.

Key's moto - Let's play something I can win.

I will truly miss Key's friendship, humor and drive to enjoy life to it's fullest.

Robert Mitchell - April 24, 2007 at 12:00 AM

HW

“ *Key was one of the nicest men I know and we always were so happy when he and Dodie or any of his family got to come to the picnic. He was such a great Longhorn fan and will be dearly missed. Until we meet again!*

Harold & Virginia Wiesenhutter - April 24, 2007 at 12:00 AM

HW

“ We met Mr. Key at a U.T. baseball game and instantly became friends. We would watch the game and talk and talk. He would talk about how special Dodie was to him and how very proud he was of all his family, especially his grandchildren and great grandchildren. He would tell us how excited he was about the new church building in Blooming Grove. He talked about serving his Country and the American Flag and what it meant to him. Our grandson, Caleb, always looked forward to Mr. Key's hugs, talking about the baseball team, and going to Omaha. We, as well as our children and grandchildren were blessed to know Mr. Key and will cherish the many memories.

Harold & Virginia Wiesenhutter - April 24, 2007 at 12:00 AM

JD

“ mr. key was the most diehard UT baseball fan that i ever met.i will really miss him.my condolences to the family.

jerry davis - April 24, 2007 at 12:00 AM

VJ

“ Mr. Key; May we all be blessed as you were with a loving partner like Dotie, a long and prosperous life with kind and loving children and grandkids, and a zest for life until the very end. Save us all a seat at the great ball park in the sky. Until we meet again, Longhorn Country and the Wild Bunch loss is Heaven's great gain.

LOVE YA and MISS YA; Vernon Fuller Jr

HOOK'EM HORNS

Vernon Fuller Jr. - April 24, 2007 at 12:00 AM

GG

“ We will always remember Pops smile, his way of telling stories and incidents that were real and precious. When you were around him, he was like a warm fuzzy buzz around your heart. Knowing him has immeasurably enhanced our lives.

We enjoyed him.

We admired him.

We loved him.

And we will truly miss him. . .

And we will celebrate his life until we see him again!

Griff & Deb Griffin - April 24, 2007 at 12:00 AM

MG

“ We were so happy when Pop and Gran moved to Blooming Grove. They became a part of our church family and we were so thrilled to have them. Pop was so fun much to be around, he kept us all laughing. I loved to hear the stories about the chickens. Pop and I had something in common, we both loved Garrett and Parker his grandsons to the max! I have loved listening to "Pop stories" that Garrett and Parker have shared with me all these years. Pop was a unique individual who led a very full life. He seized the moment, that is for sure. I will miss his hugs and compliments he so willingly gave out!

Mandy Grounds - April 24, 2007 at 12:00 AM

JA

“ Pappy Key was a great American and I knew him in the Air Force and he was a great friend and comrade. He was a very proud Texan and was the main reason I retired to Austin when I retired from the Air Force. We enjoyed a few round of golf together and also a few baseball games at Disch-Falk field. I will always remember him and Dodie as good friends and hope he didn't suffer long before the Lord took him away from us.

Jim and Sandra Ankenbauer - April 24, 2007 at 12:00 AM

JJ

“ To laugh often and much;
To win the respect of intelligent people and the affection of children;
To earn the appreciation of honest critics and endure the betrayal of false friends;
To appreciate beauty, to find the best in others;
To leave the world a bit better, whether by a healthy child, a garden patch or a redeemed social condition;
To know even one life has breathed easier because you have lived.
This is to have succeeded.

Emerson

You will be missed greatly dear friend. My life was enriched by having known you.

Jaki Jones - April 24, 2007 at 12:00 AM

JF

“ To have been privileged enough to spend time with Key was to know true humor, love of life and love for a good time. We still tell stories (and we all have one or two of our own) when we all get together at the July 4th picnic that usually start out with... "I remember when Key..." Our hearts go out to Dodie, Jane, Jim and all of you so close to him - God bless you and comfort you through this difficult time.

Joe and Blee Ficklin - April 24, 2007 at 12:00 AM

MH

“ I am thinking of you Delores and praying that God will give you comfort and peace at the difficult time.

Margaret Harren - April 24, 2007 at 12:00 AM

DM

“ Some my life's fondest memories are from those years working with Mr. Key in Dripping Springs, TX. I will never forget him.

Daniel McMillan - April 24, 2007 at 12:00 AM

JR

“ I would send my deepest sympathy to you and your family. I did not personally know Mr. Key, but I do know his son, Jim.....who spoke nothing but wonderful things about his father. May God bless your family. Sincerely, Jason Risinger

Jason Risinger - April 24, 2007 at 12:00 AM

RD

“ We're going to miss Key at the domino table and at Disch-Falk. Someone else is going to have to wear the Blaze Orange shirt to the early games, it was never hard to keep an eye on him then. Hunnert, Joel and I will deal a few hands in his memory under the trees at the earliest opportunity. I'll bet he will be watching from above!

Ron DeFord - April 24, 2007 at 12:00 AM

R(

“ i would to express my deepest sympathy to

i want to express my sympathy to Hastings family for their loss. it was a honor for me to have met him. i will never forget his friendship he shared with me at longhorn baseball games. rest in peace.

randy mulenburg (mule) - April 24, 2007 at 12:00 AM

TP

“ I always enjoyed when Mr. Key stopped by to see Jim here at Station 14. He was a hoot- always smiling and had something funny to say. Thanks for your service to our country and rest in peace!

Theron Proctor - April 24, 2007 at 12:00 AM

DL

“ Please accept our deepest thoughts of sympathy, and know that Hastings, Dodie, and the family are in our prayers.

Frank and Olga Garza and Family

Doris Looney - April 24, 2007 at 12:00 AM

WM

“ I was very sorry to hear about Key. I will always remember his sweet smile and wide eyes (especially when I would see him at the baseball games). I am really thankful that through Wayland & Kathy I was able to meet such a kind gentlemen (in every since of the word). Dodie, my thoughts and prayers have been with each of you. I hope I will get a chance to see you again soon. Love ya lots.

Wanda L. Morris(Pybus) - April 24, 2007 at 12:00 AM

DP

“ Key was a really nice guy. He was pretty funny and had lots of good stories. The few times I got to visit with him, he really was entertaining. I wish peace and comfort to Dodie and the whole family during this time of sadness.

Debra D. Parr - April 24, 2007 at 12:00 AM