



James William Sykes

July 14, 1927 - May 8, 2013

James W. Sykes, 85, of Corsicana passed away Wednesday, May 8, 2013 at Navarro Regional Hospital. He was born July 14, 1927 to Jack and Annie L. Sykes of Dawson. He married Lorene Brown on Sept. 26, 1950 and they celebrated 62 years of marriage. They were faithful members of Calvary Worship Center.

He served in the United States Army from 1948-1953 including serving during the Korean conflict. After his honorable discharge he went to work for the Texas Department of Transportation as a heavy equipment operator and retired after 34 years of service. He was inducted into the Navarro County Historical Society Hall of Fame in 2012. The most notable contribution he made to Navarro County was as the lone remaining charter member of the Corsicana Emergency Corps, for which he is perhaps best known. He served in the CEC from 1961 to present. He also served as a reserve officer for Corsicana Police Department and the Navarro County Sheriff Department.

He was the chief of the organization for many years. He enjoyed events such as Derrick Days, assisting with the traffic at the Corsicana Tiger football games, Jingle Bell Jog, escorting funerals for both Griffin-Roughton Funeral Home and Corley Funeral Home. The last count the family had, he had escorted over an estimated 3,000 funeral processions.

He was preceded in death by his parents Jack and Annie L. Sykes and

sister Wanda Shipley of Baytown.

He is survived by his loving wife Lorene Sykes; son J. Keith Sykes along with Ronda and Airyka Kirkham; daughter and son-in-law Karen and Charles Fincher; grandson, Drew Sykes who he called his "TooToo," all of Corsicana, as well as brother J. B. Sykes and wife, Jessie of Waco and sister, Bernice Hecker of Royal City, Wa.

Visitation will be 6 to 8 p.m. Sunday, May 12, 2013 at Griffin-Roughton Funeral Home.

Services will be 2 p.m. Monday, May 13, 2013 at Calvary Worship Center with Bro. Gary Johnson officiating. Burial will follow at Hamilton-Beeman Cemetery. Pallbearers will be Jim Hodge, David (Punchy) Dycus, Kevin Raymond, Daniel Vasquez, Lewis Palos and Les Cotton. Honorary Pallbearers will be the members of Corsicana Emergency Corps. Contributions in his honor may be made to Calvary Worship Center at 1364 North Beaton Street or Corsicana Emergency Corps, P.O. Box 353, Corsicana, Texas 75151.

Previous Events

Visitation

MAY 12. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Griffin-Roughton Funeral Home, Corsicana
1530 N. 45th Street
Corsicana, TX 75110
(903) 874-4774
info@griffin-roughton.com

Funeral Service

MAY 13. 2:00 PM (CT)

Calvary Worship Center
1364 North Beaton
Corsicana, TX 75110
(903) 875-1084

Tribute Wall



“ *James William Sykes*

October 08, 2023 at 12:04 PM



“ *Just want to send a Special note to Mr. Sykes special Family. Thank you for sharing this Amazing Man with us. I know he was at every funeral in our past. When the procession drove by the Office I had to walk outside and hold my hand over my heart in his Honor. He always had a SMILE on his face when I would see him and talk to him, he always knew who I was. I was so honored by that. I know he is in Heaven now welcoming in all the New Angels... Again thank you for sharing this precious man with us all. God Bless You All*

Diane Douglas - May 15, 2013 at 02:58 PM



“ *James was one of the first people I met when moving to Corsicana and I quickly considered him a friend and have ever since. Corsicana owes a lot to him for all he did for the community.*
Bill Barcheers

Bill Barcheers - May 14, 2013 at 09:49 PM

SG

“ James and Lorene went to our church when I was a teenager. As I grew older, my respect for James and the role he played in helping people say goodbye to their loved ones by escorting them to the cemetery and by standing with his hat over his heart, showing true respect to each and every person that passed his way, grew beyond belief. I loved when our paths would cross when I was in Corsicana visiting my parents. They were truly a loving couple who emanated God's love. I pray that God will give his family the same peace and comfort he helped to give to those he served over the years.

Sandra Berry Green - May 13, 2013 at 08:46 PM

JB

“ We are very sorry to hear of your loss of Mr. Sykes. He was a wonderful man. He was very well respected by so many people for the person he was and the many kind and helpful things he did to help so many others. We have many great memories of Mr. Sykes. We pray for strength for your family now and for the future. God Bless your family and his many friends.

Bill, Jane, Lisa, and Jonathan Batton

Jonathan Batton - May 13, 2013 at 03:39 AM

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Bill, Jane, Lisa, and Jonathan Batton

Jonathan Batton - May 13, 2013 at 03:36 AM



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Bill, Jane, Lisa, and Jonathan Batton

Jonathan Batton - May 13, 2013 at 03:22 AM

GB

“ We are so sorry for your loss. Our thoughts & prayers are with you during this most difficult time.

Greg & Mona Barlow - May 12, 2013 at 10:20 PM

LP

“ James was a great asset to Navarro County for so many years. He will be sorely missed. Lewis & Donna Picone

Lewis & Donna Picone - May 12, 2013 at 09:35 PM

RB

“ Keith and Karen

We are so sorry for your loss. Your father was a good man and will be missed by the whole community.

*Sincerely
Rick, Dolly and Laura Bowles*

Richard Bowles - May 12, 2013 at 06:34 PM

AB

“ Keith, know that my heart goes out to you and family. Many great memories of James. A great guy, much love to all

Alan Barnes

Alan Barnes - May 10, 2013 at 08:11 PM

BW

“ I am the daughter of Bill and Vera Murphy and my parents were friends of James and Lorene. Both of them highly respected Mr. Sykes and cherished his friendship. I am so sorry for your loss. Keeping you in my thoughts and prayers.

Billie Van Murphy Weatherby

Billie Murphy Weatherby - May 10, 2013 at 03:25 PM

JM

“ Keith, I am so sorry for your loss. Your dad was an amazing man and I will always think of him escorting the funeral processions and how he always honored them with respect. In addition, how he helped with Derrick Days and other activities in Corsicana. He will be missed.



Janet Magee
Red Oak TX
(former resident of Corsicana)

Janet Magee - May 10, 2013 at 12:26 PM

PV

“ Our thoughts and Prayers are with you

Pursley Volunteer Fire Department

Pursley VFD - May 10, 2013 at 10:53 AM

AA

“ 5/9/13

Dear Sykes Family,

I was so very sorry to hear of your loss.

I know that mr. Sykes was well known and respected by my parents, Margie and Charlie Flynn.

May His Peace that passeth understanding uphold each of you.

Ailsa Flynn Anderson

A Anderson - May 09, 2013 at 08:17 PM

PS

“ Our prayers are with Mr. Sykes's family. It always so touched my heart every time I saw him "working" a funeral, escorting the procession to the cemetery. When the cars got to the intersection, there he stood with his hat off, stopping traffic, and showing respect. It was always such a blessing to see him there. He will be missed.



Paula Sikes - May 09, 2013 at 08:10 PM

JB

“ We were so sad to learn about James. through the years we were connected in so many ways from Keith working with me at Brookshires to James being there for our son Jonathans funeral. Our hearts and prayers are with you all. May God bless you all. Love, James and Teresa Brown

James Brown - May 09, 2013 at 07:53 PM

MT

“ Marsha Taylor lit a candle in memory of James William Sykes



Marsha Taylor - May 09, 2013 at 07:37 PM

SH

“ Karen, I am so very sorry for your loss. Please know that you and your family are in our thoughts and prayers. Please let us know if we can do anything for you. Love you!.



Shelley Howard - May 09, 2013 at 04:29 PM

KD

“ Prayers and all our love are with y'all. Here if you need anything.

Love, Kenneth and Sandy Dunagan

kenneth and sandy dunagan - May 09, 2013 at 02:35 PM

BM

“ *BRENDA MCCOLLUM lit a candle in memory of James William Sykes*



BRENDA MCCOLLUM - May 09, 2013 at 01:58 PM

RW

“ *Deepest sympathy to Keith, Karen and Charles and your families; Mr. Sykes was a treasure, and always a wonderful person to associate with! He will be deeply missed, and my prayers are with all of you! Rowena Winfrey*

Rowena Winfrey - May 09, 2013 at 01:41 PM

CI

“ *Keith, Karen and Mrs. Sykes,*

We were so sorry to hear that Poppy had passed away. He lived a great life and you will have wonderful memories to cherish! Let us know if we can do anything.

*Love and Prayers,
Ray and Cheryl Ivie*

Cheryl Ivie - May 09, 2013 at 12:16 PM