



Bernard Walton Kemp

January 27, 1936 - November 20, 2016

Bernard Walton Kemp, known as Bernie Kemp, of Sopchoppy, passed away November 20, 2016, at home with his wife and family.

Although born in Sopchoppy January 27, 1936 to Dr. Malcolm & Bessie Kemp, Bernie lived in Rossville, Georgia with his mother, grandparents, and brother after the death of his father. He returned to Sopchoppy in 1954 after graduating from Rossville High School. He became a City of Tallahassee Fire Department employee on January 16, 1956 and in 1989, he retired as a Captain with 33 years of service. He and his brother in law, George Strickland, formed the S & K Honey Company and worked together for about 30 years. He was a Christian man who was very involved in his church, Sopchoppy Southern Baptist, where he served as a deacon and used his talents playing the organ and singing in the choir. Bernie was a member of the Sopchoppy Lions Club from 1959-2016 and served as club treasurer and in other positions. Hunting, fishing, camping, and taking trips to the mountains with friends and family were favorite pastimes. He also enjoyed carpentry, gardening on his property, and painting landscapes.

Survivors include his wife of 38 years Sharon Roberts Kemp, father & mother in law Franklin & Gracie Roberts, many nieces, nephews and cousins. He was preceded in death by his parents Dr. Malcolm & Bessie Kemp, sister Eloise Kemp Strickland, and three brothers Malcolm Kemp, Tom Kemp, and Bruce Kemp.

The family will receive friends Friday, November 25, 2016, beginning at 10:00 am at Sopchoppy Southern Baptist Church located at 117 Curtis Mill Road, with Funeral Service at 11:00 am. Interment will follow at West Sopchoppy Cemetery. Donations may be made to Wakulla County Senior Center Transportation Department, 33 Michael Dr., Crawfordville, FL 32327 or Sopchoppy Southern Baptist Church, PO Box 128, Sopchoppy, FL 32358.

Arrangements are under the care of Skip Young with Family Funeral Home & Cremation Services. 850-926-5919 Familyfhc.com

Cemetery

West Sopchoppy Cemetery

Curtis Mill Rd.

Sopchoppy, FL, 32355

Events

NOV **Visitation** 10:00AM - 11:00AM

25

Sopchoppy Southern Baptist Church

117 Curtis Mills Rd., Sopchoppy, FL, US, 32358

NOV **Service** 11:00AM

25

Sopchoppy Southern Baptist Church

117 Curtis Mills Rd., Sopchoppy, FL, US, 32358

Comments



“ A tribute video has been added.



Family Funeral Home and Cremation Services - November 23, 2016 at 02:52 PM



“ Sharon; understatement - me and Bernie were buds. 12 years knee to knee in choir practice. Under Randy's watchful eye. I could hit the notes Sunday morning because I bent my ear to his mouth during practice. He was Troy's number 2 football fan. Bernie and I, with you, missed only one home game together for Troy's last 2 years. Then, what you and he did for Maria and I after the crash is too, too much to tell here. Then, you and he being with us for 2-a week bluegrass practices with my other bud, Jeff, for 2 more years. You and Bernie own an eternal place in my heart. This day, Bernie is running like a deer, flying like a bee, and roaring like a lion - in heaven. Imagine.....

The Walker's - November 24, 2016 at 01:20 PM



“ I liked ole Bernie because he liked me and he didn't have to.

Damon Corley - December 15, 2016 at 06:38 PM



“ Until we went our separate ways after high school graduation, Bernie Kemp was one of my best friends. I never heard an ugly or unkind word from that good man. Although we were separated for years, my thoughts often went to my classmates, and Bernie was at the top of the list. My thoughts and prayers are with his surviving family friends. They surely feel an aching loss.

Bill Williams, LTC (Ret), US Army and proud RHS graduate

William J (Bill) Williams - December 01, 2016 at 12:39 PM



“ I remember having a meal in your home and him coming to school with you to school for the festivals. May God comfort you during this time. You took good care of him.

Sally Chandler

Sally Chandler - November 25, 2016 at 10:59 AM



“ Sharon, please accept my deepest sympathy. Bernie and I hunted together in our younger days, but usually fell asleep in the truck while the rest of the crew hunted. He would help anyone and mentored many young men in Sopchoppy, including myself. I remember him playing the organ at church and singing in the choir. Another good man, along with our other hunting buddy, the late Frank Lawhon, is now in heaven. We all had many good times together.
Jack Henderson

Ann Henderson - November 23, 2016 at 03:28 PM



“ So many of my childhood memories include ones of Bernie. He loved my Dad so very much and I remember waking up many mornings to the two of them sitting around the breakfast table and to sounds of coffee slurping, tales being told and laughter,,,,,much laughter. So many memories come to my mind at this time of year of the many Thanksgivings we spent with Bernie and members of the Strickland family spreading Thanksgiving dinner together at the men's hunting camp, and then gathering around the fire to play games, sing and laugh together. Bernie has a special place in our hearts. I pray that this Thanksgiving in heaven that Daddy, Bernie, John, Morris and George are all reunited and that again there is much laughter. Sharon, our prayers are that the Lord will continue to strengthen you through the coming days. We love you and are tankful for you. You are truly the kind of wife written about in Proverbs 31..., an excellent wife, far more precious than jewels. Jackie Lawhon

Jackie Lawhon - November 23, 2016 at 08:27 AM



“ Bernie will always be remembered as a wonderful Christian man that loved the Lord, his church and his family and friends. He will be missed, but we will always remember his talent, his kindness and always meeting you with a smile. Fraiser and I send our love and prayers to Sharon and his family.

Mec Martin - November 22, 2016 at 12:43 PM



“ Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Bernard Walton Kemp.



November 21, 2016 at 07:37 PM