



Mr. Kent Ketcher

November 2, 1936 - August 27, 2013

G. Kent Ketcher, 76, a longtime Miami resident, passed away on Tuesday, August 27, 2013 in Joplin, Missouri at Freeman Health System. Mr. Ketcher was born on November 2, 1936 in Miami to Dave and Juanita (Hicks) Ketcher. Kent graduated from Miami High School with the class of 1955; he went on to graduate from Northeastern Oklahoma A&M College then Pitt State University where he received his bachelor's degree, and attended the University of Missouri-St. Louis. Mr. Ketcher was a veteran of the United States Navy. He married Yvonne Kidwell in Miami at Immanuel Baptist Church on March 12, 1960. Kent worked as a police officer in Miami at a young age, although spent most of his career in St. Louis, Missouri where he worked his later years as a Pre-Trial Release Commissioner for the 22nd Judicial Circuit Court in St. Louis. Kent had been selected to fill an unexpired term on the City Council in 2002. He was then was elected to that seat in 2004 and later was elected Mayor in 2011. Kent Ketcher had his own distinct style and way of thinking. Principled and ready to discuss ideas, Kent believed the best solutions needed considered, well-reasoned argument and discussion. Although others did not always agree with him, he believed doing the best for the most amounts of people is what mattered in the end. Kent never forgot where he came from or the people he met along the way. He also believed every voice should count and government and the law, if it meant anything, should do right by those who have the least among us. Kent enjoyed shooting skeet, fishing and hunting. He also enjoyed his many friends, especially his "brain trust" as

he called them at Mac Country Club (McDonald's). A spirited conversation was always something he loved and he would jump right in always trying to convince everybody his way was the right way. One of his top primary goals as Mayor was to build a new Animal Shelter and he strived to find ways to achieve that goal. Kent was passionate about what he believed in – his church family, the Oasis Sunday School class he taught, the Immanuel Baptist choir, his family, his dogs Demi and Abbie, and the City of Miami. He was quick to tell people what a great staff the City has, how competent and qualified the City workers are, and would insist they could stand proud against any City employees anywhere. He wanted a better life for them as well as all the citizens of Miami and he worked unrelentingly toward that goal. He brought out many different emotions in people and whether you loved him or hated him, his heart was in the right place and his efforts were for the right reasons. Kent was preceded in passing by his parents, Dave and Juanita Ketcher, a stepfather, Vernon England, and a brother, David Ross Ketcher.

Survivors include his wife of 53 years, Yvonne Ketcher of the home, his daughter Kenda Hardcastle and her husband Alan of Wichita, Kansas, and his son Tim Ketcher and his wife Yu-Ruey of Saint Paul, Minnesota, Also surviving are three brothers, Jerry Ketcher and his wife Betty of Miami, Larry Ketcher of Columbus, Kansas, Sam Ketcher and his wife Lisa of Baxter Springs, Kansas along with his sister Sharon Housh and her husband Tom of Miami. Other survivors include his granddaughter Alexandra Ketcher, his niece Kris Housh who stayed by his bedside while he was in the hospital, a special “son” John Middlekauff, and a host of nieces , nephews , and many other relatives and friends.

Visitation will be 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM Thursday, August 29, 2013 at Immanuel Baptist Church in Miami.

Funeral services will be 2:00 PM on Friday, August 30, 2013 at Immanuel Baptist Church in Miami with Reverends Butch Miller, Ronnie Epps and Ed Pope officiating. Interment will follow at the Mausoleum in Grand Army of the Republic Cemetery in Miami under the care of the Brown-Winters Funeral

Home and Cremation Service in Miami.

Casketbearers will be brothers and nephews Jerry Ketcher, Larry Ketcher, Mike Ketcher, Aaron Ketcher Sam Ketcher, Jason Ketcher, and David Ketcher. Honorary Casketbearers will be Harrell Post, Bob Beeler, Darrion Thompson and John Middlekauff.

The family has asked that memorial contributions be made to the Animal Welfare Society at 501 East Central, Miami, OK 74354 or to Immanuel Baptist Church, 228 H Street SE, Miami, OK 74354 or as always, can be sent in care of the funeral home at 5 B St. NW, Miami, OK 74354.

Friends and family may send the family notes of encouragement by viewing Kent's Tribute Page at www.brown-winters.com.

Cemetery Details

Grand Army of the Republic

2801 North Main Street
Miami, OK 74354

Previous Events

Visitation

AUG **29**. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Immanuel Baptist Church
228 H St. SE
Miami, OK 74354
immanuelmiami@sbcglobal.net
<http://www.immanuelmiami.com>

Service

AUG **30**. 2:00 PM (CT)

Immanuel Baptist Church
228 H St. SE
Miami, OK 74354
immanuelmiami@sbcglobal.net
<http://www.immanuelmiami.com>

Tribute Wall



“ *Brown-Winters Funeral Home and Cremation Service created a Tribute Video in memory of Mr. Kent Ketcher*



Brown-Winters Funeral Home and Cremation Service - August 27, 2013 at 12:00 AM

PD

“ *Yvonne, you are in my thoughts and prayers. I am so sorry for your loss.*

Patricia Douglas - August 31, 2013 at 12:40 PM

BB

“ *Yvonne, when the Lord calls our loved ones home, he leaves us a gift of memories in exchange. You and your family are in our thoughts every step of the way.*

*Love,
Beverly and Jim Buzzard*

Beverly Buzzard - August 30, 2013 at 06:03 PM

SM

“ To the Ketcher Family, I was just so shocked when I read the Miami News Record on line and saw where Kent had passed away. We all grew up together and went to school together and I am just so sorry about Kent. I know how it feels to loose a brother. Both Ben and Archie are gone now. My thoughts and prayers are with all of you.

Sue (Ball) Moss
Greensboro, GA.

Sue (Ball) Moss - August 30, 2013 at 03:46 PM

CM

“ Yvonne -- my thoughts and prayers are with you and the family. No words are ever sufficient and I won't even attempt -- you and your soulmate made some wonderful memories -- embrace those.

Miss you my dear friend.

Cindy Maike - August 30, 2013 at 01:55 PM

DB

“ Dear Yvonne and Ketcher Family, Our thoughts and prayers are with you. I will miss my old friend. Dan Berry and Family Greeley, Co.

Dan Berry - August 30, 2013 at 08:48 AM

SR

“ Yvonne; I feel your pain and hold you and the family high on my prayer list these last few days and will keep it there as I know you will need all the support you can get in the future. Kent was a special man and I enjoyed visiting with him. He is now with another great man from the Class of '55. Love you guys.

Sue Rendel

Sue Rendel - August 29, 2013 at 11:15 PM

GB

“ Yvonne,

You have lost a loving husband, the family has lost a father & grand father, the community has lost a terrific leader and I have lost a dear friend. I remember the first time I met you & Kent. You were at a city council meeting waiting for him to be sworn in as our councilman. I immediately liked you both for your honesty and especially for Kent's directness. When I was appointed to the Utility Board, Kent was the Chairman. He took me under his wing and mentored me.

When I lost my wife, Shireen, you both would come by my house, pick me up and take me to dinner. After our meal, we would pile into your car and Kent would drive us around town. That's what he loved to do. I always looked forward to those outings, because I knew Kent loved to do that. He was so proud to show off his city, (Miami), because he loved everything about her. He talked about people he grew up with and things he did as a boy, and how the city had changed. He always wanted to make it better. The fellowship that you both shared owed me, always made me feel better about my loss.

I am so sorry that I won't be able to attend Kent's funeral. Be assured that I will be there in spirit and always know that I love you and Kent more than you know. He now belongs to God, and knowing Kent, our Lord has a lot on his hands and a lot of listening to do!!!!

God bless you and your family and the citizens of Miami who have lost a champion,

Gary J. Brooks

Gary J. Brooks - August 29, 2013 at 03:35 PM

JB

“ As I struggle to come to terms with our loss, I have come to appreciate how much we take for granted in our lives. This week it became apparent that there is now a void in my life. Almost daily for the entire time I have been City Manager of Miami, the Mayor would stop by to sign documents, to be briefed on some matter or just to visit. I am a strong advocate of values but I have never met anyone who was more value driven than Kent Ketcher. Each briefing would start with the introduction of the subject and then be immediately followed with the Mayor’s unvarnished opinion on the subject. He would then wait patiently as I presented different perspectives on the issue. He always chose the path that provided the greatest benefit to the most, even if it was to his chagrin, because that too was what he valued. When you read his obituary please understand that there are no hollow words contained therein.

I have lost a friend and a mentor, and to Mrs. Ketcher, though I know you dislike it when I call you that, I wish you the very best and pray that the Lord blesses you for as long as you shall need it. To your children I extend my deepest respect and condolences on their loss. Fair winds and following seas Mayor Ketcher, we thank you for your service.

Jeffrey Bishop - August 29, 2013 at 09:04 AM

LB

“ Yvonne so very sorry for you and your families loss. You all will be in my prayers. I hope you and Sharon in time will come to see me.
Love you, Laura Nell

Laura Nell Brinkley - August 28, 2013 at 10:10 PM

FW

“ We were so sorry to hear of Kent's passing. He was such a jolly fellow and a delight to be around. Our thoughts and prayers go out to you, Yvonne, and your lovely family. May God and his angels watch over you and comfort you.

Frances Wagener - August 28, 2013 at 08:38 PM

FW

“ Frances Wagener lit a candle in memory of Mr. Kent Ketcher



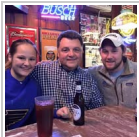
Frances Wagener - August 28, 2013 at 08:35 PM

PM

“ Yvonne, knowing Kent was truly a blessing! This is such a sad time, but, my goodness, what wonderful memories in these past few years of knowing Kent & Yvonne! I still giggle at some of the stories you've told. God bless you, Yvonne, and prayers for peace and comfort.

Paulette Miller

Paulette Miller - August 28, 2013 at 10:00 AM



“ Yvonne...I am so so sorry to hear of Kent's passing. He was a crazy one and always so full of life. I often think so fondly of you and miss you so much since you went home to Miami. Love ya sweetie. You are in our thoughts and prayers!. Keith, Beth, Clayton & Camryn Petti

Beth Pulley Petti - August 28, 2013 at 09:09 AM

GA

“ *Yvonne and family:
Kent will be missed by many more than he
could have ever guessed. His love for his
town was quite evident in his dedication to the
calling of Mayor. Thank you for sharing him
with us! We wish you God's peace.*



Gene and Sue Anderson

Gene and Sue Anderson - August 28, 2013 at 08:10 AM

LR

“ *Dear Yvonne & Family: Kent could light up a room without turning
the light on! I know he was the light of your lives. Treasure those
precious moments in your hearts. I count it a privilege to call him Mr.
Mayor and friend. Prayers and kisses to you all.*

Larry Roberts

Larry Roberts - August 27, 2013 at 07:24 PM

JB

“ *Yvonne, You have our heartfelt sympathy; and you're in our prayers.
Kent will be greatly missed. Jerry and Pat Bridgewater*

Jerry and Pat Bridgewater - August 27, 2013 at 07:03 PM

PE

“ Dear Yvonne and family, August 27, 2013
I always enjoyed Kent's wit, gentleness and teasing me about being from Texas.. I do not live in Miami, but I'm sure that he was a wonderful "Mr Mayor" !!!
May each of you find Peace in your own time.
God bless you, Kent, and may you rest in eternal peace with His arms wrapped around you.....Love ya, Buddy
Pat Roberts Edmondson

Pat R. Edmondson - August 27, 2013 at 05:22 PM

LS

“ Yvonne, So sorry to hear of Kent's passing! Yes, it is quite a shock. I hope your two children being by your side helps. I know you have all the love and support of Miami, Oklahoma as well. Call when things settle down. I will be praying and thinking about you, but we all know that only our love of GOD and time truly heals. Love you,
Lana

Lana Spillane - August 27, 2013 at 02:47 PM

AC

“ Dear Yvonne, Casey and I are sending our sincere and heartfelt condolences to you and your family. We pray Jesus' comfort and peace to surround you and your family during this so sad, and difficult time. Keeping you in our thoughts and prayers, God bless.

Alison and Casey.

Alison Clodfelter - August 27, 2013 at 02:31 PM

JH

“ Our Thoughts and prayers are with you the Ketcher family. We are going to miss a great person and friend. The Dale family, Pat, Barbara and Jesse.

Jesse Hernandez-Dale - August 27, 2013 at 01:49 PM

SA

“ My condolences to the Ketcher family. This is such a shock. Kent was a Great person, and a great Mayor for the City of Miami. Have known Kent a very long time - his sister is married into my family. He will be sorely missed as a person and as Mayor of our City. May God Bless and comfort you at this time of loss. Just know that your family is loved and in our prayers.

Sharon Angle
Miami, Oklahoma

Shari Angle - August 27, 2013 at 01:19 PM

SH

“ Kent was a long time friend. He will be greatly missed. Our prayers are with his family.

Patrick & Sharolyn McCoy
Saint Charles MO

Sharolyn - August 27, 2013 at 12:37 PM

LM

“ Our thoughts and prayers are with the Ketcher family. We have known and loved Kent for over 60 years and he was a joy and a dear friend. Thanks to the Ketcher family for sharing Kent with us - the pleasure was all ours ! Les (Tinker) and Joyce Miller and Family

Les Miller - August 27, 2013 at 11:51 AM

SM

“ Kent was a long-time friend. He will be greatly missed. Our prayers are with his family.

Patrick and Sharolyn McCoy

Sharolyn McCoy - August 27, 2013 at 11:49 AM

MR

“ Thank you for your friendship and your service to Miami

Mark Rogers - August 27, 2013 at 11:37 AM

DP

“ Kent was one of the first people I met after moving to Miami, he made me feel welcome and encouraged me greatly in my business by bringing his beloved Maltese dogs "Abbie" and "Demi" to me for their veterinary care. We also shot many rounds of skeet together, he will be greatly missed!

David Prescott, DVM

David Prescott - August 27, 2013 at 10:31 AM

LN

Kent always listened to what I had to say and made me feel like it was important. He was always kind when speaking to me, and that meant alot..I will be praying for his family!!

Linda Nott - August 27, 2013 at 11:50 AM

TE

Yvonne, My deepest sympathy to you and your family during this very sad time. My prayers are with all of you.

Tiny (Swift) Eads

Tiny Swift Eads - August 27, 2013 at 01:08 PM