



Robert Bruce DeKay

JUL 15, 1970 - MAR 8, 2015



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Robert “Deke” Bruce DeKay, 85 Robert “Deke” Bruce DeKay entered eternal life on Sunday, 8 March 2015 at his home surrounded by loved ones. He was 85 years old, but he would tell you he was 86, always adding one year to his actual age. He enjoyed hearing folks declare how young he looked and always enjoyed seeing jaws drop after driving a golf ball off the tee, so adding one year only aided and abetted the impressiveness that was Bob “Deke” DeKay. Scoring his age well into his mid-seventies, he loved to play golf and loved the people that he met on the golf course. Deke had a wicked sense of humor, and if you were really lucky, you may have been on the receiving end of one of his practical jokes. He adored his family and was most content when surrounded by his wife, sisters, brothers, sons, daughter and loving grandkids. Deke was born on 15 July 1929 in Ithaca, NY to Seeley Calvin “Deke” DeKay and Rose Agnes Vida DeKay. A graduate of Ithaca High School, Deke was drafted by the Detroit Tigers baseball organization at the age of 18. He played for their minor league team, the Jamestown Falcons, from 1948-1950. Deke was a star at everything he did: baseball, football, golf, drawing, painting, horseback riding, dancing, singing. Also, if you never heard him whistle, you missed something. Truly, because of his many talents, he was the kind of guy you didn’t really want to like; and, to add insult to injury, he was dashing handsome. But once around him, his kindness, genuine interest and infectious humor made you an instant “Pal”. He was drafted by the Army in 1953 where he served as Private First Class during the Korean War. He continued to play baseball and found much success on the Army League. While in the Army, he earned sharp shooter designation. Stationed in Germany, Deke would regularly write home to his mother, Rose DeKay, asking if the Catholic Church could help gather donations of coats and warm clothes so that he could distribute them to the poorest families still struggling after WWII. Deke was a giant of a man but was the most sentimental, caring, kind, tenderhearted, and loving man



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you could ever meet. Returning home after the war, Deke left the baseball diamond behind and proceeded to work for over 40 years selling new and used cars in Ithaca as well as for race car driver, A.J. Foyt in Houston, TX. Deke was preceded in death by his parents; brother, Johnny DeKay; sister, Judy DeKay Welling; and friends and family too numerous to list but not forgotten. He was a man of strong faith, believing in the power and strength of Jesus Christ's love and the beauty and peace that would await him after his passing. I would imagine he is playing catch with his buddy Dave Werner, or perhaps playing the back nine and sharing an off color joke with his sister Judy right about now. He is survived by his adoring wife of 45 years, Virginia "Ginger" Boyd DeKay of McKinney, TX; son, Bobby (Mary) Barnaba of Cleveland, TX; daughter, Bobbie Jo (Matthew) Shoemake of Allen, TX; stepson, Gary (Nancy) Maddux of Mansfield, TX; grandchildren, Chase Barnaba, Clayton Barnaba, Kourtney (Frank) Buck, Shelby Woodman; Haleigh Jo Shoemake, and Travis Brendan Shoemake; great-grandchild, Hayleigh Buck; loving sister, Marlene "Peggy" DeKay Hankes of Houston, TX; brother, Jimmy (Susie) DeKay of Holden Beach, NC; brother-in-law, Frederick Welling of Houston, TX; cousin, Johnny Perko of Ithaca, NY; dear friends, Jessie Soloman of Las Vegas, NV, Betty Werner of Indianapolis, IN, Danny (Wendy) Wallenbeck of Jacksonville, FL, Joyce Paige of Cleveland, OH; and many nieces and nephews. There are not enough pages to share his story. We loved him, and he greatly loved. His wit and gift for story telling, his compassion and kindness will be missed dearly. We say goodbye for now, but I can tell you this: he's not eating oatmeal or mayonnaise sandwiches (not a childhood favorite growing up during the Depression), he may be enjoying some nice stuffed grape leaves (the best from Syrian Hill, Portland Point), he's probably requesting the angels sing Unforgettable and Embraceable You (his favorites), but most of all, he's telling all who will listen how very thankful he was for his life, for his family and dear friends, for the personal relationship he has with his Lord and Savior, and for the trials and tribulations that made him the man he was. We love you, Robert, Bob, Bobby, Deke, Dad, Papa. We'll miss you, but we look forward to the day we see you again. Service will be held on Saturday, 14 March 2015 at 1:00 p.m. at 2401 Country View Lane, McKinney, TX. In Lieu of flowers, memorials can be made to Altus (Hospice)



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Foundation, 4560 Beltline Rd. Suite 340, Addison, TX 75001. Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to Restland Funeral Home and Memorial Park, 13005 Greenville Avenue, Dallas, TX 75238 at Restland Road.



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JO

Jack Ozmun posted:

I am so very sorry to hear of Bob's passing. We just spoke on the phone last month, which we've been doing for the last few years since I returned to Ithaca. I know he is in good company with Mom, Dad, Johnny and Judy. He loved his family very much. With deepest condolences, Jack Ozmun

August 24 at 4:32 PM

SO

Sue O'Brien posted:

Deke – What a great friend of The Golf Club at McKinney! I would spend hours sitting on the back porch of the club, tapping a foot to Deke's big band music and listening Deke stories. And oh he was oh so proud of his time playing pro baseball! Deke was a marshal here at the club for many years... an icon at the 1st tee box. He always had a nice word to say to all the players. Deke – Thank you for helping me with my golf game.... I miss you dearly and cherish our time spent on the porch! Cheers My Friend! Sue O'Brien GM, The Golf Club at McKinney

August 24 at 2:03 PM

RD

Richard David posted:

Deepest sympathies to Bobby's family. My fondest memories of Bob were spending many summers at the Newman Golf Course in Ithaca and playing golf with him a few times per week. Despite being my dad's age he would regularly "take me to school" on the course and share some funny stories about him and my father when they were kids. Always one of my Ithaca favorites, rest in peace old friend. Rich David, Jr. Lees Summit, MO

August 24 at 11:48 AM

JF

Jerry Fowler posted:

DEKE WAS NEVER ANYTHING BUT JOVIAL AND FRIENDLY. HE WILL INDEED BE MISSED. REST WELL. JERRY FOWLER

August 24 at 8:20 AM

LN

Linda Nickse posted:

Dear Ginger, I am sorry to hear about your loss. Please give Bobby my sympathies as well. I would love to hear from you. My address is 290 Davis Road, Lansing, NY 14882 Linda (Barnaba) Nickse

August 24 at 3:24 AM



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DB

Don Byro posted:

I was sorry to hear of Deke's passing and my sympathies go out to Deke's wife and family. Deke and I marshaled and were starters together at the golf club. We often sat on the porch, each telling stories, at the end of our shift. He will be missed. Don Byro

March 7 at 7:00 PM

NS

Nova Sherwood posted:

Mr. Dekay was a great man. Always had a joke to share. Always could make you smile. I will miss him. He helped me pick out my first car. And made sure I got a full tank of gas with it. Because I just spent 5 years of my savings for that car!! I am so sorry for your loss.

March 7 at 7:00 PM

BS

Brian Stratton posted:

To Bob?Our paths crossed at the right time and I am grateful for the moments we shared. I am proud of who you are and my children will learn to know you through stories. I look forward to spending more time with you in the next life. My thoughts are with Ginger, Bobbie Jo and the rest of the family. I'll miss him. Brian Stratton Ithaca NY/San Antonio TX

March 7 at 7:00 PM

DN

Dave Nafziger posted:

Deke was wonderful to me. In 2006 I was learning golf at 60 years old, he spent hours with me. He was a great person with a big heart. I will never forget him. Dave Nafziger

March 7 at 7:00 PM

PS

Patrick Schuchart posted:

Deke, was a Marshall at the Golf Club of McKinney for many years. I had a great relationship with him, he was one of the nicest men I have ever encountered. Deke u will be dearly missed by all. Patrick S

March 7 at 7:00 PM



Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Robert by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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