



Kent Irwin Merrill

November 19, 1940 - January 23, 2018

Kent Irwin Merrill, age 77, passed away Tuesday, January 23, 2018, in Plano, Texas. Kent was a beloved husband, father, grandfather and friend. His proudest accomplishments were his three children and eight grandchildren who fondly called him "Poppy." He will live forever in their hearts. Kent was born November 19, 1940, in Kansas City, Missouri, to parents Robert and Vera Merrill. His primary education began at Longfellow Elementary in Dallas, Texas. Family moves took him to Memphis, Tennessee, where he attended Central High School and on to Youngstown, Ohio, where he graduated. Kent attended The Ohio State University prior to joining the U.S. Army. Following military service he completed his Bachelor of Science and Masters of Education at North Texas State University. Kent married Diana Gibson on May 8, 1965, and together they raised three wonderful children. Kent started his work career as a history teacher at MacArthur High School in Irving, Texas, before becoming a guidance counselor at R. L. Turner High School in Carrollton, Texas. In 1969 Kent made a career move into college textbook sales where he found his passion. From sales to management he loved his 36 years in publishing especially his time with Little, Brown and Company, College Division, where he established lifelong friendships. Kent's greatest joy was his family. He shared 52 years of happiness with his loving wife, Diana. Their three children, Laura, Allison, and Kent, were always a source of pride, love and enjoyment. He especially enjoyed his time coaching little league baseball and basketball and cheering his kids throughout their many activities. Kent adored being a grandfather to his eight beautiful grandchildren. Kent is preceded in death by his parents. He is survived by his wife, Diana G. Merrill; his daughter, Laura Elizabeth Von Loh (Donn) and 4 children: Josh, Ashley, Elizabeth and Christian; his daughter, Dr. Allison Corinne Merrill (John Baker); and his son, Kent Gibson Merrill (Nicole) and 4 daughters: Keely, Zoey, Riley, and Josey; and by a brother, Robert Scott Merrill (Frances). Visitation will be from 1:00 to 2:30 p.m., Saturday, January 27, 2018, at Restland Funeral Home followed by a service at 3:00 p.m. in Wildwood Chapel at Restland.

Comments



“ To the Merrills and my ole college roommate from UT (Kent), I am filled with regret and remorse that I am so late in learning the news of Mr. Merrill. Please accept my and my family's deepest condolences. This was a gut punch.

I have nothing but fond memories of my time around Mr. Merrill and the Merrill clan. He was a gentleman and coolest Dad one could ever encounter. Made everyone feel like his son or daughter. I cant tell you how many times we crashed his home and always with welcome arms. His Buckeye fandom ran deep as did his love for his family. The way Kent spoke about his Dad spoke volumes about their relationship. Their love was beyond measure.

Mr. Merrill always had quick wit and southern charm about him. From time to time he would, tell Kent and I how we needed to shape up and get on the ball. But as we use to tell him, all that mattered was that Kent and I would take on all comers in a 2v2 basketball game and win every time.

Thank you Mr. Merrill for your wisdom, awesomeness, and most of all being a great example to a young man on how a man should love and revere his family.

You are missed.

Mrs. Merrill, Laura, Allison, and Kent. You are in my thoughts and prayers and I am deeply sorry for your loss. Please excuse my tardy recognition.

Sincerely,

Mike Venable

Mike Venable - September 13 at 11:12 AM



“ As a student, I knew Mr. Merrill when he taught at MacArthur High School. Although I was not in his history class, everybody knew who he was, as he was extremely well-liked. Always a sharp dresser, friendly, and always had the half glasses as a distinguished trademark. I know he lived a remarkable life.

Steve Hamberger, MacArthur HS 1966-70 - January 26, 2018 at 01:39 PM