



Mr. Daniel Sinkler King Jr.

July 27, 1934 - December 31, 2015

Dan King was born in Kingstree, SC and reared in Florence and Darlington, SC. In his home, service to country was imperative; King joined the National Guard while still in high school. He was activated and served honorably as an Army paratrooper in the Korean War; as part of the prestigious Airborne forces, he often parachuted into conflict behind enemy lines.

Upon honorable separation, he participated in Army administered aptitude tests; King was exceptionally logical and mathematically gifted and was offered scholarships to both The Citadel and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Instead he chose to follow his father's path by working for the Atlantic Coastline Railroad as a brakeman. He traveled from the Carolinas to Virginia, Alabama and Florida, eventually moving to Lakeland, Florida in 1960.

King left the railroad and went to work for Owens-Illinois as a master mechanic. His acute interest in politics and fervent affinity for fairness led to a long and extremely successful alliance and career with the AFL-CIO, Glass Bottle Blowers Association and the Glass, Molders, Pottery, Plastics and Allied Workers as the local union president for 25 years and an undercover labor organizer in Florida, Illinois, Connecticut, New York and Texas. Dan also served the Florida AFL - CIO as Executive Vice-president At Large for 2 terms from 1987 thru 1993. He was also appointed by Governor Lawton Chiles to the Florida Commission on Volunteerism & Community Services and served

from 1989 to 1995.

King grew up in the Carolina tradition of NASCAR racing; he spoke fondly of the time he spent working in the pit crew for Raymond Williams and Robert 'Junior' Johnson at both local and national NASCAR speedways.

In 1985, while attending a union function, King met his greatest love and the woman that he would spend the rest of his life with, Dixie King. The couple was married for more than 25 years. His hobbies included traveling domestically and internationally with Dixie and designing and constructing model railroad freight yards.

After his retirement - with Dixie's encouragement - King's strong sense of volunteerism led him to join a small group of dedicated Supreme Court Certified volunteers who provided mediation services for the 2nd Judicial Circuit court in Leon County, FL.

King was among the first to volunteer for the venerated organization; his objective was to help those less fortunate navigate the judicial system. His efforts, alongside those of his fellow volunteers, resolved more than 84% of filed disputes by facilitating voluntary agreements.

King was known for his lightning quick wit, native intelligence, mastery of southern colloquialisms and his ability to recount the stories of his time; he was extraordinarily observant. Dixie King remembers a unique man who loved music and could recite the lyrics of nearly any genre, who never met a stranger, who loved Texas Aggie football and lived his strong, authentic sense of 'paying it forward' every day.

He loved his family and adored his cat, Nala. He was the longest serving board member and 12 year director for the Killlearn Lakes Homeowners

Association as well as a member of the Big Bend Model Railroad Association.

King succumbed to cancer after a short illness. He is survived by the wife he cherished, Dixie King of Tallahassee, FL, his step-daughter Elizabeth Matthews of Tallahassee FL, his daughter Jennifer Shea (Joe), grandchildren, John Shea, Conor Shea and Shelby Shea of Sarasota, FL, his sons, Dan King of Lakeland, FL and Brant (Jennifer) King of Atlanta, GA, his sisters, Mary (Bill) Cruse of Raleigh, NC and Lorena (John) Cochrane of Charlotte, NC and step-son Craig Matthews of Edmond, OK.

A celebration of his life will be hosted by his wife on Saturday, February 20, 2016 at 3pm at Abbey Funeral Home, 4037 N. Monroe Street, Tallahassee, FL, 32303. Anyone wishing to donate rather than sending flowers is encouraged to contribute to the Leon County Humane Society. Expressions of sympathy may be conveyed at www.abbeyfh.com.

Previous Events

Service

FEB **20**. 3:00 PM (ET)

Abbey Funeral Home
4037 North Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32303
(850) 562-1518
abbeyfh@comcast.net

Tribute Wall



“ *Abbey Funeral Home and Tallahassee Memory Gardens created a Tribute Video in memory of Mr. Daniel Sinkler King Jr.*



Abbey Funeral Home and Tallahassee Memory Gardens - February 15, 2016 at 11:39 AM



Beautiful!!

Tennia Niblock - February 20, 2016 at 09:19 PM

ST

*Beautiful video thank you for sharing.
Sharon and KC Thomas*

Sharon Thomas - February 22, 2016 at 07:17 PM

DE

Wow, this is really beautiful. What a beautiful tribute to a great guy.

Diane Eakins - February 22, 2016 at 11:22 PM



“ *Sunny Memories was purchased for the family of Mr. Daniel Sinkler King Jr..*



February 18, 2016 at 05:13 PM



“ 14 files added to the album Life Tributes



Abbey Funeral Home and Tallahassee Memory Gardens - February 18, 2016 at 11:22 AM



“ 28 files added to the album Life Tributes



Abbey Funeral Home and Tallahassee Memory Gardens - February 17, 2016 at 12:52 PM



“ Dan sure knew how to run a meeting and was a helpful and wise soul. He will be greatly missed by his neighbors. My sincerest condolences go out to the family. Leann M. Tanis (Killearn Commons II resident)

Leann M. Tanis - February 11, 2016 at 07:17 PM



“ 69 files added to the album Life Tributes



Abbey Funeral Home and Tallahassee Memory Gardens - February 10, 2016 at 10:32 AM



“ 1 file added to the tribute wall

an attractive
and well preserved
body, but rather to
skid in sideways,
chocolate in one
hand, wine in the
other, body
thoroughly used up,

Dixie King - February 03, 2016 at 06:31 PM



Dan had a long life and worked hard, loved his family and tried to do his best in all things. He trusted the Lord to lead the way.

Dixie King - February 16, 2016 at 09:49 PM

DH

“ *My sincerest condolence to the King family. Dan King was my mothers (Sylvia Marlene Kelley) 1st cousin, although I never had the pleasure to meet him or his family , I felt I knew him because my mother spoke of him often. If any of the family would like to connect with Leslie Albert Kelley family you may contact us ay hollowaydeborah@gmail.com*

deborah Holloway - January 26, 2016 at 06:11 PM

DK

“ *1 file added to the album Photos & Videos*



Dixie King - January 23, 2016 at 06:07 PM

DK

Dan was very excited to ride the train from Charlotte to Raleigh

Dixie King - January 26, 2016 at 08:46 PM

AH

“ *Our thoughts remain with you and your family during this difficult time. We are honored by the trust and confidence that you have placed in us during this time. The staff of Abbey Funeral Home.*

Abbey Funeral Home - January 11, 2016 at 01:45 PM

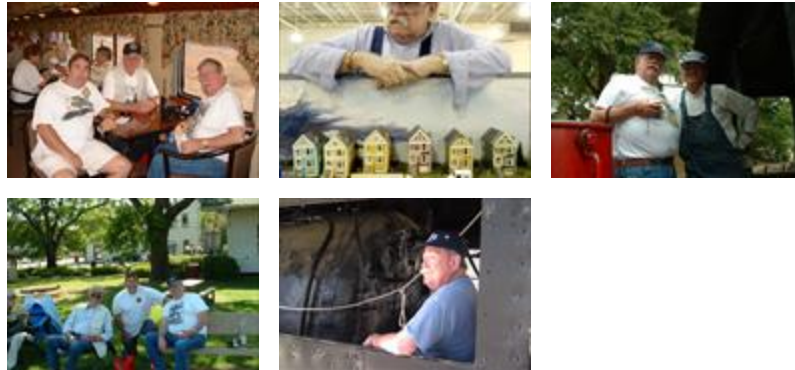
TR

“ Mrs. Dixie, I know you have lots of beautiful memories of the two of you together. I know he loved you and Elizabeth both, with all his heart. He never said a bad word about either of you. He always said how good you were to him, and how much he loved spending time with Elizabeth. He felt blessed to have both of y'all in his life. I feel a great loss without his presence every week. He always treated me with respect and kindness. I looked forward to seeing him each week. Thank you for allowing me to share in his wisdom, wit, and caring heart. He is greatly missed. May God protect, shield and give you comfort and peace.
Tracey Rieker

Tracey Rieker - January 10, 2016 at 06:41 PM

DB

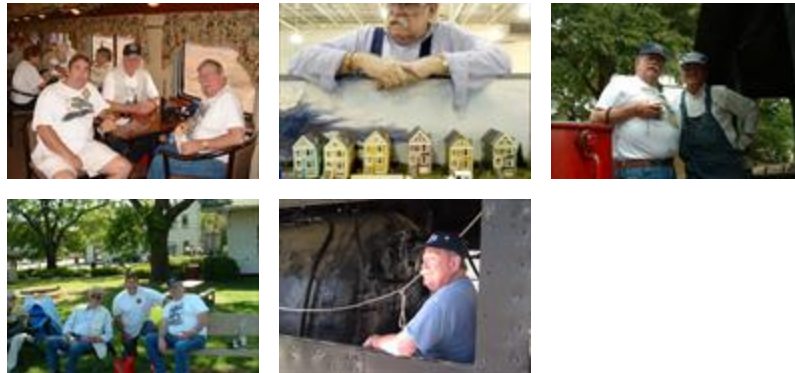
“ 5 files added to the album Photos & Videos



David Brazell - January 08, 2016 at 08:10 PM

DB

“ 5 files added to the album Photos & Videos



David Brazell - January 07, 2016 at 08:53 PM

NI

“ Our deepest condolences to the King Family. Dan helped thousands of people in his dedicated service as civil mediator. He knew no stranger, was smart, kind and gracious. We lift the family up in our thoughts and prayers. Curtis and Nina Ashenafi Richardson



Nina - January 07, 2016 at 08:43 PM

JW

“ My condolences to Dan's family. As a new recruit to the Leon County Court Mediation Program, I regret that I will not have the opportunity to personally get to know this remarkable man. It is evident that Dan is deeply respected and warmly admired by the Mediation leadership and long-term volunteers. Dan has definitely left his mark on this community, and we are all profoundly indebted to his generous spirit.

Janis Williamson - January 07, 2016 at 03:02 PM

SM

“ It was obvious when I was around Dan that he enjoyed life and loved giving back to our community by serving as a volunteer small claims mediator for the Second Judicial Circuit. He had an enjoyable sense of humor and I learned a lot while being in his presence. May God bless him and keep him.
Fondly,
Susan Marvin

Susan Marvin - January 07, 2016 at 02:34 PM

JJ

“ I remember Dan's humor. He knew how to put things in perspective.

Jason M. Johnston - January 05, 2016 at 12:58 PM

DM

“ One of my favorite memories of Dan was that he wore cowboy boots to his wedding to my sister. He very much thought himself to be a cowboy and looked good in a Stetson. He was good to my sister for 25 years and I am so glad she had him. He was stepfather to my niece but became her good friend as they would spend time together at the movies, traveling and even getting pedicures. He was one of a kind.



Denise Mayo-McCormick - January 04, 2016 at 10:48 PM

DE

“ I don't know what to say. Still very shocked and sad at Dan's passing and can only imagine the pain Dixie and Elizabeth are in as well as the rest of Dan's family. I am so very sorry for this loss. I think of Dan whenever I see anything related to trains. He loved them so much. I worked for Coastal Heritage Society in Savannah and the GA State Railroad Museum is a part of them and I always wanted Dan to come and see the museum and the trains. What an interesting person and I know how happy he made Dixie. I am glad he is not suffering any longer, but I know he will be missed. This is a picture of a picture so the quality isn't great, but I just found it quite by accident, so I thought I would share it. Love to Dixie and Elizabeth and the rest of the family.
Diane



Diane Eakins - January 04, 2016 at 09:45 PM

KR

“ Kristen Robbins lit a candle in memory of Mr. Daniel Sinkler King Jr.



Kristen Robbins - January 04, 2016 at 08:09 PM

KT

“ *KC & Sharon Thomas lit a candle in memory of Mr. Daniel Sinkler King Jr.*



KC & Sharon Thomas - January 04, 2016 at 07:10 PM

KT

“ *Dixie we are so sorry that we have lost Dan. I can remember all the times that we had at our house for get togethers. We really enjoyed them and I think that Dan did too. He was a very special person and we are glad to have known him. We know that he will be truly missed by many people. We offer our condolence to you and Dan's family. May God bless you and know that Dan is at peace and with our Lord now. Rest in peace Dan KC and Sharon Thomas*

KC & Sharon Thomas - January 04, 2016 at 07:06 PM

DK

“ *2 files added to the album Photos & Videos*



Dixie King - January 04, 2016 at 05:40 PM