



Robert Knute Knutson

August 4, 1935 - October 3, 2017

Robert Knute Knutson, 82, of Mooresville, passed away on Tuesday, October 3, 2017. He was born on August 4, 1935 in Great Falls, Montana, to the late Knute Christian and Fern Cheetham Knutson. Dr. K, as he was known, was reared on a wheat farm in Montana. He was a proud patriot and veteran, serving his country honorably in the US Navy. While in the Navy he came to know Jesus Christ as Savior and resolved to dedicate his life to spreading the message of the Gospel. He became a pastor and a missionary, establishing Lanakila Baptist Church and Schools in Waipahu, Hawaii. From that church and subsequently as professor of Missions at Liberty University and then as pastor of Victory Baptist Church in Anaheim, California, pastors and missionaries were trained, sent out, and churches were planted around the world with emphasis in the South Pacific Islands. In the course of his life he preached the gospel of Jesus Christ on six continents. He earned degrees from Baptist Bible College, Pepperdine University and Chaminade University. As a husband and father Dr. K was present, faithful and constant, loving his wife as Christ loves his church, rearing his children to know and serve the Lord. His many talents, abilities and interests – preacher, teacher, educator, builder, mechanic, carpenter, printer, fisherman, and traveler, were dedicated to and used by God for his purposes throughout his servant-leader life. He took his young family on trips to national parks teaching them to appreciate creation and the Creator. As a professor, on snow days he would show up in the university parking lot to help students de-ice their cars. In his fifties he took

mission teams to American Samoa and led the remodeling of a hotel, turning it into a school. A decade later found him covered in paint, spackle and sawdust as he built a nursery for the comfort of the mothers at his church. In his 70's he was pounding nails, building ramps and decks for people with disabilities. He organized travel experiences for the fun of being together in new places with friends and loved ones. He was happy hiking a glacier or mowing on his John Deere, preaching to a crowd or mentoring just one. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his brother, LeRoy Knutson; sisters, Marilyn Gossack, Ruth Brumwell. He is survived by his loving wife, Diantha Sexton Knutson; children, Pennie Hatcher (David) of Manaus, Brazil, Michael Knutson (Tanya) of Huntersville, North Carolina; grandchildren, Max and Julia Knutson; sisters, Shirley Johnson of Great Falls, Montana and Betty Pearson of Vista, California. Funeral services will be held at 10:00 AM, on Wednesday, October 11, 2017, at Trinity Baptist Church, Mooresville, North Carolina, with Dr. Brad Harrison, Jose Esquibel, D.Min. and Jon Konnerup, D.Min., officiating. Burial with military honors will be held at 2:00 PM at Salisbury National Cemetery. The family will receive friends from 6:00-8:00 PM on Tuesday, October 10, 2017 at Cavin-Cook Funeral Home. In lieu of flowers, please consider contributing to Dr. K's lifelong passion, missions. You may do so at, West Amazon Missions, P.O. Box 396, Ochlocknee, GA 31773-0396. Donations may also be made in grateful appreciation to Serenity House of Huntersville, 14108 Stumptown Rd., Huntersville, NC 28078. Cavin-Cook Funeral Home & Crematory, Mooresville, is serving the Knutson family. Condolences may be made to the family at www.cavin-cook.com.

Tribute Wall



“ *Robert Knute Knutson*

February 14, 2021 at 11:24 AM



“ *Robert Knute Knutson*

February 14, 2021 at 11:04 AM



“ *Robert Knute Knutson*

February 14, 2021 at 11:03 AM



“ *I was talking with my family tonight about Knute Knutsen a missionary to a church in Anaheim, Ca. When I was 8-9 years old. He influenced me at that age to become a missionary to Hawaii. I never became that missionary, but this man left a mark on my heart I would never forget. Sorry to his family for their loss on this earth and will rejoice with you in heaven! Blessings to you!*

Jacque Koivuniemi - April 21, 2018 at 12:00 AM



“ *Forever In Our Hearts? So blessed and fortunate to have been under your teaching and leadership! Tofa and Aloha until we meet again??*

Samoan Family - October 19, 2017 at 12:00 AM



“ Thank you for some real Bible teaching, showing us by example how to work at the church to beautify God's house of worship and teaching us to use our God given talents to glorify Him. Being able to play with the praise group, sing in the choir with Diantha's direction and teach Sunday School are some of my most precious memories. Thank you for your dedication, love and leadership. May your family be held tightly in God's arms . Lovingly.

October 12, 2017 at 12:00 AM



“ In loving memory of one of the most wonderful men I have ever had the honor of knowing . My son and I will never forget him and we will love him always.

Deeann Hager - October 11, 2017 at 12:00 AM



“ my sunday school teacher will never be forgotten!!!you helped me to understand so much of THE GOSPEL .my love to Diantha,pennie and mike.may GOD wrap you in His strength,love and grace!becky kinnard

rebecca kinnard - October 10, 2017 at 12:00 AM

B,

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becky and jack kinnard ,ramey,

mmooresville, North Carolina

becky and jack kinnard ,ramey - October 10, 2017 at 12:00 AM

CT

“ *Mrs Knutson My heartfelt sympathy in the home going of Pastor K. He was a true champion for Christ and an inspiration to thousands a great mentor and servant of our Lord. God bless you Pennie and Mike with His love and Grace. Love in Christ. Chaplain Ron Tomlin, CDR, USN, Ret.*

Chaplain Ron Tomlin - October 09, 2017 at 12:00 AM

WD

“ *Our prayers are with you. Love to all.*

Wayne Deering - October 09, 2017 at 12:00 AM

J)

“ *Our love and prayers to Pastor K's family at his homegoing. He was not only my Pastor at Lanakila, but my friend as well. Thank you Pastor K for the influence you have been in my life.*

John & Marie (Cantin) Wilder (Lanakila , 1977-78) - October 08, 2017 at 12:00 AM

MB

“ Sorry to hear of Dr. K's passing. Sending lots of prayers your way.

Maggie Brown - October 07, 2017 at 12:00 AM

JE

“ Carol and I send our sincerest and heartfelt condolences to Mrs. K, Pennie, & Mike. We loved Dr. K. dearly and are eternally grateful that God led them to Hawai'i to share the Gospel with so many. Mahalo and Aloha (for a short time) Dr. K.

Jose & Carol Esquibel - October 06, 2017 at 12:00 AM

SW

“ The Knutson family have been an important part of many peoples lives. Many will be in Heaven because he cared enough to tell them of Jesus Christ. Thank you for what you have meant to so many of us!

Steve & Karen Wygle - October 05, 2017 at 12:00 AM

BR

“ Special thoughts & Prayers for Mrs K, Pennie & Mike. Pastor K was our Missionary/Pastor/Teacher at Lanakila 1970-72. All through these many years a counselor with much wisdom.

Bill&Peggy Ricks - October 04, 2017 at 12:00 AM

ET

“ My condolences to the family and prayers for comfort and peace of heart for your loss. Thankful for the time under his ministry in Hawaii and his friendship.

Ed Tedder - October 04, 2017 at 12:00 AM

JR

“ DR. K. What can I say. You led me always in the path of ministry, gave me a kick when I needed it and always supported, encouraged, and helped me. Your words will always be remembered. Your laughs, jokes, and "gotchas" will always bring a smile. Thank you for being there when I needed a Pastor. Our family prays for your families comfort during this time. Jesus wanted to meet you and in His place you are forever now.

Jason & Eden Riley - October 04, 2017 at 12:00 AM