



GEORGE N. KING, SR.

May 21, 1932 - July 1, 2013

George N. King, Sr. was born in Louisville, Kentucky on May 21, 1932. He grew up on 18th Street in the Russell area of the city where he attended Madison Junior High School. As a young man, he was a waiter at The Pendennis Club. He also developed a passion for boxing during that time and honed his boxing skills under the tutelage of Fred Stoner at Grace Gym. Unfortunately, George's boxing career ended prematurely as a result of an eye injury. However, he continued to workout at Grace Gym and taught the "sweet science" to other aspiring boxers including Cassius Clay, aka, Muhammad Ali.

George married Lanie Ann Howard at the age of 19 and from this union, three boys were born to this young couple: Larry (George Jr.), Barry, and Darryl. George became a member of the custodial staff at Wood Mosaic Lumber Company. Ever the entrepreneur, in 1964 he convinced the owners to help fund his business venture, Mr. Klean's Janitor and Maintenance Service. Because of George's vision and business acumen, Mr. Klean's grew from a home-based, family run business into the largest Black owned business in the state of Kentucky. At one point, the company employed more than one thousand workers. George was extremely proud of the fact that he also acquired contracts in Michigan, Massachusetts, and Alabama.

In 1976, George married Fannie Davis Owens. George and Fannie were

married thirty-seven years. They enjoyed traveling the world and visiting their children who live out of state. Mr. Klean's continued to grow and gained wider recognition. In 1982, the Small Business Administration selected Mr. Klean's as Small Business of the Year for the Southeast Region. This honor included an invitation to the White House where George met President Ronald Reagan in The Rose Garden. In addition to the out-of-state contracts, Mr. Klean's had long standing contracts with the University of Louisville Dental School, Fort Knox, Lincoln Income and Life, Louisville International Airport, Ford Motor Company and the Naval Ordinance to name a few. George's dedicated service to the Downtown Louisville Rotary Club, Junior Achievement, 4-H, the Boy Scouts, The Lincoln Foundation and the DePaul School where he was a trustee are fine examples of his commitment to helping others, especially young people. George served on several boards including National City Bank, Blue Cross Blue Shield, Churchill Downs, and the Ali Center. He was also a member of the University of Louisville's Board of Overseers. George was a founding member of the Louisville Chapter of 100 Black Men. Regarding his civic endeavors, George was very proud of the fact that he led the effort to raise the funds required to establish the Bill Collins Parkinson Center at Jewish Hospital in honor of his friend and business associate.

In addition to his entrepreneurial, civic and board pursuits, he found time for hobbies like collecting cars, especially Jaguars, and making his famous barbeque. George was a member of the Louisville Jaguar Club and he partnered with the late Bill Collins to establish the Louisville Automobile Museum, which was located in downtown Louisville. He was a member of the Beaver Casters Barbeque Team based in Vancouver, British Columbia. The team competed in barbeque competitions around the country, including the prestigious Memphis in May competition. George was a certified judge for the Kansas City Barbeque Society.

George's most recent business venture included the purchase and sale of the

Spectrum Building, formerly Louisville Male High School. He also partnered with Junior Bridgeman and A.J. Bosse to form a construction management firm, KBB, which was a contributing general contractor to the construction of the Ali Center.

George N. King, Sr.'s life is one that has been an inspiration to family, especially his sons; friends; business associates and Louisville's youth. George is survived by his wife, Fannie; sons, George N. King, Jr. (Charliese), Bethlehem, PA; Barry G. King, (Leah), Fort Worth, TX; and Darryl L. King, (Dorothy), Phoenix, AZ; daughter, Melissa King Watson (Paul Lee), Louisville, KY; step-daughter, Joy Owens, Louisville, KY; sister, Peggy Cyrus (Modell), Louisville, KY; brother, Leon E. King (Joanne), Los Angeles, CA; grandchildren, Ian F. King, Fort Worth, TX; Paul Lee Watson, III; Lisa Watson, Louisville, KY; great grandchild Jalen Alexander as well as nieces and nephews. His mother, Geraldine V. King; father, Perry N. King, and brother, Joe L. King, predeceased him. George Nolan King, Sr. departed this life surrounded by his family on Monday, July 1, 2013 in the Palliative Care Unit of Baptist East Hospital, Louisville, KY.

Memorial Services will be held at The Salvation Army (formerly Male High School), 911 South Brook Street, Louisville, KY on Friday, July 5, 2013. Family visitation will be held from 9 A.M. to 11 A.M. and a Memorial Service will be held at 12 Noon. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to the Lincoln Foundation and/or the DePaul School.

Tribute Wall

BH

“ *May God Bless!*

Beatrice Heflin - July 01, 2015 at 12:00 AM

MM

“ *To the King Family,I served on several boards and committees with George King in the 80's. He was sought after for his advice and his loyal networks. Mr King was dedicated to improving our city and it was my pleasure to have worked with him. His contributions to our community will be remembered.*

Melissa Mershon - July 22, 2013 at 12:00 AM

KM

“ *I would like to extend my deepest condolences to the King family. Although I did not personally know Mr. King, I will keep the entire family in my thoughts and prayers. Mr. King seemed like an amazing man who was loved by many people.*

Kathryn Martin - July 12, 2013 at 12:00 AM

TL

“ *My wife Patti and I offer our condolences at this time of sadness and hope that you find joy inj the memories of your father.*

Tom Lusto - July 10, 2013 at 12:00 AM

LJ

“ *I'm sorry for your loss. Thinking of you and your family. Remember you are loved by all of us.*

Lena Johnson - July 08, 2013 at 12:00 AM

DW

“ Deepest sympathies are extended to all members of the King family. While I do not know George, I think he would have been a wonderful man to know based upon his contributions to family and community. I know George will be greatly missed. But I pray for peace for all, especially Dorothy who is my co-worker and her husband. Hold tightly together.

Debora Wells - July 08, 2013 at 12:00 AM

GG

“ Mr. King gave me (and perhaps many others) my first real working "opportunity". The opportunity reinforced "there is no dishonor in a days work" and it kept me occupied at a time when the door to trouble was wide open. Years later Daryl and Barry helped me tremendously in getting acquainted with and acclimated to living in the North Texas area. I thank Mr. King and his family for all they've meant to me and others around this country. Grow In Love.

Gerald Green - July 08, 2013 at 12:00 AM

WS

“ Larry, last spoke with your father few years ago at an anniversary party of mutual friends. May God wrap his loving arms around you and yours. Find comfort in your loving memories you shared with him. Be Blessed.

Wanda Shelton - July 07, 2013 at 12:00 AM

GM

“ Dear George and family,
May you be blessed as you together celebrate the life of George, Sr. who so richly touched your lives, and as you each adjust to this loss.
Gary and Linda Marsh

Gary Marsh - July 05, 2013 at 12:00 AM

NJ

“ Fannie - I am so sorry for your loss. You are in my thoughts and prayers.

Natalie Healy Jul - July 05, 2013 at 12:00 AM

CM

“ I would like to send my condolences to the entire King Family. I did not know George, Sr. directly, but he was obviously a man who contributed greatly to community and family. I am sure he leaves a void in many people's lives. I hope your memories will provide you with comfort in this difficult time.

Cindy Malnar - July 05, 2013 at 12:00 AM

FR

“ Barry and Ian,
Our hearts go out to you as you mourn the loss of your Dad and Grand Pa. Know that you and your entire family are in our thoughts and daily prayers.
The Melesse Family

Fray - July 04, 2013 at 12:00 AM

GS

“ George and Family,
I'm so sorry to hear of your loss. You are in my prayers and thoughts. May the good memories carry you through this sad time.

Always your friend
Gail

Gail Schaffer - July 04, 2013 at 12:00 AM

LR

“ George and Charlise: So sorry for your loss, my sympathy goes out to you and the family.

Liz Reynolds - July 04, 2013 at 12:00 AM

AF

“ I am so sorry to hear about the lost of your love one. Mr. King was a wonderful friend neighbor to me and my family as soon as he started his cleaning service business next door to our home on 39th Street. Every year he would send us a wonderful fruit basket that our family would be so excited to see. We were very pound of him and always kept an eye on out for safety after hours when the business was closed. In addition, Mr. King also brought Girl Scout cookies from me to help support our troops. My family sends Deepest Sympathy during your time of loss. The Crenshaw Family

A friendJul - July 04, 2013 at 12:00 AM

GA

“ Aunt Fannie,I am praying for you & the Family during this difficult time for God to give strength. Remember, "They that trust in the Lord shall be as Mount Zion which cannot be removed, but abideth forever. My help cometh from the Lord, which made heaven & earth". Fannie's Niece,

Gale - July 04, 2013 at 12:00 AM

BH

“ I had the pleasure of being Mr.King's personal trainer earlier this year. He was an extremely hard worker who had a "Dont quit" attitude. Whether the session lasted 20 minutes or 45 minutes he gave it his all. He taught me quite a bit about business and I am so appreciative of that. It was an honor to train him and he will be missed

Brandon Howard - July 04, 2013 at 12:00 AM

SS

“ I'm friends with Darryl King and was saddened to hear of Mr. George King's passing. While I didn't know Mr. George King, if he was anything like his son, then he was certainly a great man. It's my sincere privilege to be Darryl's friend and I'm praying for the King family's grief during this time.

Scott Schraml - July 03, 2013 at 12:00 AM

EA

“ Dear Fannie, so sorry to hear of your loss. Our love and prayers go out to the family.

Earl - July 03, 2013 at 12:00 AM

PS

“ MAYM THE LOVE OF GOD SURROUND YOU DURING THIS TIME OF SORROW YOU ARE IN OUR THOUHTS AND PRAYERS

PETE LUCILLE SHIVELY - July 03, 2013 at 12:00 AM

TT

“ A friend and brother of your son George King, Jr. Whom I love dearly and respect to the highest degree that I can possibly think of. Mr. George Sr. has rise a son far better than many father can ask for. He couldn't have wish are created a better young man. I think God for knowing George Jr everyday; and now knowing what I know about his father spells it out very clearly. Rest in Peace my friend; love always. Talmus Taylor

Talmus Taylor - July 03, 2013 at 12:00 AM

JJ

“ George and Charliese: Words cannot even begin to express my sorrow. Please remember you are not alone. I am thinking about you and sending love.

Jeanette Reynolds Jul - July 03, 2013 at 12:00 AM

BG

“ To Ms. Fannie and the entire King family, you are in my prayers and remember that earth has no sorrow that heaven can not heal. I was deeply saddened when I learned of this and my heart goes out to all of you. God Bless you all in this your time of bereavement.

Barbara Greene - July 03, 2013 at 12:00 AM

JL

“ George was one of the kindest men i have worked with ,lam very sorry for your loss and may God bless you all.

Joseph L - July 03, 2013 at 12:00 AM

MM

“ We love you all and are praying for you during this difficult time.

Mae and Mattie Mcatee - July 03, 2013 at 12:00 AM

MR

“ Dear Barry and Leah, We are truly sadden with the lost of your loved one. Although we never met Mr. King we felt like we knew him. What an amazing man, our pray for you is to hold on to God's unchanging hand, stay encouraged and know that He is in control may you find peace in your being with wonderful precious memories. We send our love to the entire King family.....Blessings

Mr - July 03, 2013 at 12:00 AM

CP

“ To the King Family, I send my deepest condolences. This man lived an amazing life and accomplished so much! I am sure he will be missed, but what an awesome legacy he must have left. I will keep you all in my prayers.

Connie Pitts - July 03, 2013 at 12:00 AM

TC

“ My deepest sympathy goes out to the entire family for the loss of such a great man.

Twila Christy - July 03, 2013 at 12:00 AM

BJ

“ George and Charlise,
We are praying for you and your family, be strong in The Lord .

James & Bea Heflin

Bea Heflin Jul - July 03, 2013 at 12:00 AM

KD

“ George was a great man in this community; My sincere sympathy to his family and close friends. I am a better person because of knowing him. I will miss you young man but will join you when ready.

Ken Dicken - July 03, 2013 at 12:00 AM

KN

“ Hey Guys my prayers are with you. Dad lived a wonderful life. You all stay strong..

Kathie Neblett - July 03, 2013 at 12:00 AM

AF

“ George and Charliese--Sending my deepest sympathy to you and family at this time. May your memories bring you much solace. Janet L. Smith Rochester, NY

A friend Jul - July 03, 2013 at 12:00 AM

CE

“ Mama King, may God's Blessing rain down on you during this difficult time, remember you can do all things through God who strengthens us.

Cindy Ealy - July 03, 2013 at 12:00 AM

CS

“ GEORGE N. KING, SR.

Charlene Stevens - July 03, 2013 at 12:00 AM

LR

“ George and I worked together at Wood Mosaic. He was fun to be around and you could tell he was going to be a success, Very articulate and a hard worker

larry richardson - July 03, 2013 at 12:00 AM

WJ

“ I didnt know the gentleman but he sure had a well lived life. My sincere prayers to his family during the loss of this loved one

West End Resident Jul - July 03, 2013 at 12:00 AM

VK

“ I would like to express my condolence to our family may your harts stay encourage during this time of sorrow may the Lord give you strength and keep you in perfect peace who minds are stay on him knowing that he is able to strengthening you during this time of need. Our prayers are with the family.

Victoria L King - July 03, 2013 at 12:00 AM