



Jerry Ambrose King

October 4, 1939 - January 9, 2020

Jerry Ambrose King, of Augusta, Arkansas born October 4th, 1939 passed away on January 9th, 2020. He is survived by his wife, Willette “Billie” King and sons, Jerry A. King II of Cabo San Lucas, Mexico, and Michael King Moore of Asheville, N.C. He is also survived by two nieces, Ashley East and Shay Lazelle of Indiana. Jerry had a great relationship with his stepchildren: Kimberly Minear, her husband Michael and their son Andrew; Philip Pfeifer, his wife Anouska of Los Angeles, CA; and David Pfeifer, wife Tina and their children Faye and Maddie, of Vancouver, Canada.

King was an accomplished athlete at Augusta High School, participating in football, basketball and track. He was selected All-State in football, won the State B high jump and played in the Arkansas High School basketball All-Star game in 1958. Jerry attended Arkansas Boys State in the summer of 1957 and was elected State Attorney General. He attended Arkansas State University on a basketball scholarship, and while at ASU was a charter member of Lambda Chi Alpha Fraternity.

King was a former high school teacher and football coach in New Mexico and Texas, after serving two years on the staff of Coach Frank Broyles at the University of Arkansas as a graduate assistant. In 1967, King joined the Federal Bureau of Investigation as a Special Agent, serving in the Denver, Colorado, Indianapolis and Evansville, Indiana, St. Paul, Minnesota and Hattiesburg, Mississippi offices. He was also a Hostage Negotiator for the Bureau and was involved in three successful negotiations, resulting in the

release of numerous Hostages.

During his FBI career, King received numerous letters of commendation from every FBI Director he served under. He was one of the first undercover agents for the FBI to work two extremely large and effective operations. One was named COLCOR in North Carolina, wherein over 70 individuals were convicted, including several elected officials. This operation included the purchase of numerous stolen vehicles and other property.

Another undercover case was named "Operation Pretense", concerning corrupt public officials in the state of Mississippi. Approximately 85 elected officials and vendors were convicted for taking bribes from King and two other undercover agents for doing business with Mid-State Pipe, an FBI front. King was commended by the FBI Director and Mississippi Governor Ray Mabus for his efforts in this case.

As a result of the Mississippi case, King was featured on "60 Minutes" hosted by Mike Wallace. This segment was entitled "The Preacher and the Stingman", produced on May 5, 1988.

In 1989 King retired from the FBI and moved to Little Rock. He married his wife Billie in 1993 and moved to Searcy, then on to his hometown of Augusta in 2005 where he became involved in private investigation and real estate. He was a former President of the Augusta Lions Club.

Jerry loved to write and authored two books including a children's book, "Tommy the Turtle", depicting life on the White River; and the one he was most proud of was about his father Curtis King, entitled "COACH KING."

King was preceded in death by his parents, Coach Curtis and Nell Wade King, his brother Dr. Jake King and sister, Karen Jo King Allen. His father was the first high school coach to be inducted into the Arkansas Sports Hall of Fame. King's father was from Mountain View, where numerous relatives still reside. His mother Nell was a native of Batesville, Arkansas.

Services for King will be held Sunday, January 12th at 2:00pm at the First Methodist Church in Augusta, with a portion of his ashes being placed in the White River sometime following. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to

the Methodist Youth Fund at the First Methodist Church of Augusta, or to the Woodruff County Library also located in Augusta. Arrangements are entrusted to Powell Funeral Home of Woodruff County. www.powellfuneralhome.net.

Previous Events

Memorial Service

JAN 12. 2:00 PM (CT)

First United Methodist Church of Augusta
301 South Third Street
Augusta, AR 72006

Tribute Wall

BD

“*Rodger and I both are sorry that Jerry has passed. Rodger remembers him from high school years on and I remember his when he was in the real estate field. He had such a friendly and likable personality. All who knew him will miss him and our prayers are with the family.*
Rodger and Barbara Duncan”

Barbara S Duncan - January 12, 2020 at 06:10 PM

AG

What a privilege to have known Jerry and to renew our friendship in the past few months. I am sorry we didn't get the results we had hoped for but he is in a better place now. Love to you and your family. Anne Gardner

Anne Gardner - January 13, 2020 at 07:50 AM

TB

“*I was in charge of an organized crime strike for the Arkansas State Police, and Jerry was our FBI representative. WE became good friends and stayed in touch after retirement when Jerry Lived in Little Rock. He was a policeman's policeman, and I learned quite a bit from him. His honesty and integrity were above reproach, but he was a friend's friend as well. I have a lot of good memories of he and I visiting his condo over the Flaming Arrow in Little Rock. WE were very close and I shall miss him. I just heard of his passing in the newspaper, and his funeral is going on at this time. I shall always morn him and miss him terribly. RIP my friend.*”

Tom Baker - January 12, 2020 at 02:42 PM



“ Jerry was a great man and friend. From the first time John and I met him when we bought his parents home to the last time I saw him, he always had a smile on his face!! My heartfelt prayers go out to you Billie.

Frances Haverstick - January 12, 2020 at 11:26 AM

PG

I remember Jerry. I wouldn't be here today if it weren't for him. He saved me from drowning down on the river in 1953 when I was only 5 years old. God bless him.

Paul Graham - January 30, 2020 at 09:10 PM

JS

“ My heart breaks for Billie! Jerry was such a fun person with a great personality! He will be missed! My love to the family.

Jawanda Pulliam Smith - January 11, 2020 at 07:48 PM

DJ

“ So sorry to hear this, he was a great friend, gave me a set of Taylor made golf clubs I still play with, prayer's for the family God bless

don jones - January 11, 2020 at 07:19 PM

JM

“ We have known Jerry several years. My husband play ball on opposite teams during their school years. Our thought and prayers are with Billie and his family at this most difficult time.

Judy & Bob Maddox - January 11, 2020 at 08:36 AM