



## George Kenneth "Ken" Kirby

July 29, 1934 - July 17, 2016

George Kenneth Kirby of Mentone, Alabama, passed away on Sunday, July 17, 2016, twelve days shy of his 82nd birthday. He was the son of George Thomas Kirby and Myrtle Louise Crowe.

He is survived by his wife of 61 years Florene Dobson Kirby; daughters Pamela Valosen (John) of Atlanta, Georgia, Patricia Riggins (David) of St. James, Missouri, Priscilla Allworth of Newnan, Georgia, and son Brian Kirby (Cecelia) of Acworth, Georgia; grandchildren Ashley Galusha Hyman (Loren), Shannon Galusha Brown (Jason), Benjamin Riggins, Laura Riggins, Kirk Allworth (Jenny), Chelsea Kirby Freeman (B.J.), and Christina Kirby; great grandchildren Ashlyn Moss, Paighton Hyman, Kensley Brown, Julia Freeman, and Kenneth Freeman; and sister Martha Kirby Nation. He was preceded in death by his sister, Jean Kirby Houston.

Ken began his career with Southern Railway in 1951 in Chattanooga, Tennessee, and also held various positions with Southern in Spartanburg, South Carolina, Atlanta, and Washington, D.C. He retired from Norfolk Southern Corporation in Roanoke, Virginia, in 1990 where he held the position of Purchasing Director.

Upon retirement at age 55, Ken and Flo returned to Mentone where they built a new home and farmed for 22 years. Kids, grandkids, and great grandkids

enjoyed celebrating many special occasions there and have more fond memories of Mentone than they can count. He was never happier during those years than when he was on his tractor, bulldozer, or backhoe, or cheering on his beloved University of Alabama football team.

In 2014, he moved to Wesley Woods at Newnan where he and Flo have enjoyed a new lifestyle and new friends.

He was a wonderful husband, father, grandfather, great grandfather, and friend to so many of us who will miss him so much. As one of his nurses said, "he was truly a gem."

Visitation will be held on Friday, July 22, 2016, 5:00 - 8:00 p.m. (CT) at Wilson Funeral Home, 3801 Gault Ave. N., Fort Payne, Alabama. Funeral services will be held at Wilson on Saturday, July 23, 2016, at 11:00 a.m. (CT), followed by burial at Little River Cemetery in Mentone. If family and friends would prefer to make a donation in lieu of flowers, the family would be pleased for donations to be made to Mentone Community Church, 90 Summerville Road, Mentone, Alabama, 35984.

# Cemetery Details

## Little River Cemetery

1932 County Road 648  
Mentone, AL

# Previous Events

## Visitation

JUL 22. 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Wilson Funeral Home  
3801 Gault Ave. N  
Fort Payne, AL 35967

## Funeral Service

JUL 23. 11:00 AM (CT)

Wilson Funeral Home  
3801 Gault Ave. N  
Fort Payne, AL 35967

# Tribute Wall



“ George Kenneth "Ken" Kirby

January 12, 2023 at 10:45 AM



“ Pam,  
My thoughts and prayers are with you and your family, in your time of grief! May your memories bring you comfort.  
Hugs to you and your family, Gail

Mrs. Gail Pechter - July 23, 2016 at 05:58 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of George Kenneth "Ken" Kirby.



July 22, 2016 at 06:47 AM



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of George Kenneth "Ken" Kirby.



July 21, 2016 at 10:24 PM



“ *Country Basket Blooms* was purchased for the family of George Kenneth "Ken" Kirby.



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July 21, 2016 at 07:22 PM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet* was purchased for the family of George Kenneth "Ken" Kirby.



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July 21, 2016 at 06:13 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue* was purchased for the family of George Kenneth "Ken" Kirby.



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July 21, 2016 at 04:15 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum* was purchased for the family of George Kenneth "Ken" Kirby.



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July 21, 2016 at 03:44 PM



“ *Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of George Kenneth "Ken" Kirby.*



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July 21, 2016 at 02:19 PM



“ *Ken and I were connected through the genes. His Mom (Myrt) was my Grandmother's (Ethel) sister. There was a whole bunch of those Crow sisters and brothers. I spent my childhood in Mentone enjoying Uncle George's watermelons and hayrides. For a brief time my family lived next door to Ken and Flo on Dodds Avenue, Chattanooga. Then life sent our families to different locals, life happened, and I did not speak with him again until June 2014. I promised to visit him in Newnan. Procrastination is my burden to bear. My heart is broken that I will not see him again.*



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**Judi Ross** - July 21, 2016 at 10:32 AM



“ *Thank you, Mr. Kirby, for giving a young girl from Fort Payne a shot all those years ago. Soon it will be me retiring from the railroad, and I don't know that it would have happened without your help. To the family - Ken Jensen, Dick Kane, and I were saddened to hear of Ken's passing. He was a class act and always treated us with kindness and respect. I know you will miss him terribly.*

*Lee Ann Chitwood Brooks*

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**Lee Ann Brooks** - July 21, 2016 at 08:36 AM