

George Neal King

6H-R
5-27-2021

George Neal King, of Tampa, Fla., passed away on May 5, 2021, at age 85. George was born in Columbia, Mo., on January 17, 1936, the only child of George and Abigail Louise King. He attended Hickman High School in Columbia, where he played trumpet and varsity baseball. At Hickman, George began dating his future wife, Anne Sutton. They met years earlier in the nursery of their church on Broadway.

After high school graduation, George attended the University of Missouri and joined Sigma Nu fraternity. Anne and George were married in Columbia at the First Baptist Church in 1956. George graduated in 1960 with a degree in Electrical Engineering.

George is survived by his wife of 65 years, Anne Sutton King; four adult children - Lizabeth (Fla.), George E & Nancy (Mich.), David & Lori (Texas), and John & Jennifer (Fla.); eight grandchildren - Morgan (Fla.), Lane and Phillipe (Minn.), George S (Ill.), Sarah and Aaron (Texas), Amanda and Tyler (Texas), Katie and Matt (Ill.), Zack (Fla.), and Bailey and Andy (Calif.); plus bonus grandchildren Brennan, Cassidy, Evan, Sean, Joshua, and Marc; great-grand children - Ella, Everett, Evelyn, Claire, Noel, and Oliver; nieces - Elizabeth (Shawn) Mo., and Eaddy (Josh) Conn.; and great-niece and nephews - Ella and Theo (Conn.) and Graham (Mo.).

George worked at GTE/Verizon for 39 years. He began his career as a lineman in Columbia in 1954 where he learned the value of hard work. He held various operation positions in Columbia, then in 1977, George became VP - Operations at GTE of the Midwest, based in Grinnell, Iowa. Five years later, he was promoted to VP - Network Engineering and Construction of GTE Florida and moved to Tampa, Fla. Moving to Dallas in 1981, George became VP - Planning, Engineering and Standards in Dallas. George retired in 1993, and he and Anne returned to Columbia and Tampa.

George was an avid outdoorsman, and he loved to fish with family and friends, including salmon fishing in Alaska. A favorite destination was River Ranch in his bass boat at Kissimmee River near Lake Wales, Fla. He enjoyed activities with his children and grand children, played couples bridge with friends on a regular basis, dined out, traveled with Anne to six continents and many countries along with annual vacations in North Carolina, and of course fishing, fishing, and fishing with friends and family.

A funeral service will be held at Lake Magdalene United Methodist Church in Tampa, Fla., on June 12, 2021, at 10 a.m. An obituary and funeral plans can be found at <https://www.dignitymemorial.com/obituaries/tampa-fl/george-king-10182386>

In lieu of flowers, memorials in George's name may be made to: "The Spoken Word," Lake Magdalene United Methodist Church, 2902 W Fletcher Ave., Tampa, FL 33618; <https://shop.arborday.org/trees-in-memory>; or <https://wildlifeflorida.org/donations/conserving-floridas-wildlife/>.