



Kermit Lee Racey

August 16, 1923 - May 13, 2017

Kermit Lee Racey passed away on May 13, 2017 at Winchester Medical Center after a brief illness.

Kermit was born on August 16, 1923 in Woodstock, VA, the son of Jesse Racey and Lillian Cook Racey. When Kermit was 7 years old, his father died, leaving his mother widowed with seven children to care for. Kermit, the youngest child, helped out by selling wild fruit and nuts he harvested and eggs he gathered. Kermit was orphaned at age 13 when his mother died in a car crash. Then Roy and Carrie Trimble took him into their home as part of their family. As a teenager, Kermit shined shoes at Trimble's Barber Shop while attending Woodstock High School, where he lettered in basketball and football.

Before graduation, he enlisted in the army 87th infantry division until he volunteered for the paratroops. Upon completion of jump training, he served in the 507th PIR and 505th PIR, seeing action in the European theater with the 17th and 82nd Airborne, including operation "Varsity" the jump across the Rhine. Kermit was awarded the bronze star near Diersfordt Castel in Wesel, Germany for single-handedly taking out a German tank, exposing himself to enemy fire. Kermit also saw combat in the Battle of the Bulge as part of the 3rd Army, which broke through enemy lines to relieve our encircled troops. He also fought in the Ruhr Valley campaign and was part of the Berlin occupation forces. Though he then received orders to transfer to the Pacific theater, the end of the war intervened. He marched with his 82nd Airborne Division in the

Victory Day parade in New York City.

After the war, Kermit attended Washington and Lee University on the GI bill and graduated cum laude. While attending law school, he married Madge Eloise Trimble and she gave birth to their two eldest children. Kermit then practiced law briefly in Woodstock before he was granted a reserve commission as an officer in the Air Force JAG corp. After resigning his commission and returning with his family to Woodstock, he remained active in the reserves. Kermit served as commanding officer of the Air Force Reserve unit in Shenandoah County for many years.

Kermit was a well-known and respected Woodstock attorney, who practiced law for 61 years, retiring on October 31, 2012 at age 89. He served as Commonwealth's Attorney from 1964-1968 and as a judge of Shenandoah County General District Court from 1970-1980. From 1976-1978, he mentored his son, Kermit Lee Racey II in reading the law. They practiced together as Racey & Racey for 33 years, from 1979-2012.

Kermit always remembered his roots and helped numerous individuals who experienced misfortune, as well as providing pro bono legal services to those in need.

Kermit was an active member of many community service organizations, including the Woodstock Rotary Club and Chamber of Commerce, where he served as president. He died an active member of the Woodstock Christian Church. As a child, he attended Antioch Church of the Brethren

Kermit was preceded in death by his beloved wife, Madge, his daughter, Carrie Ann Walters, grandson, Andrew Harrison, as well as three brothers, Clifford, Delmar and Fred Racey and two sisters, Eleanor Armentrout and Jess Acker. He is survived by his sons, Kermit Racey II and Lance Racey; daughters, Marlene Bush and Robyn Harrison; six grandchildren and four great-grandchildren whom he dearly loved, and a sister, Olivia Irwin.

A celebration of Kermit Racey's life will be held at Woodstock Christian Church on Saturday, May 20 at 2:00 p.m., followed by a meal. Interment will be private. His family appreciates gifts to Woodstock Christian Church on

Muhlenberg Street in Woodstock in lieu of flowers.

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

MAY **20**. 2:00 PM (ET)

Woodstock Christian Church
109 S. Muhlenberg Street
Woodstock, VA 22664

Tribute Wall



“ *Kermit Lee Racey*

January 30, 2023 at 03:03 AM



“ *Kermit Lee Racey*

January 30, 2023 at 12:44 AM



“ *As I young child, I remembered visiting Kermit in his home with my Dad (David) at Christmastime. Such fond memories.*

My condolences to his family and friends.

Kevin A. Racey - May 23, 2017 at 09:47 AM



“ *Bill Harrison purchased the Be My Love Bouquet with Red Roses for the family of Kermit Lee Racey.*



Bill Harrison - May 19, 2017 at 01:00 PM

CR

“ I remember the time Uncle Kermit and I put on the boxing gloves. We were gathered as we usually were at one Racey family or the other. This time it was at Uncle Fred's and Aunt Doris. We had a good time boxing each other. You can guess which one came out ahead, Uncle Kermit won by a big decision. I will never forget that time and many other times we were together at our many Racey family gatherings. Rest in peace Uncle Kermit, Nephew, Carroll

Carroll Racey - May 18, 2017 at 11:09 PM

ME

“ So sorry for your loss you and your family are in my thoughts and prayers



Michelle Edge - May 18, 2017 at 03:18 PM

WW

“ Would like share our deepest condolences to the family from the Whitehurst Family.

W. Allen Whitehurst - May 18, 2017 at 02:30 PM

RC

“ In tribute to Kermit Racey, one of the best man I have had the privilege of knowing.
I enjoyed visiting his office just to talk.

May God bless and protect his family.

Rodney Crowder

Rodney Crowder - May 18, 2017 at 11:57 AM



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Kermit Lee Racey.*



May 18, 2017 at 08:46 AM



“ *Kathy Feller lit a candle in memory of Kermit Lee Racey*



Kathy Feller - May 18, 2017 at 05:52 AM

JC

“ *It's with a heavy heart that I write here. My sincerest condolences to the entire Racey family and extended family.*

I had the great fortune of meeting and knowing Kermit through his grand-daughter. From the first time I met him when I as an awkward teenager, to wonderful visits much later as an adult, he was kind, gentle and sage.

As the years passed, sometimes many years in between visits, Kermit remembered me and conducted himself with such serenity, it was almost regal. I can count on one hand how many people I've met in my life who exuded such an effortless command of respect than Kermit. And well-earned.

I am fortunate to have met him. I am grateful for every conversation I had with him. And I know his influence extends well beyond the valley he made his home. A man of the greatest caliber. He will be missed.

My thoughts and meditations will be on him and his family in these times of grief and remembrance. Godspeed Kermit.

jonathon czarny - May 17, 2017 at 10:00 PM



“ I have many memories of Kermit, all the times we would come and visit when I was growing up. Seeing and experiencing how much he and Aunt Madge loved all of us. We were and are so lucky to have been able to have grown up in this family. All of us had such great role models to look up to and learn from. Kermit was no exception he always had a firm but loving way about him. If we did something wrong he would correct us but then he would let us be kids. I loved him so much for that, my favorite memory was when I brought my daughter over to their house for the first time. Seeing how Kermit and Madge's face and eyes lit up made me so happy. I know this was supposed to be about Kermit but I will always remember Kermit with Madge. I love you all so much, I hope you realize how many people lives you have affected.

Scott Kittrell - May 17, 2017 at 09:33 PM



“ Kermit was one special person who helped me more than once. May the Good Lord hold his family tight.
J W Wolford

Jerry Wolford - May 17, 2017 at 07:47 PM