



## Cecil Ray Key

April 20, 1922 - April 3, 2015

Mr. Cecil Ray Key

Mr. Cecil Ray Key, 92, one of the “Greatest Generation,” passed into the waiting arms of his Lord and Savior Jesus Christ on April 3, 2015 after a brief illness, surrounded in his final days by his loving family.

Born on April 20, 1922 in Bixby, Oklahoma to Harry and Rose (Heath) Key, he was raised in Dewey with his five siblings, most of whom preceded him in death (Louis Key, Thelma Jordan, Doris Burrow, and Edith Reed). He is survived by his youngest brother, Carl Key. In 2011 he lost his loving wife of 68 years.

On August 11, 1941, Cecil married Helen Letha Fielder in Sedan, Kansas. Shortly after he left to serve his country in WWII as a paratrooper in the 17th Airborne. He completed 17 jumps, including jumping behind enemy lines in Nazi, Germany. He was awarded the Purple Heart for shrapnel injuries in the Battle of the Bulge. After returning from the war, he fulfilled a commitment to God, made in a foxhole in Germany, to live for Him. In succession, he and Helen became youth sponsors. Later, he became an Elder in the First Christian Church in Dewey. When a small congregation in Bartlesville, Memorial Christian Church, was without a pastor, he volunteered, and continued pastoring there for 25 years while also working full time in Tulsa. He worked at Dewey Portland Cement until the plant closed and then with Martin Marietta until his retirement in 1981.

Cecil loved the outdoors and shared that love with his children and

grandchildren spending countless hours in the garden and on his patio. Among his many talents was his ability to duplicate an owl call so convincingly that he, on some occasions, actually called owls from far away, into his proximity. He spent many decades hunting turkey, deer and quail. He learned to fly fish at age 88, and at 91, returned to Canada for his last of more than 20 trips. He also enjoyed many summer trout fishing trips to the Rocky Mountains with his family.

Cecil was a man of God, who loved to study the Bible and could often be heard quoting memorized scripture. When asked once how he could be so sweet natured while some of his seniority were not, he replied, "I love Jesus too much to be mean." He was a captivating story teller, with an infectious laugh that will never be forgotten by his family.

He is survived by three daughters: Cheryl Hicks of McAllen, Texas and her husband Bill; Daphne Sholl of Tulsa and her husband David; and Melanie Maxwell of Bartlesville and her husband Jim; seven grandchildren; Suzanne (Hicks) Prado, Claire (Hicks) Ramirez, Nick and Angela (Sholl) Kennedy, Kevin and Ashley (Sholl) Lemaster, Adam and Lara Sholl, Ryan and Holly (Maxwell) Linders and Lance and Katie (Maxwell) Lutke; eighteen great grandchildren, and four great great grandchildren.

Visitation will be at Stumpff Funeral Home, Bartlesville on Monday, April 6, from 6 PM to 8 PM. Funeral services will be held at East Bartlesville Christian Church, on Tuesday, April 7, at 2 PM with Pastor Jerl Joslin of Oklahoma City officiating. Graveside services will follow at the Dewey Cemetery where full military rites will be accorded by the Ceremonial Detail of the James H. Teel American Legion Post # 105.

Casket escorts will include Jim Beeler, Jerry Dean, Dee Williams, Larry Stumpff, Roger Ropp and Sam Gaskill. Honorary casket escort will be David Brackemyre.

Memorial funds have been established and those who wish may send their contribution to Voice of the Martyrs at P.O. Box 443, Bartlesville, Oklahoma, 74005 or to Mid India Christian Mission at P.O. Box 26447, Fresno, California

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# Previous Events

## Family Reception

APR 6. 6:00 PM (CT)

Stumpff Funeral Home & Crematory

1600 SE Washington Blvd.

Bartlesville, OK 74006

(918) 333-4300

[info@stumpff.org](mailto:info@stumpff.org)

<https://www.stumpff.org>

# Tribute Wall



“ Cecil Ray Key

October 23, 2023 at 04:40 AM



“ Cecil Ray Key

October 06, 2023 at 03:15 PM



“ I worked with Cecil at Dewey and Tulsa and last visited with him at his home a couple of months ago. Over all the years he has always been the "good guy" ,both in body and spirit. He has left a lasting influence. Thanks for having known you!

Dale Fuzzell - April 07, 2015 at 12:00 AM



“ what a blessing to have had you in our lives.

Brenda Davis - April 07, 2015 at 12:00 AM

DH

“Melanie and all the Key family: I was very sad to hear of Mr. Key's passing. I was happy, though, to know such a terrific man was with us so long, who had a live so well lived.

Cecil was a fellow Army veteran, a connection only other veterans can share, and it's very special. His combat service in WWII marks him as one of Dewey's (and America's) silent heroes, who did their duty, came home, and helped build our nation into a powerhouse.

He was also a kind and gentle soul who always had a kind smile and a open heart for anyone.

I know you will miss him, but hope you can take some comfort in the love others show for him, and in your family's love for each other. God will bless Cecil and welcome him with open arms - of that I am certain. My prayers for you and all your family.

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**Dr. David Hatfield** - April 07, 2015 at 12:00 AM

MP

“Dear Daphne, I'm so sorry to hear about your Dad. I always smile when I think of him, he was such a great man. I know you will find comfort in all of your wonderful memories.

Mary

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**Mary Turk Pointer** - April 06, 2015 at 12:00 AM

SJ

“So sorry for your loss.....what a wonderful person....both your mom and dad were.

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**Sally Dancer Johnson** - April 06, 2015 at 12:00 AM