



Dee Wayne Ketchum

August 27, 1938 - March 26, 2023

Dee Wayne Ketchum, 84, passed away Sunday evening, March 26, at peace and was received by Jesus in Heaven immediately. Although saddened by losing him, the family is rejoicing that he is no longer trapped in a failing earthly body.

Dee lived life passionately-every pursuit was made with intentional, careful consideration. He loved his family and was devoted to them and regarded them as a gift from the Lord. Several words describe Dee, like Christian, Captain, Coach, Councilor, Chief, and Consultant, but nothing was a greater joy than Husband, Father, Brother and Believer. He was born to Lewis A. Ketchum and Lillian Berry Ketchum, both Delaware. He was born in Bartlesville at the family residence, delivered by his great-aunt, Kate Curleyhead Berry.

Ketchum attended elementary and high school in Bartlesville setting records in three sports. He continued his education at The University of Kansas on a basketball scholarship, starting four years, and was co-captain his senior year. He received a BS degree in Education and MS in Educational Counseling and Psychology from The University of Kansas and additional hours at University of Tulsa. Ketchum was a gifted athlete. There was no sport he couldn't play well if it was played with a ball. He coached basketball for twelve years, was in the business world for around 20 years and served the Delaware Tribe for about 20 years in elected positions on the Tribal Council and Trust Board, including serving four years as tribal Chief and later as a business consultant.

Dee loved spending quality time at Grand Lake, OK for 30 years. His summers were spent in his boat, on the golf course and at powwows with his children, grandchildren and their friends. Dee was the assistant to the tribe's Ceremonial Chief, Leonard Thompson, his relative, for 20 years. He helped many people during this time.

Ketchum was a Deacon at First Baptist Church in Bartlesville, OK. He had been asked at other churches where he attended during his life, but never believed he was prepared by his Lord to submit his name. However, the Lord finally allowed him to be selected for the lifetime ordination as a Deacon and Dee was committed to God in service until he was unable to serve because of his physical limitations.

Ketchum was preceded in death by his parents and his brother, Lewis B. Ketchum. He is survived by his wife of 64 years, Annette Martin Ketchum. His legacy is two daughters, DeAnn Ketchum-Ross and husband Ron Ross of Fredericksburg, TX and Kala Ketchum of Capitola, CA; five grandchildren Jacob Sears, New Braunfels, TX; Hannah Sears Wassenberg and Eric Wassenberg, Greeley, CO; Whitney Thomas Ford and Taylor Ford, Mesa, AZ, Clay Sears and Carena Sears, Fredericksburg, TX; and Cole Thomas and Krystal Thomas of Casa Grande, AZ; and nine great grandchildren, Eli Thomas, Marcel Contreras, Tatum Ford, Charlie Sears, Kennedy Ford, Walker Sears, Cameron Ford, Connor Wassenberg, and Zevin Thomas. Ketchum is survived by sister-in-law Betty Ketchum, Tulsa, OK; sister Patricia Ketchum Donnell and Walter Donnell, Copan, OK; sister-in-law Paula Martin Pechonick, Bartlesville, OK; aunt Jane Ketchum Ethridge, Tulsa, OK; two helpful nieces Sandy Donnell Tompkins and Ray Tompkins, Copan, OK; Kim Watt Hudspeth and John Hudspeth, North Venice, FL; and many nephews, nieces and cousins.

He will have a private graveside and a Celebration of Life at First Baptist Church, Bartlesville, on May 23, 2023, at 1:00 P.M. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Elder Nutrition Program in the Delaware Tribe 5100 Tuxedo Blvd Bartlesville, OK 74006.

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

MAY 23. 1:00 PM (CT)

Bartlesville First Baptist Church
405 S Cherokee Ave
Bartlesville, OK 74003
(918) 336-6172

Tribute Wall



“ *Dee Wayne Ketchum*

October 23, 2023 at 04:40 AM



“ *Dee Wayne Ketchum*

October 06, 2023 at 03:15 PM



“ *Annette you are in my thoughts and prayers. May God give you comfort and strength. I have many fond memories of Dee from your Clay Center days.*

Arden Alstatt

Arden Alstatt - June 28, 2023 at 08:25 PM



“ *We will always remember Dee and Annette at KU. The guys, Dee, Doyle, Jim and others would have golf outings, and sometimes the wives would get together then also. I admired Dee for being such a nice guy and a wonderful father. Learning he is a true Christian believer, as I am sure includes the whole family, just warms our hearts. † God bless you all. Love, Jim and Sandy Ragan*



Sandra and Jim Ragan - May 01, 2023 at 10:32 PM



“ *Be My Love Bouquet with Red Roses was purchased for the family of Dee Wayne Ketchum.*



April 05, 2023 at 05:54 PM



“ *The Strongheart Singers of Indiana feel the loss of Dee to our world. Dee was a key player in the teaching of Indiana 4th graders in Anderson, Indiana and the Tecumseh Lodge educational Group looked forward each year to support he and Annette as they helped chair the program. In addition, he also took an active part in the Delaware celebration pow wow following the school program. He invited two of our friends to camp with him at Copan, and invited some us, who stayed in his friends camp nearby, to eat, and enjoy historical Delaware traditions, political forward Tribal thinking, and family get to gethers both at Cpan and at his home. A Gentleman who left his mark on all of us. Teed Howard.*

Teed Howard - April 03, 2023 at 07:01 PM



“ *Dee was an amazing man. My condolences to his family.*



Pam Elvington - March 31, 2023 at 12:23 PM

JB

“ *Classmate, teammate, golfing buddy. Sing with the angels, my friend.*

jim barton - March 30, 2023 at 08:06 PM

JS

“ *Jeanne Foreman Shepherd lit a candle in memory of Dee Wayne Ketchum*



Jeanne Foreman Shepherd - March 30, 2023 at 09:45 AM



“ *Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the family of Dee Wayne Ketchum.*



March 29, 2023 at 09:50 PM

DM

“ *Cousin Annette & Family
So sorry to hear of Dee's passing, he was an incredibly talented and blessed man. Lori and My thoughts and prayers are with You & Your Family. May God Bless you all.*

David & Lori Marshall

David Marshall - March 29, 2023 at 07:35 PM

CM

“ *Dee was an idol of mine as a high school athlete, but much more so later for his contributions to humanity. My only regret is that it took so long to really get to know him. My family joins me in expressing sincere condolences to our dear friend Annette and her entire family. God bless you.*

Carl McCullough - March 28, 2023 at 04:38 PM