



Jack Simpson Kepley Sr.

February 15, 1924 - June 25, 2022

Jack Simpson Kepley, Sr. died on Saturday, June 25, 2022 at the age of 98. Born on February 15, 1924 in Salisbury NC, he was the son of the late Walter Robert Kepley, Sr. and Mazie Simpson Kepley.

Following graduation from Boyden High School in 1943, he joined the Army, serving as a Staff Sergeant and Platoon Leader during World War II with the 34th Infantry, 24th Division until 1946. Jack was a charter member of Harold B. Jarrett American Legion Post #342.

In 1949, he graduated from Catawba College with a degree in Business Administration. He served as President of Kepley-Crowell Insurance, Inc until his retirement.

He joined Boy Scout Troop 448 on his 13th birthday and was continuously registered as a member for 85 years. He served as Scoutmaster from 1952 until 1993, when he was named Scoutmaster Emeritus. For two years, Jack served as Camp Director of Camp John J. Barnhardt. He served as a staff member and director of several Wood Badge courses and held many positions at the council level of the Central NC Council. Jack received numerous scouting awards over the years including the Silver Beaver Award, which is the highest award a Boy Scout Council can bestow.

Jack was an active member of the Salisbury Lions Club for many years, serving as the Club President and being selected as the Lion of the Year in 1963 and the Man of the Year in 1994. In 2001, he was recognized by Lions Club International as a Melvin Jones Fellow.

He was awarded the Order of the Long Leaf Pine in 2018, given by Governor Roy Cooper to persons who have performed exemplary service to the state of North Carolina. He served on the Board of the Rowan County Parks and Recreation Commission.

A lifelong member of Coburn Memorial United Methodist Church, Jack had served as a Sunday school teacher, a church lay leader, finance committee chair, trustee chairman and administrative board chairman. In 1986, he received the Methodist Church's Cross and Flame Award.

Jack is survived by two sons, Jack S. Kepley, Jr. and wife Jo Ann and William K. Kepley and wife Anna; his grandchildren, Dawn Carrier and husband Marshall, Heather Unger and husband Martin, Nathan Kepley, and Molly Bostic and husband Danny; grandson-in-law Jacob Hackamack and wife Heather. He is also survived by his great grandchildren: Chase Carrier; Kelsey, Katie, Carson and Cody Unger; Isaac and Elias Bostic and Mazie Hackamack.

He was married to Grace Kimball Kepley for 72 years until her death on April 13, 2022. He was also preceded in death by his daughter, Grace Kimball "Kim" Kepley, and his granddaughter, Sarah Kepley Hackamack. His brother, Walter Robert Kepley, Jr., and his sisters, Mary Ruth Kepley Spry and Juanita Kepley Secrest also predeceased him.

The family will receive friends on Wednesday, June 29, 2022 from 1:00 pm until 2:15 pm in the sanctuary of Coburn Memorial United Methodist Church,

901 S. Church St., Salisbury NC. The funeral service will follow at 2:30 pm at the church with Rev. Perry Bradshaw officiating. Burial will be in Chestnut Hill Cemetery.

Memorial gifts may be sent to Coburn Memorial United Methodist Church, 901 S. Church St., Salisbury NC 28144.

Summersett Funeral Home is serving the Kepley family. Online condolences may be made at www.summersettfuneralhome.com.

Cemetery Details

Chestnut Hill Cemetery

Salisbury, NC

Previous Events

Visitation

JUN 29. 1:00 PM - 2:15 PM (ET)

Coburn Memorial United Methodist Church
901 S. Church Street
Salisbury, NC 28144

Funeral Service

JUN 29. 2:30 PM (ET)

Coburn Memorial United Methodist Church
901 S. Church Street
Salisbury, NC 28144

Tribute Wall

JM

“ Jack was a good whittler and one time while I was at Camp Barnhart , he whittled a neckerchief slide for me. He was a super guy. Jim Mackorell

James (Jim) Mackorell - June 29, 2022 at 09:38 AM

DJ

“ Jack was always the ultimate scouter. I admired the man for many years with his level of dedication to the program and the youth he served. This is a great loss to the Scouting community and all who knew and loved him. Thanks Jack for all you did and the positive influence you had on me.

David Jones - June 29, 2022 at 09:31 AM

AW

“ Jack shared his wisdom, advice, and love for the community his entire life. In April he traveled to Fort Jackson South Carolina to speak to leaders of the Regiment he served in during World War II. I also have a memory of Jack I wanted to share. I attended a fundraiser at the Rowan County Airport years ago. I was there with my family. Jack was attending by himself as his wife, Grace, could not attend. Lacking a dance partner, I asked Jack if he wanted to dance with me. He responded kindly but directly: "I only dance with Grace." I'll always remember this memory of Jack as a beautiful story of lifelong love and loyalty.



Amanda Wilson - June 28, 2022 at 04:26 PM

TC

“ There's never been a leader in Scouting or the community that has been more giving and affected more lives than this man. I would have to consider him to be the Billy Graham of Scouting. Jack had the innate capability to zero in on the most effective method to reach anyone that had room to improve and make it happen. He literally took good people and made them great. He was a master builder of the human spirit. I have a namesake from Jack that I will cherish more now than before his passing. Jack always carved and gave an indian head neckerchief slide to all adult leaders and eagle scouts, just like the one in his picture. Imagine how positive that simple act was to all those recipients of that special gift. Now multiply it times 100 and you get some idea of the greatness of this man. We will surely miss him more than all others.
We love you Jack

Tommy & Daniel Cohen - June 28, 2022 at 10:13 AM

BH

“ Jack was such an influence on my life. He had the ability to shape the lives of young men in such a positive way. His influence helped me as a Packmaster and Scoutmaster to relate to young boys and young men in a positive manner to help them along in life and build character. Rest In Peace. Bill Hill

Bill Hill - June 27, 2022 at 06:03 PM