



## Ronald Kemp

July 23, 1936 - April 9, 2019

Ronald Nuburn Kemp, age 82 went to be with his Lord and Savior on April 9, 2019, at his home.

Ron was born July 23, 1936, in Cyril, Oklahoma, to Luther and Lois Kemp. He was preceded in death by his parents Luther and Lois Kemp and his brother Rudy. He is survived by his wife Lou Thelen Peterson Kemp, son and daughter-in-law Ronald Nuburn Kemp Jr. and Marjorie Ann Kemp; son and daughter-in-law Luther Harrold Kemp and Peggy Anne Campbell-Kemp; son and daughter-in-law Wesley Don Kemp and Marla Jo Kemp; Grandchildren: Serenity Wilson and husband Charles; Levi Kemp and wife Diana; Laura Kemp, Erin Kemp, Tyler Kemp, Landon Kemp, Rylee Hayes and husband Brian, and 8 Great-grandchildren.

Ron graduated from Cyril High School in 1954 and graduated from Oklahoma Baptist University in 1958. While attending OBU, he met his future wife of 62 years, Lou Thelen Peterson. Ron and Lou were married on August 3, 1957. After graduating from OBU he entered Southwestern Theological Seminary where he obtained a Bachelor of Divinity. They moved to Huntsville, Texas, in 1962, where he served as pastor of two churches. While in Huntsville, he obtained his Master's in Treatment and Social Services and he worked as an Alcoholic and Drug specialist for the Texas Department of Corrections. Ron was a lifelong learner and the family often teased that if he could find a way to make a living as a career student, he would have done so.

In 1969, he accepted a position as a Chaplain at Southwest Baptist College

where he also moved into the classroom to teach in the Sociology and Psychology Department. In 1976, he obtained the Distinguished Teacher Award. Later that year, he went to work for the Missouri Baptist Children's Home in their division of Christian Psychological and Family Services as a counselor for Southwest Missouri. In 1979, he went into private practice with Associates for Counseling and Consultation. After several years, Ron returned to school at Midwestern Theological Seminary and earned his Doctor of Ministry. In July of 1985, he founded Family Institute of the Ozarks in Bolivar. He also served as an adjunct professor at SBU, Drury, Evangel, and Forrest Institute of Professional Psychology. From 1991 through 2008 he shared his insights into family relationships by way of the Bolivar Harold Free Press through his weekly column, 'Family Matters.' Ron continued to practice at Family Institute of the Ozarks until his retirement in 2008. Following his retirement, he spent his time with family and traveling.

He was a member of First Baptist Church for 50 years. He was a member of the Bolivar Optimist Club where he had perfect attendance for many years. He was a member of the American Association of Marriage and Family Therapists and served as President for a time.

Ronald was a consistent example of a kind spirit and always showed compassion. He never seemed to complain and was always concerned with helping others. He always strived to make this world a better place. He spent the greater part of 56 years of his life either encouraging people through their spiritual walk or counseling families. Ronald's spirit and legacy will continue to live on through the myriad of lives he impacted in his God-blessed time on this earth.

In lieu of flowers, memorial gifts can be made to the SBU Ronald N. Kemp Scholarship Fund.

Visitation for Ronald will be Saturday, April 13, 2019, from 4:00 to 6:00 P.M. at Butler Funeral Home. Services will be Sunday, April 14, 2019, at 2:00 P.M. at

First Baptist Church, Bolivar, Missouri. A graveside service will be held privately.

# Cemetery Details

**Greenwood Cemetery**

## Previous Events

### Visitation

APR 13. 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM (CT)

Butler Funeral Home - Bolivar  
407 E. Broadway  
Bolivar, MO 65613  
(417) 326-5233  
<https://butlerfuneralhome.com/>

### Service

APR 14. 2:00 PM (CT)

First Baptist Church  
316 N. Main  
Bolivar, MO 65613

# Tribute Wall



“ *Ronald Kemp*

October 05, 2023 at 05:18 AM



“ *Ronald Kemp*

January 26, 2023 at 04:15 PM



“ *Because of him and Dr. Polk at SBU, I went into counseling. It was a true calling. So appreciative of his influence.*

**Linda Blass** - April 30, 2019 at 03:49 PM



“ *It was my honor to walk the final journey with Mr.Ron. Sending hugs to Lou and the family*

**Sherry Klaser** - April 14, 2019 at 12:47 PM



“ *Wes...I just found out about your father's passing. He was a great man and loving father. I know you will miss him dearly' but we know he is in a good place now. Jim and Sherry Bureman*



**James Bureman** - April 14, 2019 at 07:21 AM

LF

“ Our family is keeping each of you in our thoughts and prayers. Dr. Kemp was a wonderful man. My mom sure did enjoy all the talks they had together over the years. What a blessed assurance we have that we will see our loved ones again in heaven.

*May God Bless You and Keep You!*

*The Friend Family, Loeta, Libby, Phil and Melissa*

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**Libby Friend Farrell** - April 13, 2019 at 03:58 PM



“ Ron and I went to Cyril High School together. We shared many a letter over the years. He was class secretary of the class of 1954 and I was the same for the class of 1952.  
*May God bless and care for Lou and the family.*

*Kenneth Lair*

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**Kenneth Lair** - April 13, 2019 at 11:21 AM



“ Serene Retreat was purchased for the family of Ronald Kemp.



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April 13, 2019 at 09:13 AM

RH

“ He was my therapist for a time several years ago. I have always felt very fortunate to have known him, and he will be greatly missed! My thoughts and prayers are with his family!

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**Rose Hall** - April 13, 2019 at 02:45 AM

MJ

“ So sorry to hear of your loss. Praying for comfort in this time of sorrow.

*Margaret Parks  
Margaret and Randy Jones  
Sara Jones Richardson and family  
Amanda Heinz and Family*

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**Margaret Jones** - April 12, 2019 at 09:45 PM

TB

“ I met Ron when I was 12 and he was 26. As my minister he awoke my spirituality and deeply inspired me as I set upon my path. His had integrity and gentleness that encouraged and uplifted me throughout my teens. Both he and his lovely spouse, Lou Thelen, became mentors to me, and I adored those 3 little boys. Our birthdays were only one day apart, and sometimes Ron and I celebrated them together among close friends. At a very impressionable time in my life, Ron was my neighbor, my minister and my dear friend who helped to form me. I know he will be sorely missed by all who loved him. He was a very dear and beloved soul. I send my love and sympathy to Lou, Ron, Hal, Wes and all the Kemp family in their loss of the company of this wonderful man.

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**Toni Roark Bobruk** - April 12, 2019 at 05:26 PM

TB

“ Toni Roark Bobruk lit a candle in memory of Ronald Kemp



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**Toni Roark Bobruk** - April 12, 2019 at 05:11 PM

WF

“ *With much love, Toni Roark Bobruk & family purchased the Guiding Light Bouquet for the family of Ronald Kemp.*



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**With much love, Toni Roark Bobruk & family** - April 12, 2019  
at 05:09 PM

LC

“ *My sincere condolences to the Kemp family. Keeping you in my thoughts and prayers as you grieve the loss of a very wise, kind and caring man. Ron's support and guidance during a very difficult time for our family was very much appreciated. Laretta, Heath and Haley.*

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**Laretta Collins** - April 12, 2019 at 03:54 PM

HG

“ *Lou and family you are in our thoughts and prayers. Our loss of a friend here on earth is Heaven's gain. We thank our Heavenly Father for your friendship. Harlie and Nancy*



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**Harlie and Nancy Gallatin** - April 12, 2019 at 03:20 PM

LA

“ Ron Kemp is the best man I’ve ever met in my entire life. About a year after I started working for Ron I went to Woods grocery store and bought him a birthday card. While I don’t exactly recall what the outside of the card said, the inside of the card said “you’re as old as dirt!” He laughed and laughed and thought that was the funniest card he’d seen in a while. I am about 30 years younger than Ron so he was actually only turning about 61 years old at the time so he wasn’t really old at all.

He asked me where I purchased the card and later that day he went to Woods grocery store and bought several of those cards so he could mail them out to his friends when their birthdays came around. He had a great sense of humor and a gentleness about him I will never forget. My life is better because I had the blessing of knowing Ron Kemp.

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lauramowery@yahoo.com - April 12, 2019 at 03:12 PM

DG

“ Dwight & Georgie purchased the Lily and Rose Tribute Spray for the family of Ronald Kemp.



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Dwight & Georgie - April 12, 2019 at 10:08 AM

DP

“ Debbie & Dan Williams, Donnie & Tanya Peterson purchased the Magnificent Life Spray for the family of Ronald Kemp.



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Debbie & Dan Williams, Donnie & Tanya Peterson - April 12, 2019 at 10:08 AM

NC

“ So sorry to hear of Ronald's passing. We pray God's comfort for Lou and all the family. I also grew up in Cyril and we were neighbors with the Kemp's. Played many an hour with Ronald and his brother. Went to church and school together. He was also a classmate of my husband, Jim Carroll. Praying for all of you. Jim and Norma Carroll.

Norma Carroll - April 11, 2019 at 09:07 PM

SJ

Very sad to hear of Ron's passing. He was such an impressive man and a great asset to Southwest Baptist University and the Bolivar community. Sincere condolences to Lou and the family.

Sandy Jones - April 12, 2019 at 02:19 PM



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Ronald Kemp.



April 11, 2019 at 10:11 AM



“ Small Garden Dish was purchased for the family of Ronald Kemp.



April 11, 2019 at 09:23 AM

LK

“ *My heart is with my friends and the family of Ron Kemp. Dr. Ron, thank you for your friendship and mentoring of me through the years. I am richer for your wise counsel and fun stories that we shared together. I am so blessed through your life and encouragement. We will be re-united in Heaven at the foot of the Throne of God.*

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**Lee Kanakis** - April 10, 2019 at 02:50 PM