



N D Hopkins

September 28, 1929 - August 31, 2013

N D Hopkins, 83, long-time Realtor/Builder in Grand Prairie, entered into eternal life on Saturday evening, August 31, 2013 at his home surrounded by family.

N.D. Hopkins was born September 28, 1929 in Burfordville, Missouri. He was the first of six children born to Noah Dillard Hopkins and Sarah Beulah Dockins Hopkins. He often joked that since he was born during the depression, they didn't have enough money for a whole name, just the initials. He was born to a farming family and the work ethic learned at a young age carried on through the rest of his life. He graduated from Jackson High School in 1948, and joined the Naval Reserve shortly after that. He married Katie Stroud in 1951 and started a family. During the Korean war, N.D. (known as Noah in the Navy because you had to have a name) served on the U.S.S. Missouri. In 1958, N.D. was transferred to Dallas Naval Air Station while on active duty with the Navy and moved his growing family to Grand Prairie, where they remained throughout his entire Naval career and beyond. He was always an entrepreneur and made a deal with the Base Commander at one time to cut and bale the tall grass on the vacant land of the base. The Chief got good, fresh hay for the horse he owned, and the base got land mowed without having to pay for it. During his entire service career, N.D. enjoyed his position as an Electronics Technician.

While still in the Navy, he became a Realtor in 1963. He became a builder in 1967 , shortly after leaving the Navy in 1966. Part of N.D.'s great joy was getting people in to a home of their own, whether he built it for them or sold them a listed property. He was very active in the Grand Prairie Board of Realtors, serving as President in 1974. He also served a term as the state Realtor Representative from Grand Prairie. At the time of his death, he had been an active Real Estate Broker for 50 years and was a member of the MetroTex Association of Realtors.

N.D. believed in the dream of home ownership, but knew there were also people who needed homes on a temporary basis so he began acquiring houses to rent as well as managing rental property for others. N.D. was a multi-generational landlord, sometimes renting to the grown children and grandchildren of previous renters.

At the time of his death, N.D. held the position of the Honored Life Director on the Board of Directors the Dallas Builders Association, the Texas Association of Builders, and the National Association of Home Builders. He strove at all times to not only become a better builder, but to make the industry as a whole stronger and better. In 1992 he was the recipient of the Hugh Prather Award, which is given to a home builder that has contributed most to the betterment of the Greater Dallas Region. In 2011, he received the Ted Scholossman Lifetime Achievement Award from the Texas Association of Builders. In 2012, the Dallas Builders Association honored him with a scholarship in his name through the Texas Builders Foundation for students in the building trades.

He was a charter member of the Dallas Naval Air Station Credit Union, and served on the Board of Directors for 9 years until they merged with Navy Federal Credit Union. He was also a member of the Lions Clubs International for several years. He was Past President of the Grand Prairie Host Lions Club, and at the time of his death, was serving as Treasurer of that Club. He

was a long time member of the Grand Prairie Chamber of Commerce, serving on both the Highways, Aviation and Transportation Committee and the Government and Legislative Affairs Committees for many years. He also served on the City of Grand Prairie Building Board of Adjustment and Appeals for 6 years and the Grand Prairie Board of Zoning Adjustments and Appeals for 3 years.

N.D. was a member of First Baptist Church of Grand Prairie from 1959 until his death. Along with being a deacon, he also served on many committees through the years, was active in Brotherhood, and worked in both the children's and youth divisions, serving as secretary for the third grade until 2007.

From 1985-1995, N.D. was co-chairman of the Grand Prairie telephone center for the MDA Labor Day Telethon. His specialty was getting all of the restaurants in Grand Prairie to donate food so the workers could be fed throughout the night and the next day. After the first year, there was no problem getting volunteers to work the telethon!

N.D. received his Master Mason degree in 1961 and became a member of Sam R. Hamilton Lodge in Grand Prairie. He served on a variety of committees within the lodge over the years, including the Military Degree Team in Blue Lodge. He also held various offices in the local lodge. In 1999 he received the Golden Trowel Award for long time service to the community. In 2011, he received his 50 year membership pen. He was a member of the Scottish Rite and Hella Shrine Temple. He was also a long time member of the Order of the Eastern Star and served 3 terms as Worthy Patron of OES Chapter 219 in Grand Prairie.

N.D. and his family enjoyed visiting the ladies who lived at the Eastern Star

Retirement Center in Arlington, and from 1981-1999, he would dress as Santa to go have his picture taken with the residents every Christmas. It became a highlight of the Christmas season, both for the residents, and for Santa and his helpers.

N.D. was a member of the Grand Prairie Historical Organization and was instrumental in restoring the Goodwin Cabin and relocating it to Cottonwood Park in Grand Prairie. He was a member of the Grand Prairie Crime Commission for many years. In 1998 he spearheaded an effort by local business people to purchase a horse trailer for the newly formed mounted patrol of the Grand Prairie Police Department.

N.D. Hopkins passed away on August 31, 2013 while surrounded by family He was preceded in death by his parents, Noah and Sarah B. Hopkins, his brother, Harold Gene Hopkins, and his first wife, Katie Hopkins.

He is survived by his wife, Betty Christensen Hopkins, his children Veronica Hopkins, Ron Hopkins and wife Diane, Gary Hopkins and wife Denise, Tex Hopkins and wife Elizabeth, and Kathy Hopkins Ellis and husband Mike. Grandchildren; Gary Michael Hopkins and wife Allison, Ginger Standridge and husband Joe, Candy Marcum and husband James, Tice Hopkins and wife April, Joshua Hopkins, Jessica Brost and husband Matt, Blake Hopkins and wife Kim, Heather Grace Ellis, Justin Faith Ellis, and R.J. Adams and twelve great-grandchildren

He is also survived by Betty's sons, Dale Christensen and wife Suzanne and Larry Christensen and wife Carol and their children, John Christensen and wife Bessie Ann, Rachel Powell and husband Eddie, Levi Christensen and Lancer Christensen, two sons of Elizabeth, Nick Amos and Cody Amos.

Also by two sisters, Diana Hopkins Caramico and Delores Hopkins Poulos;

two brothers, Ora Lee Hopkins and wife Helen, Terry Lane Hopkins and wife Janet and a large number of other relatives and friends.

Visitation: 6 to 8 p.m. Wednesday at Guerrero-Dean Funeral Home, 500 E. Main Street, Grand Prairie. Funeral: 2 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 5, 2013 at First Baptist Church of Grand Prairie, 122 NE 2nd Street, Grand Prairie, 75050. Burial: 9:15 a.m. Friday at DFW National Cemetery with Military Honors.

The family request donations be given in N.D.'s name to the Children's Scottish Rite Hospital at <http://www.tsrhc.org> or the Texas Association of Home Builders N.D. Hopkins Scholarship Fund.

Cemetery Details

DFW National Cemetery

2000 Mountain Creek Parkway
Dallas, TX 75211

Previous Events

Visitation

SEP 4. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Guerrero-Dean Funeral Home
500 E. Main Street
Grand Prairie, TX 75050
(972) 263-5570

Tribute Wall

KA

“ *Kathy lit a candle in memory of N D Hopkins*



Kathy - September 28, 2013 at 08:56 PM

DC

“ *N.D., I will love you til the end of my days on this earth. Your love for us was always unconditional from the time I was born and mother said you sat by my bed all day thinking I was a doll. You always supported your sisters wholeheartedly whether it was trying to plan 50th, 60th and 65th wedding anniversaries for our parents or giving them the best of care in their last days. We made great memories that I will cherish the rest of my life. Rest in peace sweet one. You deserve it. I know you have a lot of wonderful company there.*

Your sister, Dianna

Dianna Caramico - September 18, 2013 at 10:35 AM

LO

“ *Eventhough I only knew him for a short time I will miss him very much!
I called him grandpa and I love seeing him at Cracker Barrel every Sunday!
I love him and his family they are great people!
I wish the best to the family Hopkins!*

Lourdes Orrantia - September 14, 2013 at 05:16 PM

LL

“ Always a great home to be at when I was a kid and will always cherish my friendship with Kathy. Door was always open and they loved us kids...everyone was welcome and Katie and N.D were like second parents for those high school years and part of First Baptist. I am blessed to have had such fabulous role models in N.D. and in Katie during those years. They helped you understand community and reaching out to others. Love, Lezlee Martin Liljenberg

Lezlee Martin Liljenberg - September 06, 2013 at 09:28 AM

JB

“ What an absolute blessing to have known N. D. and have him such a big part of my life. He taught me so much about Grand Prairie, home building, office construction, and most importantly life. He lived his life as we all strive. His love of his faith, family and friends was evident every day. A man of integrity, humility, charity, and love. I will miss him so much. Heaven has certainly become more glorious with his presence.

Janelle B. Bicknell

janelle bicknell - September 05, 2013 at 12:28 PM

VW

“ I was fortunate to be N.D.'s friend and I was always proud that he was from Grand Prairie, active in the Dallas Builders Association, contributing so much, representing the city well.

Vernon Watson

Vernon Watson - September 05, 2013 at 11:15 AM

KD

“ *Kathy Ellis Daughter lit a candle in memory of N D Hopkins*



Kathy Ellis daughter - September 05, 2013 at 07:20 AM

JB

“ *I am so amazed and humbled at the amount of people who came to pay their respects to this great man. And I couldn't be more proud to say that he was my grandpa. I laughed and cried at all the amazing stories I heard last night. I honestly had no idea all he had done and accomplished until last night. I am sad because on this side of Glory I can't see those sweet blue eyes any more, or get sweet "sugar" on the cheek. But I had a smile on my face going to bed last night. He used to say this one thing to me every time I saw him. He would say, "come here you sweet little ol thing you." I could almost hear his sweet voice saying that last night and see, it made me smile. Because of what Jesus Christ accomplished on the cross, my sweet grandpa is in glory now. And one day I will be too. After I get there and meet Jesus and enter in to worship our mighty savior for eternity, I wonder if I will hear "Come here you sweet little ol thing you". :). Thank you for the legacy you have passed onto us. The legacy of loving God, loving others, working hard and doing the right thing. A legacy that I am now passing down to my two precious girls. Love you very much grandpa!!*

Jessica Brost - September 05, 2013 at 06:48 AM

JE

“ There are few people that I have spent so little time with that have meant so much to me in my life journey. Always addressing me as "Senator", N.D. was a model of dignity and humility, a man of grace and strength. I will miss my chats with him about faith and life. He has been called home to be with his Maker and left this world a better place and me a better man having known him.

Jerry Sanders

Jerry - September 04, 2013 at 05:28 PM

DR

“ ND was always high spirited, and always wanting to do whatever it took to make better, whatever we were asked to do, while working on committees, or attending NAHB, TAB and HBA Board meetings. He was a joy to know, and we were appreciative to work with him on any of his many tasks and accomplishments. Now he is continuing his work - in a better place.

David Roffino

David Roffino - September 04, 2013 at 03:06 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum* was purchased for the family of N D Hopkins.



September 04, 2013 at 06:18 AM

SR

“ So grateful to have met this golden-hearted man through the Builders Association. N.D. will long be remembered with affection.

Sharon Reuler - September 03, 2013 at 07:26 PM

MD

“ 1 file added to the album New Album Name



mark dean - September 03, 2013 at 04:15 PM

PC

“ *N.D. put his heart and soul into everything he did for our Association and for his industry. Every one he met was a friend and every friend he had felt special in his presence. The knowledge he shared throughout his years in the industry will live on and, as such, his legacy will never be forgotten.*

N.D. had a special charm that would put a smile on the face of almost every one he met. He would close his eyes and begin telling a story that made you feel like you were there, but he would usually laugh so hard at his own story that you'd rarely hear the end. It wouldn't matter though because you were laughing along with him.

There will forever be an empty place in our hearts where N.D.'s smile once was. This will especially be the case at our Fish Fry later this month, which was always one of his favorite events. Somehow I know that day that he will be watching us from on high wearing his hat and apron and still ready to serve.

Phil Crone, Executive Officer, Dallas Builders Association

Phil Crone - September 03, 2013 at 03:51 PM

CM

“ *We grew up knowing that when we saw Grandpa we would get a hug and kiss on the cheek. As a little girl, that was something I took for granted but I have come to know as an adult how fortunate we are to know how much he loves each one of us. Through the years he has blessed us all in many other ways and I cherish the legacy of love and family we have been given.*

Candy

Candy Marcum - September 03, 2013 at 12:42 PM

BD

Candy, we love you SO much and grieve with you & your family over your Grandpa's passing.

Brenda & David - September 05, 2013 at 11:10 PM

HS

“ *homer schafer purchased the America the Beautiful for the family of N D Hopkins.*



homer schafer - September 03, 2013 at 09:40 AM

KD

“ *1 file added to the album New Album Name*



Kathy Ellis - daughter - September 02, 2013 at 10:05 PM

DH

“ N. D. was the epitome of kindness, thoughtfulness, and loyalty. He was a very proud and devoted father, grandfather, husband, and brother. His work ethic was surpassed by none and he instilled that in each of his children. He gave so willingly of himself to his church and to his community--he was a doer, not one to pass the work to someone else. For me, one of N. D.'s most endearing traits was his sense of humor--we laughed together so much over these many years. I close my eyes and can visualize his mischievous smile and his shoulders shaking as he broke into laughter over a joke or the retelling of a humorous happening. N. D. was a proud man and was always impeccably dressed--rarely seen without his tie. Over the years, we have joked about his possibly being the only man who rode Space Mountain at Disneyland wearing a tie. I can still remember looking back and seeing it blowing in the wind. His loyalty to family and friends was immeasurable. No matter what personal burden he may have been carrying, he would be there to lend support and love when it was needed.

I could compose pages of accolades to N.D. and barely scrape the surface of the wonderful persona of the man who I am so proud to say is my brother. I will love him and miss him until we meet again.
Delores

Delores Hopkins-Poulos - September 02, 2013 at 09:19 PM

TE

“ HE HELD MANY IMPORTANT TITLES TO MANY PEOPLE.HIS MOST IMPORTANT TITLE TO ME WAS DAD(AND A DURN GOOD ONE AT THAT). THE HARD WORK ETHIC I LEARNED FROM HIM HAS SERVED ME WELL. HE GAVE MORE OF HIS TIME AND MONEY TO FOLKS BEHIND THE SCENE THAN ANY OTHER MAN I KNOW. AND IF I KNOW MY OLE DAD AT ALL HES PROBABLY ALREADY DRAWIN UP PLANS FOR A SECOND FLOOR ON HIS MANSION IN HEAVEN. THE HOME BUILDERS LOST AN ICON.

TEX - September 02, 2013 at 06:46 PM

 Linda Johnson Willis

I'm sorry for your loss. You look like your Dad.

Linda Johnson Willis - September 03, 2013 at 12:25 PM

KL

Hugs to your family, Tex.

Kris Lewis - September 04, 2013 at 07:48 PM

GH

“ *My dad raised five children with good family values, morals and work ethics. I personally thank him for the construction skills that he taught me, that helps me to provide a very good life for my family. He will live forever in our hearts and in our thoughts. He will be dearly missed. We will see him again. Praise be to God our Heavenly Father.*

Gary Hopkins - September 02, 2013 at 10:49 AM

KD

“ 10 files added to the album New Album Name



Kathy Ellis - daughter - September 02, 2013 at 09:20 AM

CH

I'm so sorry for your loss, Kathy. Our family will remember your dad very fondly, and he leaves a great legacy. Our thoughts and prayers go out to you and your family. Carol Hartnett-Husik

Carol Hartnett-Husik - September 05, 2013 at 09:35 AM

MA

“ *I will miss my friend's warm smile and handshake. "Well done thy good and faithful servant".*

mark - September 02, 2013 at 08:43 AM