



Desmond Dean Kerns

September 18, 1933 - June 28, 2018

Desmond Dean Kerns was born to Clyde and Daisy Kerns in Logan, Oklahoma, Beaver County, on September 18, 1933.

One night when Dean was eight years old he attended a revival being held at the town school house. Pastor Maynard Campbell “scared him into heaven” that night and Dean was forever grateful. Dean’s experience with the Lord impacted him greatly from that moment on.

Dean spent his early years living in the country and traveling two and a half hours each way on a bus to get to school in Laverne, Oklahoma. Dean always loved the outdoors and had a passion for fishing. He was also athletic and enjoyed competing in all sports.

He graduated from Laverne High School in 1951 and entered Bob Jones University in Greenville, South Carolina, where he studied for the ministry. While in Greenville, Dean had his first sermon opportunities, preaching to prisoners on a chain gang. After two years, Dean transferred to Pasadena Nazarene College in California, where he played basketball and earned a Divinity degree in 1956. During Dean’s junior year of college he met his wife, Ruth Walsh. Dean served as student body president his senior year, along with Ruth, who was also a member of student council. Dean and Ruth were married on April 11, 1957, in Pasadena, CA.

After college graduation, Dean and Ruth moved to Kansas City, Missouri, where Dean attended Nazarene Theological Seminary. After completing seminary, Dean and Ruth returned to California and founded the La Mirada Nazarene Church in the summer of 1960, where Dean served as senior pastor.

Also in 1960, Dean met fellow minister, Don Leetch. As their friendship grew, they asked the question, "If we had 10 years left to live, would we keep doing what we are doing?" This led to resigning their respective pastorates in 1963 with the vision of "doing what we can in our generation to make Christ known." A business and ministry partnership was formed that lasted more than 50 years. Together with their wives, they co-founded Outreach Center Church and DaySpring Cards, which they moved from Southern California to Siloam Springs, Arkansas, in 1979. Dean was an active influence in both the business and church community in Northwest Arkansas.

Dean and Ruth were married for 35 years until Ruth passed away in 1992. The following year, Dean married Carol Atkins at Outreach Center Church in Siloam Springs, Arkansas. Dean and Carol were married for 25 years.

Dean loved God with his whole heart and he invested his life pursuing Him. He was an authentic example to all of his family and friends of what that meant. He will be missed greatly by his wife, Carol, and his children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren.

Dean was preceded in death by his parents, Clyde Kerns and Daisy (Baxter) Kerns, his first wife, Ruth (Walsh) Kerns, his sister, Shirley Smalley, and stepsons, Paul and Dan Atkins. He is survived by his wife, Carol, his son Darren Kerns and wife Lori of Siloam Springs, Arkansas, his daughter, Karen (Kerns) Morris and husband Drew of Springdale, Arkansas, his step-daughter

Catherine (Atkins) Carrion and husband Luis of Siloam Springs, Arkansas, step-daughter-in-law Valbona Batchelor of Springdale, Arkansas, his sister Pat Wynn of Follett, Texas, his sister JoAn Stevens and husband Wes of Gold Canyon, Arizona, 11 grandchildren, and 3 great-grandchildren. He also leaves behind a host of cherished friends.

Dean's family is grateful for the outpouring of love, prayers, and other acts of kindness shown to Dean and his family during his illness. Truly, "we thank our God upon every remembrance of you." Philippians 1:3.

Visitation will be 6:00 to 7:30pm, Friday, July 6th, 2018, at Wasson Funeral Home in Siloam Springs. Burial will be private. A celebration of life service will be held at 3:00pm on Saturday, July 7th, at the Cathedral of the Ozarks at John Brown University in Siloam Springs. In lieu of flowers, the family requests contributions be made to the Outreach Center Church Building Fund, % Outreach Center, 21181 Oak Ridge Road, Siloam Springs, AR, 72761.

Previous Events

Visitation

JUL 6. 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM (CT)

Wasson Funeral Home
441 U.S. 412
Siloam Springs, AR 72761
(479) 524-5131
wasson@wassonfuneralhome.com
<https://www.wassonfuneralhome.com>

Memorial Service

JUL 7. 3:00 PM (CT)

Cathedral of the Ozarks
2000 W. University
Siloam Springs, AR 72761

Tribute Wall

JC

“ So sorry to hear of Dean's death. He was a special cousin, living close.in Logan community all our childhood. We began first grade together at Sunset school and graduated from Lavwene together. He was a special person, wonderful Christian witness.

June Coyle - July 12, 2018 at 10:58 AM

LG

“ Wonderful man....so sorry



Lynne Glass - July 03, 2018 at 04:23 PM

IR

“ Dean was a "Gentle Giant" that walked the halls here @ Dayspring, & ALWAYS made EVERYONE feel so love & appreciated. He always had a smile on his face. I am so grateful to God for Dean's obedience & love of the gospel! He impacted my personal walk in so many ways, & I am forever grateful!! May God BLESS his precious family, as they carry on Deans wonderful legacy!! Heaven rejoices as he met his Savior "face to face"!!

Irene Roberts - July 02, 2018 at 09:55 AM

SO

“ I remember the first DaySpring sales meeting that I was at in Dean's presence. He came up to me and gave me a big bear hug. He said I bristled and didn't accept it real well. I was raised in the upper midwest and not many guys gave other guys hugs back then, so I wasn't use to that. After that he mentioned it to me several times whenever we would see each other. In time, I grew to look forward to seeing Dean and getting those hugs.:) I would like to think that when Dean saw his Savior face-to-face early Thursday morning, there was an embrace between the two that was like no hug that he had ever given or ever received. I thank God for Dean Kerns and remember him for the love that he had and shared with all people.

Steve Onnen - June 29, 2018 at 04:37 PM

TB

“ Tammy Boles lit a candle in memory of Desmond Dean Kerns



Tammy Boles - June 29, 2018 at 03:57 PM

BS

“ Belinda Londagin Shetlar lit a candle in memory of Desmond Dean Kerns



Belinda Londagin Shetlar - June 29, 2018 at 02:27 PM