



Toombs H Kay Jr.

December 22, 1929 - December 4, 2018

Toombs H. Kay, Jr. Obituary

Toombs H. Kay, Jr., who was born on December 22, 1929, died peacefully on December 4, 2018. He was the son of Toombs Hodges Kay, Sr. and Viola Winn Kay. He was brought up on the Kay farm near Royston, GA. He graduated from Royston High School and Reinhardt Junior College. He completed his college education at Duke University, graduating with an A.B. degree in 1951. He received the M.Div. from Emory University in 1954 and then attended Union Theological Seminary in NYC and Columbia University before attaining a Ph.D. degree from New York University. Some years later he was awarded the honorary D.D. by Tennessee Wesleyan College.

He married Sara Elizabeth Beggs and they had five children: Ann Farr, Debra (Meryl) Perry, Cindy (Bill) Rhea, Paul Kay and six grandchildren. Dr. Kay was preceded in death by his son, Robert and grandson, Luke. Toombs is also survived by sisters, Betty Skelton and Pat Nix; brothers, John Wesley Kay, Terry Kay, and Gary Kay – and numerous nieces, nephews and cousins.

Sara died in May 1988, and Toombs married Patricia B. Terrill in March 1991. He is survived by Pat and her three children: Kathy (Jeff) Hewitt, Cindy (Mark) Munn, and Rick (Liz) Terrill, and seven grandchildren. Dr. Kay was also preceded in death by Pat's two grandsons, Barrett and Charlie.

In June 1951, Toombs was assigned to Union City Methodist Church, Union City, GA. After completing seminary, he was appointed to the Shandaken Methodist Parish in New York. From there, in 1956, he became the minister of

the First Reformed Church of Jamaica, NY, serving there until he finished his doctorate. In 1961 he was named Professor and head of the Department of Religion and Philosophy at LaGrange College, LaGrange, GA.

In 1965 Toombs moved to Reinhardt College, which he had attended earlier, and was the Dean. From there he transferred to Tennessee Wesleyan College as the Academic Dean and Professor of Religion and Philosophy until 1974 when he was appointed as the Senior Minister of Church Street United Methodist Church in Knoxville, TN. He served there for thirteen years before moving to be Senior Minister of the First Broad Street United Methodist Church in Kingsport, TN. He retired from that position in December 1993. After retirement, he served brief appointments at John Wesley United Methodist Church in Bristol, VA, Bethel Presbyterian Church in Kingsport, TN, and Erwin Presbyterian Church, Erwin, TN.

A memorial service will be held December 8, 2018 at 2:00 pm at St. Paul's Waccamaw UMC in Pawley's Island, SC.

Memorials may be made to St. Paul's Waccamaw UMC and designated to the Toombs H. Kay Shut In Ministry on the memo line: 180 St. Paul Place, Pawley's Island, SC 29585, or to a charity of your choice.

An online guestbook is available at www.goldfinchfuneralhome.com.

Goldfinch Funeral Home, Litchfield Pawley's Chapel is handling arrangements.

Tribute Wall

DE

“ To our friends and family, thank you for your kind words, love and support at the passing of our father. He will be greatly missed. We will have a "Going Home to Georgia" celebration in Royston on January 19th at 2 held at Redwine UMC, where his cremains will be laid to rest alongside our mother, Sara. You may contact me at dperry@pcva.us if you need more information. Praise God for such a wonderful father, brother Bob, and mother!! The Lord be with you all.
Debbie

Debbie - December 21, 2018 at 11:38 AM

GM

“ Toombs befriended me when I first moved to Pawleys Island. He and Pat have been the best of neighbors, friends, and he even performed our Beachside Nuptials, where the surf surprised us all, and he became the first foot washin' Methodist Minister. Words cannot express adequately our love and esteem for such a Prince of a man.

Gary Mason - December 11, 2018 at 10:35 PM

DJ

“ I attended Tennessee Wesleyan College from 1971 - 1973. Dr. Kay was a mentor to me during those years. One week after graduating, Dr. Kay officiated my wedding on December 22, 1973. This month, my husband and I will celebrate our 45th wedding anniversary. Each year on December 22, I have special thoughts of Dr. Kay. How kind he was on that day. He surely blessed our marriage by God. My condolences go to his family. Such a great man.
Debbie Shell James

Debbie James - December 10, 2018 at 08:56 AM

FB

“ I am so saddened by the passing of Toombs. He was a very special friend. He and that marvelous voice will be missed by many.
Fred Bischoff

Fred Bischoff - December 09, 2018 at 01:54 PM

LB

“ We were saddened to learn of the death of Dr. Toombs H. Kay, Jr. We have been long time friends of Dr. Kay, and the Kay family. I feel very fortunate and blessed to have worked with him as his secretary at Church Street UMC for many years. Larry and I treasure the friendship we have had with him and Pat the past few years. We send our love and prayers to you Pat and to Ann, Debbie, Cindy & Paul Kay. Peace & Love, Loretta & Larry Best

Loretta Best - December 08, 2018 at 02:06 PM

CR

Thank you Loretta. Dad loved your coconut cream cake each year for his birthday.

Cindy Rhea - December 11, 2018 at 06:14 PM

SC

“ Dear Aunt Pat & Kay Cousins, My heartfelt condolences to you all at this time. I love & miss you all. Uncle Toombs will always be rembered with much love! Imagine heaven now with our precious famlies gazing upon Jesus Christ! All my love, Susan Carey

Susan Carey - December 07, 2018 at 05:04 PM

RB

“ Roy Bowers lit a candle in memory of Toombs H Kay Jr.



Roy Bowers - December 06, 2018 at 04:25 PM

LE

“ We were so sorry to hear of the death of Toombs Kay. He was our minister at Church Street Methodist Church in Knoxville, TN for a number of years while our children were growing up. They still measure their ministers by the standards he set! He ended some of his prayers by saying "Our rock and our redeemA", and they can still mimic his saying this. I, Louise, did not know who he was until I went to LaGrange College as a freshman and met his brother, John, who was then a senior. John and other students spoke highly of Toombs. He has been a big part of our lives, and that was a great blessing. We love you, Toombs; may you rest in peace and joy.

Louise and Rem B. Edwards - December 06, 2018 at 10:37 AM

SW

“ Dr. Kay married Carol and me Nov. 26, 1978. He was a kind and generous man. He was also an excellent speaker.
Stephen Weber
Knoxville, TN

Stephen Weber - December 06, 2018 at 06:55 AM

LC

“ *Laura Collins lit a candle in memory of
Toombs H Kay Jr.*



Laura Collins - December 05, 2018 at 11:24 PM

LC

Dr. Kay will always hold a special place in my heart. He was a wonderful minister and was always willing to help or listen. Rest in peace. I will see you in heaven.

Laura Collins - December 05, 2018 at 11:27 PM

GM

“ *Sorry for your loss
Greg and Sandra Marion*

Greg Marion - December 05, 2018 at 09:20 PM

WJ

“ *My heart goes out to Mr. Kay's family. I never knew him but i will see him when I get to heaven. Rest in the arms of Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior.*



Wanda Gail Jordan - December 05, 2018 at 02:27 PM