



Mr. M Larue Kohl

July 21, 1947 - December 12, 2018

I am Larue Kohl, a 46 year resident of Marshall County, Alabama. I moved my family from New Orleans to open my first Kentucky Fried Chicken franchise in 1972 and owned and operated four KFC's in Marshall and Morgan County for over 45 years.

My wife of 48 years, Jane Blanchard Kohl founded Jane Kohl School of Dance in 1977 in our garage with 36 students. It is now the Kohl Academy of Performing Arts, where Jane has continued to impact young dancers' lives with her passion and expertise for over four decades. We have three grown children--Kris, Melissa and Lea who all grew up on Guntersville Lake—ask them and they will tell you that Tuesdays are for waterskiing.

Kris is married to Naomi Helene Kohl and has three girls—Sophia 10, Norah 7 and Audra 5. Kris is the Senior Cloud Architect for Hilton Worldwide and lives in Germantown, Tennessee.

Melissa is married to Mark Blackburn and has 9 year old twins Rex and Merrin, and Nila 3. Mark runs the Blackburn Golf Academy based at Greystone Performance Center in Birmingham, Alabama.

Lea is married to Mark's brother Paul Blackburn. They have a 4 year old named Emma and an 8 month old named Alice. Paul is the VP of Retail Development, Design & Merchandising for L'Occitane en Provence, North America.

Colonel Sanders offered me several locations for my first KFC, but the Mountains and the Lake in Guntersville sealed the deal for us.

I was an early member of the Guntersville Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors and the Guntersville Jaycees. I was Jaycee Boat Race Chairman in 1977 and Jaycee President in 1978. We were ranked the number one Jaycee Club in the State of Alabama that year. Jane is a past Jayceette president as well.

I served on the DHR Quality Assurance Team for four years and was its Chairman when DHR was certified by Ivor Groves as Federally Compliant. I am a charter member (still active in its 21st year) of the Marshall County Child Advocacy Center Board.

KFC Board and Association Positions:

I was elected President of the KFC Local Advertising Cooperative in Huntsville/Decatur in 1992 and served for 20 years in that capacity.

I was elected to the Southeast KFC Franchisee Association representing Alabama in 1992 and served as its President in 1997-98. I represented the Southeast on the National Board for 4 years. Jane and I served as meeting planners for the SEKFCFA for eight years setting up four meetings a year all over the U.S., Canada and the Caribbean.

I was elected as a council member of the KFC governing body, the National Council and Advertising Cooperative representing KFC Franchisees in Alabama, Florida, Mississippi and Louisiana in 1998 and served three 3 year terms. During those nine years I was a member of the NCAC Public Relations sub-committee and I chaired that sub-committee for six years. I also assisted the NCAC meeting planner.

I went through the chairs of the Association of Kentucky Fried Chicken Franchisees, Inc (AKFCF.com) serving as its President in 2012-13. I helped plan board meetings for four years and worked on five National Convention planning committees, two in New Orleans (Chairman), one in San Antonio, one in San Diego and one in Orlando.

In 2014 when I was no longer on a KFC board I got bored and I took the ACES Master Gardener class and am now an active member of Marshall County Master Gardeners working on local projects like the CASA Garden.

In 2014 I was appointed to represent the Marshall County Commission on the Alabama Mountain Lakes Tourism Board. In 2016 I was re-appointed. In my first three and a half years I represented Marshall County at many trade shows and tourism expos from Indianapolis to Seattle to Memphis to New Orleans to Nashville and Will Ainsworth's Hunting and Fishing Expo in Huntsville, Alabama. In 2016 I received the Good Neighbor Award from then Alabama Mountain Lakes Tourism Association Board for my work promoting North Alabama in General and Marshall County in particular.

I love tourism and I think our Mountain Lakes are among the top attractions in the Country. Jane and I have had four families move here over the years and are currently working on relocating our fifth family to move here.

I am an ex-officio member of the Marshall County Convention and Visitors Bureau working with Katy Norton, the President and its board as the Chairman of the committee that brought the H1 Unlimited Boat Races back to Guntersville on June 22-24, 2018. We have been approved by H1 to hold our 2nd Annual Guntersville Lake HydroFest on June 28-30, 2019 featuring the H1 Unlimited and the Grand Prix classes of race boats on the Fastest Water in the South.

I am the Immediate Past President of the Guntersville Rotary Club.

Colonel Sanders said when asked about retirement, "It's not for me. A feller will rust out a lot quicker than he'll wear out." I agree and have lived my entire life by this motto.

I am preceded in death by:

Mother:

Blanche Larue Kohl

Father:

Jack Action Kohl

I am survived by:

Two sisters:

Susan Drake (Jim)

Mimi Weir (Kent)

Three children:

Kris Kohl (Naomi)

Melissa Blackburn (Mark)

Lea Blackburn (Paul)

Eight grandchildren:

Sophia, Norah & Audra Kohl

Rex, Merrin & Nila Blackburn

Emma & Alice Blackburn

One nephew and five nieces:

Kohl, Allie & Shelby Weir,

Madeleine Corbo, Renee' Blanchard Culbertson
and Celeste Jones

Previous Events

Visitation

DEC 17. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Guntersville Memorial Chapel
1601 Henry Street
Guntersville, AL 35976
(256) 582-7931
guntersvillememorial@gmail.com

Memorial Service

DEC 18. 10:30 AM (CT)

St. William Catholic Church
929 Gunter Avenue
Guntersville, AL 35976
fr.tim@stwilliamchurch.com
<http://www.stwilliamchurch.com/>

Tribute Wall

NO

“ *We love you Paparue!!!!*

Norah - October 19, 2023 at 04:26 PM

NO

“ *hey i am Larue kohl's granddaughter and i am so happy for this page so much also these flowers are amazing at grammy's house really brightens the mood*

Norah - October 19, 2023 at 04:15 PM

AC

“ *The staff of the American Cancer Fund at www.AmericanCancerFund.org is sorry to hear of Larue's passing. We have received a memorial donation in his name and our sincere condolences go out to his family.*

American Cancer-Fund - January 07, 2019 at 05:02 PM

LB

“*Larue and Jane were our first friends as a couple when we moved to Guntersville in 1973. Their friendship was special! Memories of time spent with Larue and Jane are the best memories ever. Especially boat races, Jaycees/Jayceetts, dinner parties, etc. Larue’s hospitality and love for people was like no other. Lowell always referred to Larue as “my best friend Larue, in Guntersville Al”.*

Larue, you have left a big heart print in our lives! We love you and will miss you. We are so thankful that we were able to spend time with you this past June.

Good bye, my friend. You were one of a kind!!!

Thank you for being our friend.

May you Rest In Peace.

Shirley and Lowell Barnes

Lowell/Shirley Barnes - December 17, 2018 at 02:23 PM



“ 77 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



Guntersville Memorial Chapel & Crematory - December 17, 2018 at 12:31 PM



“ *Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Mr. M Larue Kohl.*



December 17, 2018 at 10:36 AM



“ *Gerberas and Palms Spray was purchased for the family of Mr. M Larue Kohl.*



December 16, 2018 at 05:01 PM



“ *Jake and Elizabeth Rasor purchased the Tender Tribute for the family of Mr. M Larue Kohl.*



Jake and Elizabeth Rasor - December 16, 2018 at 11:41 AM



“ *Be My Love Bouquet with Red Roses was purchased for the family of Mr. M Larue Kohl.*



December 16, 2018 at 07:13 AM

LB

“*Larue and I went shopping for a pool table for his 40th birthday. I convinced him to buy the most expensive pool table available. It took the place of Jane's dining table. We played until the early morning hours. Lowell Barnes*

Lowell Barnes - December 15, 2018 at 07:57 PM

LB

“*Lowell And Shirley Barnes sent a virtual gift in memory of Mr. M Larue Kohl*



Lowell and Shirley Barnes - December 15, 2018 at 07:50 PM

LB

“*Lowell And Shirley Barnes lit a candle in memory of Mr. M Larue Kohl*



Lowell and Shirley Barnes - December 15, 2018 at 07:39 PM



“*Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the family of Mr. M Larue Kohl.*



December 15, 2018 at 02:58 PM

KK

“ Karen Pecquet and David Krippner purchased the Country Basket Blooms for the family of Mr. M Larue Kohl.



Karen Pecquet and David Krippner - December 15, 2018 at 11:36 AM

RW

“ Janie,
We are so sorry for your loss. Rick and I have great memories with the Crew of Larue at Mardi Gras. It was great to get to know Larue and your family. He will be greatly missed.
Rick & Roxanne Welsch

Roxanne Welsch - December 15, 2018 at 06:53 AM



“ Basket Full of Wishes was purchased for the family of Mr. M Larue Kohl.



December 14, 2018 at 03:33 PM

AM

“ Anita McBurnett lit a candle in memory of Mr. M Larue Kohl



Anita McBurnett - December 14, 2018 at 03:21 PM



“ *Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the family of Mr. M Larue Kohl.*



December 14, 2018 at 02:59 PM



“ *Carroll & Debra Gillespie, Huntsville, AL purchased the Country Basket Blooms for the family of Mr. M Larue Kohl.*



Carroll & Debra Gillespie, Huntsville, AL - December 14, 2018 at 02:48 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Mr. M Larue Kohl.*



December 14, 2018 at 10:54 AM



“ *David Barr and Bill Byrd / PMTD Restaurants purchased the Large Basket Garden for the family of Mr. M Larue Kohl.*



David Barr and Bill Byrd / PMTD Restaurants - December 14, 2018 at 10:20 AM



“ *Our heartfelt condolences to the entire Kohl family. I only have fond memories of Larue, from the first time we met in San Antonio for an AKFCF board meeting until the last time I saw him in 2012. Some of the best memories are spending time together at two Mardi Gras in New Orleans, his unusual sense of humor, his willingness to befriend a stranger from South Africa, his love for a party, any where any time.*

Go peacefully my friend, I'm sure you are once again going to have a lot of fun and get things moving!!

Gideon Malan

South Africa

Gideon - December 14, 2018 at 05:34 AM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Mr. M Larue Kohl.*



December 13, 2018 at 05:56 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Mr. M Larue Kohl.*



December 13, 2018 at 03:52 PM