



Kirk Rankin

October 10, 1931 - October 7, 2017

Kirk Rankin

October 10, 1931 – October 7, 2017

Kirk Rankin, 85, of Ocean View, DE, formerly of Bethany Beach, DE and Washington, DC, passed away peacefully, surrounded by his family on October 7, 2017, at Beebe Hospital in Lewes, DE. Kirk was born in Nashville, Tennessee and eventually moved to Washington, DC. He spent 3 years in the Army, and he was sent to Monterey, CA where he studied Linguistics, specializing in Mandarin Chinese. Kirk eventually received a PhD in Linguistics. Kirk worked at the National Bureau of Standards as a computer scientist. He also was part of a group that started The Modern School of Language and taught English to foreigners as a second language. In addition, he taught linguistic graduate courses at American University. In the 70's he started his own landscaping business, Kirk Rankin Landscaping, in Washington, DC. He then expanded his work to include customers in Bethany Beach, DE. He continued landscaping for over 30 years until he retired in 2003. Kirk designed and planted quite a few memorial gardens in Washington, DC as well as the Phil Brown memorial garden in Bethany Beach.

Kirk did a lot of volunteer work in Washington DC as well at Bethany Beach. In Washington, he was the ANC (Advisory Neighborhood Commissioner) in his neighborhood for many years and worked hard to protect unnecessary

development in the Palisades neighborhood. He also did volunteer work at The Washington National Cathedral where he would pick up the food that was donated at services and deliver it to various inner city churches for their food banks to help the needy.

Kirk was the Planning and Zoning Commissioner in Bethany Beach for many years. He was part of the original July 4th Committee that started the July 4th celebrations in 1983 that continues today in Bethany. He was involved with the beginning organization of the End of Summer Jazz Funeral held in Bethany Beach every Labor Day that started in the early 80's with a handful of people and now continues drawing huge crowds.

After his retirement he lived full time in Bethany Beach and then moved to Ocean View, DE. He was a property owner in Bethany since 1967 and Ocean View since 2005.

Kirk is survived by his wife of 43 years, Patsy Dill Rankin, of Ocean View, DE, his five children, Robin Rankin of Ocean View, DE, Charles Rankin of Bethesda, MD, Thorne Rankin & Kirk Rankin of Washington, DC, and Sinclair Rankin of Brooklyn, NY. Eight grandchildren, Willow & Luna Lewis of Ocean View, DE, Salli & Ginger Mandel, of Washington, DC, Kirk, Henry & Georgia Rankin of Washington DC, and Colin Rankin of Bethesda, MD.

A Celebration of Life will be held for Kirk Rankin on Saturday, November 18, 2017 at 4:00 pm at Pie Restaurant, in Bethany Beach, DE. An additional memorial may be held in Washington DC at a future date.

In memory of Kirk, please make donations to "Save The Manatees", which he supported for many years.

Save the Manatee Club

500 N. Maitland Ave.

Maitland, FL 32751

To send flowers to the family or plant a tree in memory of Kirk Rankin, please visit our Heartfelt Sympathies Store.

Tribute Wall

TF

“*Wow, what a great tribute to Kirk. We learned some things we didn't know. What a full life with so many accomplishments...most of all a beautiful and loving family. We love you all and will see you at the Celebration of Life. XO-Chris, Darlene, John and Katie.*”

The Chris Dill Family - November 07, 2017 at 12:00 AM

HF

“*Dear Rankin family, I am so sorry for the loss of your dear loved one. What brings me comfort in times like these is the scripture found at Revelation 21:3,4 where God promises to soon get rid of all sickness and death. Please accept my heartfelt condolences and may Jehovah, the God of all comfort, be with you during this most difficult time in your life.*”

H. Fields - October 16, 2017 at 12:00 AM

GR

“ My dear wife and I would like to extend our condolences for the loss of your loved one. All of us have experienced the pain of death in some way sad to say. And, so, at difficult times like this we are confronted with the stark reality of how precious and fragile life can surely be (James 4:14). So, my wife and I send this condolence to you with the hope that we can in some small way comfort you as it has comforted us with what the Bible reveals to us about GOOD NEWS from Almighty God. Please be assured that we are in no way trying to impose our faith on you; but we sincerely just want to extend comfort to you during your grief (Proverbs 17:17).

As recorded in the Bible, God's only-begotten son, Jesus promises that one day he is personally going to bring back to life all those who have died, just as he did when he was on earth as a man (John 5:28,29; 11:43, 44). Just as death is an enemy to us, it is also an enemy to God (1 Corinthians 15:26). For that reason as well as others, He promises to remove FOREVER all the pain, suffering, wickedness, and DEATH that mankind has had to endure for thousands of years (Revelation 21:3-5; Psalm 37:10, 11, 29). What a glorious and almost unbelievable day that will be! It's a reality and a sure hope we can rely on because it is absolutely impossible for God to lie (Titus 1:2; Isaiah 55:10, 11).

It is our hope that you NOT take our word for what has been written in this condolence; but that you please take a moment to read and meditate on all these referenced scriptures in your own Bible (1 Timothy 4:15, 16). My wife and I are confident you will be encouraged and comforted by the marvelous hope God has in store for us (Psalm 1:1-3; John 17:3). Our thoughts and prayers are sincerely with all of you.

George & Christine Ragusa - October 11, 2017 at 12:00 AM

JO

“Grief can be so hard, but our cherished memories help us to cope. Hold tight to those memories. Lean on each other for support. And may you find comfort in God's promise at Isaiah 41:10

JoyceA - October 10, 2017 at 12:00 AM

MJ

“I would like to offer my condolences for your loss. How comforting it is to know that Jehovah, the God of all comfort, will soon eliminate all grief and provide permanent consolation when “all those in the memorial tombs will hear Christ’s voice and come out”! (John 5:28, 29) God promises that “he will do away with death forever, and the Sovereign Lord Jehovah will wipe away the tears from all faces.” (Isa. 25:8) Then, instead of having to “weep with those who weep,” all earth’s inhabitants will “rejoice with those who rejoice.”—Rom. 12:15.

M Jones - October 09, 2017 at 12:00 AM