



## Dr. Toombs H. Kay

December 4, 2018

Dr. Toombs H. Kay, Jr., formerly of Royston GA, who was born in 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, Georgia. Often called “Jr.” as a child, he was the seventh child of Toombs and Viola: Lula, Jean, Thomas, Sara, Nell, Betty, Toombs, Patsy, Peggy, John, Terry, and Gary.

Dr. Kay was a scholar of religion, philosophy, and history. He graduated from Royston High School and Reinhardt Junior College. He completed the A.B. degree in 1951 from Duke University. He earned 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.

Dr. Kay married Sara Elizabeth Beggs in 1951. Sara (daughter of Mac Beggs and Elinor Dilworth) grew up nearby in the Canon area of Royston. Together, they had a family of five children: Ann, Debbie, Bob, Cindy, and Paul. The death of his son Bob, who died of cancer at age 50, was devastation to Toombs. Dr. Kay’s children produced six grandchildren and two great-grandchildren: Ann Farr - sons Luke and Adam; Debbie (Myrle) Perry - daughters Sara and Suzanne Neal; Cindy (Bill) Rhea - children Davis and

Beth; and two great-grandsons by Adam Farr - sons Luke and Grayson. He officiated at the weddings of his three daughters, and he baptized his grandchildren. Dr. Kay was preceded in death by his son, Robert (Bob), his grandson, Luke, and his son-in-law, Ben Farr. Dr. Toombs Kay is also survived by sisters, Betty Skelton and Pat Nix; and his brothers, John Wesley Kay, Terry Kay, and Gary Kay, as well as numerous nieces, nephews and cousins.

Sara died in May 1988, and Toombs married Patricia B. Terrill in March 1991. Pat has 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. A memorial service was held 12/8/18 at St. Paul's Waccamaw UMC in Pawley's Island, South Carolina, where he and Pat lived.

Though humble, Dr. Kay was an exceptional speaker and pastor. He and Sara worked together as a team to serve in ministry. In June 1951, Toombs was assigned to Union City Methodist Church, Union City, Georgia. 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, New York, 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, Georgia.

In 1965 Dr. Kay moved to Reinhardt College, which he had attended earlier, and was the Academic Dean. From there he transferred to Tennessee Wesleyan College, Athens, Tennessee, as the Academic Dean and Professor of Religion and Philosophy until 1974. Dr. Kay was next appointed as the Senior Minister of Church Street United Methodist Church in Knoxville, Tennessee. He served there for thirteen years where, along with many accomplishments, he helped guide the church in building new facilities. In 1987 he became the Senior Minister of First Broad Street United Methodist

Church in Kingsport, Tennessee. He retired from that position in December 1993. After retirement, Dr. Kay served brief appointments at John Wesley United Methodist Church in Bristol, Virginia, Bethel Presbyterian Church in Kingsport, Tennessee, and Erwin Presbyterian Church in Erwin, Tennessee.

In his capacity as a minister, teacher and friend, Dr. Kay will be fondly remembered by many. Through the years, he has officiated over a multitude of christenings, weddings, and funerals. Gifted at helping those in grief when conducting funerals, Dr. Kay's faith was evident in his celebration of the saving grace of Jesus Christ and His offering of life everlasting. He taught the word of God and lived by the word of God.

There will be a celebration service for Toombs on Saturday, January 19th at 2:00 at the Redwine United Methodist Church in Canon GA.

Memorials may be made to St. Paul's Waccamaw UMC, Toombs H. Kay Shut-In Ministry, 180 St. Paul Place, Pawley's Island, SC 29585, or to Church Street UMC, Building Fund, 900 Henley St, Knoxville, TN 37902, or to a charity of your choice.

# Cemetery Details

## Redwine Church Cemetery

3548 Redwine Church Road  
Canon, GA 30520

# Previous Events

## Memorial Service

JAN 19. 2:00 PM (ET)

Redwine Church  
3548 Redwine Church Road  
Canon, GA

# Tribute Wall

SG

“ *Suzanne Greenway Gillespie sent a virtual gift  
in memory of Dr. Toombs H. Kay*



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**Suzanne Greenway Gillespie** - January 17, 2019 at 08:25 AM