



Ancil Kay Cotton

February 4, 1940 - January 23, 2008

Ancil Kay Cotton, 67, of Bluffton, died at 12:01 a.m. today, Jan. 23, 2008 at Bluffton Regional Medical Center.

Born in Bluffton to Ancil Wellington and Crystal Anna (Baker) Cotton on Feb. 4, 1940, he married Judith Ann Thompson on April 22, 2006 in Hot Springs Village, Ark; she survives. Mr. Cotton had previously married Kathryn "Kathy" Rae Birum on Sept. 3, 1960 in Fort Wayne; she preceded him in death on July 12, 2005.

A 1958 graduate of Bluffton High School, Mr. Cotton was a Master of Cosmetology. With his first wife, he managed the Delta Beauty College in Greenville, Miss. from 1960 to 1962. In October, 1962 they opened Kay and Kathy's Beauty Salon in Bluffton which they ran together for 40 years, retiring in 2002. He served as a Bluffton City Council member from 1980 to 1984, and also on the board of the Bluffton Parks and Recreation from 1976 to 1979. He was a member of Bluffton Rotary Club, the Boy Scouts of America, and Bluffton First Baptist Church.

Other surviving relatives include five children, Susan (Richard) Campbell and Barbara (Lance) Erick, both of Bluffton, Diana (Gary) Kauffman of Goshen, Dr. Angela Jean Steele of Elizabethtown, Ky., and Jeffrey Alan Steele of Winona Lake; one sister, Carol Ann Perdue of Hot Springs Village, Ark.; and six grandchildren; Andrew Joseph Campbell, Stacy Michelle Campbell, Matthew Ryan Campbell all of Bluffton. Andrew David Kauffman of Carmel, Julia Christine Kauffman of Muncie, and Stephen Justin Kauffman of Goshen.

Mr. Cotton was preceded in death by a sister, Cynthia Joan Cotton in 1983. Funeral services will be at 10:30 a.m. Friday, at the Thoma/Rich, Chaney & Lemler Funeral Home in Bluffton, with Mayor Ted Ellis officiating. Calling hours will be from 1 to 8 p.m. Thursday at the funeral home. Burial is at Mossburg Cemetery, in Liberty Center.

Previous Events

Visitation

JAN **24**. 1:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Thoma/Rich,Lemler Funeral Home
308 West Washington Street
Bluffton, IN 46714
(260) 824-3850
info@thomarich.com

Tribute Wall



“ *Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Ancil Kay Cotton*



Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home - January 23, 2008 at 12:00 AM



“ *Ancil Kay Cotton*

September 08, 2022 at 08:26 PM



“ Dearest Judy and Entire Family:

I am so very sorry about Kay's passing. Just about 2 years ago was the first time I actually met Kay. It was at my Dad's funeral. I was in Indiana with my 2 daughters, Kaci and Taylor for dad's funeral. We had always heard about Kay, as he was indeed like a brother to my Dad and such a wonderful friend to my Mom. I know how much me and the girls enjoyed visiting with Kay and meeting Judy, even under the circumstances. After that, Kay kept in touch with us - he would email me beautiful emails and continued to encourage me by telling me wonderful things about my Dad and just life in general. I, too just went through losing Taylor to cancer - there are no words that anyone can say at a time like this to make this any better. All I can say is that my love, thoughts and prayers are with all of you as you try to get through each day. Taylor would wake up every day as she was fighting cancer and say to me, "FROG, Mom -- There's just no other way." FROG meaning "Forever Rely On God." And that's so true. There just is no other way.

I know Kay is in Heaven and I'm sure he's smiling that wonderful smile of his. What a loving and kind person he was. We are very lucky to have him, along with my Dad and Taylor watching over us. What wonderful Guardian Angels we have on our side.

Keeping you all in our hearts, thoughts and prayers. Praying for God to give you the strength to get through each day.

God Bless You,

Ann Bachelor Vossekuil & Family##imported-begin##Ann Bachelor Vossekuil##imported-end##

January 30, 2008 at 11:17 AM



“ Judy, I was so very sorry to hear of Kay's death and my heart reaches out to you at this difficult time. Your wonderful new happiness was swept out of your arms before you could blink twice. But what an incredible, full few years you had together and those memories will comfort you now and bring sunshine to your days throughout the next months and years. I've been where you are right now, as you well know, and I pray that God will give you His love and strength to get through these first most difficult days and weeks. Please know that you are close to my heart and I will keep you and your family in my prayers. I am so thankful you had this precious time in your life to be happy and share life with such a wonderful man--you so deserved that. Another great guy of the '58 BHS class gone too soon. God bless. Love & hugs, Lynne (Bierie) Straney, Clarkston, MI###imported-begin###Lynne (Bierie) Straney###imported-end###

January 25, 2008 at 10:44 PM



“ Dearest Judy, and the entire family,

You all are in my every thought and prayer, and it is my hope that you will find God's peace and strength, to move through your sorrow. May the love of family and friends, lift you in days of grief and sadness, and shelter you in the warmth of unity. There are no words to adequately describe what Kay meant to Larry, and to me, as he was there for me every step of the way after Larry's death. We both loved him, and never knew a more compassionate and wonderful person. I know Larry considered him to be just like a brother, and as they got older, their friendship only deepened. May the loving memories that all of you shared with him, be forever etched in your hearts. Those we cherish we always live on in our memories forever. My love to each and every one of you. Always and forever, Sharon##imported-begin##Sharon Zalac Bachelor##imported-end##

January 25, 2008 at 12:44 PM



“ so sorry for your fathers death , he was a dear friend from school, and he did my hair many times before i moved away god bless you girls marty smith##imported-begin##marty smith ##imported-end##

January 25, 2008 at 08:39 AM



“ I was so sorry to hear of Kay's passing. My thoughts and prayers are with you at this time. God will take care of you!!!!!!!!!!

Linda Nicholson Russ##imported-begin##Linda L Russ##imported-end##

January 24, 2008 at 01:44 PM



“ Aunt Judy,

Know that we are with you despite not being able to be present in Bluffton for the service on Friday.

Our deepest sympathy and genuine love,

Kathy's Sons, Chuck and Jim##imported-begin##Charles D. Sturgis, M.D. & James E. Porter, Jr.##imported-end##

January 24, 2008 at 12:31 AM



“ *I am very sorry for your loss. I am so glad that Kay was able to make my Aunt Judy so happy. He was able to bring her happiness that she so deserved. My thoughts and prayers are with all of you.##imported-begin##Stephanie Sturgis Taylor##imported-end##*

January 23, 2008 at 10:09 PM



“ *I am really sorry to hear of your loss. My thoughts and prayers are with you all. I think about you guys often. Again I am sorry for your loss.##imported-begin##Cami (Schorey) Hanlon##imported-end##*

January 23, 2008 at 07:03 PM



“ I was so saddened to read about Kay's (and belatedly, Kathy's) passing. I went to school with Barbara, and one of my favorite memories from childhood was a camping trip that Kay and Kathy included me on to Amishville, IN. I remember it rained, and we ate a great meal at the restaurant, and I bought a souvenir I kept for years and years. They treated me great, and I will always remember them for that. My deepest sympathies to the family.

Karen##imported-begin##Karen (Harty) Garay##imported-end##

January 23, 2008 at 06:05 PM