



Jeffrey Ralph Kell

November 13, 1958 - November 25, 2015

Jeffrey Ralph Kell 57, of Ringgold, Georgia passed away Wednesday, November 25, 2015. A lifelong resident of the Ringgold area, he was a graduate of Ringgold High School. While in High School, Jeff worked part time in the UTC computer center, and then as a UTC student employee and finally as a full time employee for more than 35 years of service. Jeff loved roller coasters and scuba diving. His passion for scuba diving took him to many places and also worked for a short time at the Chattanooga Aquarium where he fed the sharks. He was the keyboard player in the Alethea Band and was the Director of Network Services for The University of Tennessee at Chattanooga. A key contributor to the development of LISTSERV, Jeff was instrumental in UTC's earning the LISTSERV 25th Anniversary plaque, which lists UTC as the 10th University to deploy LISTSERV. He was one of the original programmers of the UTC Student System which supported student success at UTC until July of 2013. He was primary programmer of the UTC Report of Academic Progress or RAP system, the first UTC online unofficial degreed audit system that was in service from the late 1970's until it was replaced by Banner in 2010. He was a key player on the engineering and deployment of the UTC network, dating back to before UTC was on the Internet. His work on the serial Gandalf system provided the UTC campus network the capability to provide online campus registration of students in the late 1970s. Jeff's architectural skills in networking were used to grow UTC Internet access from 768 KB to a 3 MB link, and with multiple upgrades for the

last 20 years to build what UTC has today. Over time, Jeff preserved and provided the campus one of the most secure campus networks in the state. His dedication to network security was validated during a four day, no-notice campus wide test conducted by System Security. He engineered the network to provide a dedicated connection to Internet 2 for the UT Chattanooga GENI rack, to support the development of the next generation Internet. UTC is the only non-Research 1 institution in the United States with a connection to the GENI network. Jeff was selected by The Tennessee Higher Education Information Technology Symposium (THEITS) as the 44th recipient of its 2015 Distinguished Service Award. An avid supporter of THEITS, he has presented for the last eleven years on multiple networking topics to overflow audiences. He was very active in the REN ISAC community with a national reputation on network operations and security. He has served on various UT System security committees and technical working groups. He has also been extremely active on multiple security and networking discussion lists. Jeff is preceded in death by his father, Byron Kell. He is survived by his loving wife Sharon "Kitty" Hicks Kell of Ringgold, GA.; mother, Carolyn Kell of Ringgold, GA.; two step-sons, Anthony W. Rylee and Chad J. (Megan) Rylee both of Ringgold, GA.; brother, Lawrence (Laura) Kell of Buford, GA.; two grandchildren, Kaylee Rylee and Luna Shay Rylee; and nephews, Preston Kell and Landon Kell.

Funeral services will be held 3:00 P.M. Monday November 30, 2015 in the funeral home chapel with Rev. Ben Cathey officiating. Interment will follow at Anderson Cemetery. The family will receive friends Sunday from 3-8 P.M. and Monday until funeral time at the funeral home. Arrangements are by Wilson Funeral Home Wallis-Stewart Chapel Ringgold, Georgia.

Cemetery Details

Anderson Cemetery

LaFayette St.
Ringgold, GA 30736

Previous Events

Visitation

NOV **29**. 3:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Wilson Funeral Homes - Ringgold Chapel
443 Boynton Drive
Ringgold, GA 30736
(706) 935-2331
spencer@wilsonfuneralhome.com
<https://www.wilsonfuneralhome.com/>

Visitation

NOV **30**. 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM (ET)

Wilson Funeral Homes - Ringgold Chapel
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Funeral

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Tribute Wall

JA

“ *Jean Akins lit a candle in memory of Jeffrey Ralph Kell*



jean akins - February 18, 2016 at 12:15 PM



“ *RIP Piano Man*



Cathi Hixson Pominski - February 18, 2016 at 12:09 PM

RG

“ *Jeff is missed. He left an amazing legacy that touched lives around the world through technology.*

R Gambrell - November 30, 2015 at 12:21 PM

JB

“ *I appreciated Jeff for all his hard work and assisting me with getting my programs up and running. I will remember him for being wise beyond his years, but more so for the man he was.*

Boe

John Boe - November 30, 2015 at 11:25 AM

AC

“ *The Internet would not be the same without you. RIP, Jeff.*

Alan Clegg - November 29, 2015 at 11:51 AM

DB

“ *I went to Ringgold High School with Jeff. He was always such a nice person. From reading his obituary, he apparently left a positive imprint on many around him. Condolences to the family. Darlene Carroll Brock*

Darlene Carroll Brock - November 28, 2015 at 08:33 PM

MJ

“ *Morgan Jessee lit a candle in memory of Jeffrey Ralph Kell*



Morgan Jessee - November 28, 2015 at 10:06 AM

MJ

In memory of a wonderful man

Morgan Jessee - November 28, 2015 at 10:07 AM

GA

“ As someone who has benefited from Jeff's generosity in sharing knowledge over the years I know he will be missed in ways words cannot express. His kindness and friendship to people he had never physically met are a tribute to him. I truly believe as you walk through life you meet a few people who touch you in ways you only realise after their passing, the world of the HP3000 will be a much more confused place today, lacking Jeff's knowledge and good humour, my thoughts are with you and your family at this time. Thank you for sharing him with us. God bless from the other side of the pond XX



Gary - November 26, 2015 at 07:43 AM

SB

“ Sha And Mike Bennett lit a candle in memory of Jeffrey Ralph Kell



Sha and Mike Bennett - November 25, 2015 at 09:11 PM



“ Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Jeffrey Ralph Kell.



November 25, 2015 at 09:08 PM