



Frederick O. Tilton

July 15, 1933 - April 21, 2017

Frederick Otis Tilton, 83, of Topeka, died peacefully on April 21, 2017, surrounded by family after a courageous battle with Alzheimer's disease.

Fred was born July 15, 1933, in Topeka to Morris and Mildred Tilton. He was a graduate of Washburn Rural High School, Washburn University and the United States Air Force ROTC program. Fred served as a First Lieutenant in the Air Force and was stationed in Fairbanks, Alaska.

Fred was the retired owner of Tilton's Markets after working over 50 years in the retail grocery business. Tilton's family-oriented markets have been important fixtures of the neighborhoods they served. Many former employees, customers and associates continued their friendships with Fred until his death. His son, Jeff, continues this legacy with ongoing operations of the business.

Fred was an avid lover of the outdoors. Over the years his hobbies included golf, snow skiing, swimming, fishing and hunting. His retirement years found him roaming fields and forests as he spent time with multi-generational family members enjoying the land, fresh air, cloud watching and inspirational sunsets. His passion for the outdoors was contagious to all those around him and he had a special eye for spotting wildlife – not for hunting, but for the pure enjoyment of watching God's creatures in their natural habitat.

He is survived by his loving wife of 62 years, Alice Tilton; four children, Janis Branch (Jim), Jeff Tilton (Rhonda), Jody Cooper (Greg), all of Topeka and Joe Tilton (Angela) of Gardner, KS; two brothers, Ray Tilton (Georganna) and Jim Tilton (Connie); sister-in-law, Carol Tilton; ten grandchildren, Marlene (Tilton) Brooks, Jennifer Tilton, Jason Cooper, Daniel Tilton, Christopher Cooper, Janelle (Branch) Lewis, Jamie Branch, John Cooper, Spencer Tilton and Tristen Tilton; four great-granddaughters, Maia Brooks, Cheyenne Brooks, Tess Ricks and Evelyn Lewis; and many nieces, nephews and other extended family.

He was preceded in death by his parents; brother, Robert Tilton and granddaughter, Amanda Tilton.

At his request, Fred will be cremated. The family will receive friends on Saturday, April 29, 2017, from 10 to 11 a.m. at Kevin Brennan Family Funeral Home, 2801 SW Urish Road, Topeka, KS 66614, followed immediately by a Celebration of Fred's Life.

Private inurnment will take place in Mount Hope Cemetery in Topeka, KS.

Cemetery Details

Mount Hope Cemetery

4700 SW 17th Street
Topeka, KS 66604

Previous Events

Visitation

APR 29. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

Kevin Brennan Family Funeral Home
2801 SW Urish Road
Topeka, KS 66614
(785) 272-7888
info@kevinbrennanfamily.com

A Celebration of Life

APR 29. 11:00 AM (CT)

Kevin Brennan Family Funeral Home
2801 SW Urish Road
Topeka, KS 66614
(785) 272-7888
info@kevinbrennanfamily.com

Tribute Wall



“ *Frederick O. Tilton*

January 28, 2023 at 12:08 PM



“ *Lovely One Spathiphyllum Plant was purchased for the family of Frederick O. Tilton .*



April 27, 2017 at 12:22 PM



“ *Serene Retreat was purchased for the family of Frederick O. Tilton .*



April 27, 2017 at 10:08 AM



“ *I feel how unsatisfactory anything I might say would be to diminish the grief and distress Fred's family and friends must be feeling. But, I cannot refrain from telling your how sorry I am for your loss. Fred served his country, his community and his family. He leaves a great legacy. I pray that God would give you strength, grace and peace and ease your anguish leaving you with the wonderful memories of his life and the pride in a life well lived.*

Louis Dolton - April 26, 2017 at 04:27 PM

MM

“ *Tilton family, you are in my thoughts and prayers. Occasionally when I would stay overnight as one of Janis's friends, I remember Mr. Tilton would come home after a long hard day at work, and always have a friendly greeting and a smile. Marcia (Harder) Maurer*

Marcia Harder Maurer - April 26, 2017 at 03:52 PM

JL

“ *Alice and Family,*

I am so sorry to hear of your loss. Fred was such a gentleman and he will be missed. Treasure the memories of your lifetime together.

My thoughts and prayers are with you and your family.

Jo Ann Long

Jo Ann Long - April 26, 2017 at 10:06 AM



PT

“ *Pete Jr & Elena Tavares lit a candle in memory of Frederick O. Tilton*



Pete Jr & Elena Tavares - April 25, 2017 at 04:33 AM

PT

Mrs. Tilton, Jeff and all the family, please accept Elena's and my deepest heartfelt thoughts, prayers and condolences on the loss of Mr. Tilton, as truly good man.

Please take comfort in the knowledge that he is now free of pain and discomfort and in the company of family and friends that have gone before him together with our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

I am sure that he, my Dad and Uncle share grocery store stories in heaven!!!!

Thanks to Jeff and his son for carrying on the family tradition. He is missed!!!! May Mr. Tilton Rest In Peace.

Pete Jr & Elena Tavares - April 25, 2017 at 04:44 AM

MD

I am very sorry to hear about the loss of a very cool guy. I lived directly across the street from the Tilton family during my childhood and teen years and was good friends with Fred's youngest child Joe, or Loof, as his dad jokingly called him on occasion. Because he was a funny guy and always seemed to be happy! Rest in peace Fred, my all time favorite neighbor.

Matt Daley - May 15, 2017 at 12:26 AM



“Garden Accent Stone - "Wherever a Beautiful Soul..." was purchased for the family of Frederick O. Tilton .



April 24, 2017 at 02:03 PM

SD

“ Jeff, I am lifting your family up in prayers. So sorry for your loss. Knowing the kind person you are, your father must have been the greatest Dad in the world.

Treasure the memories of him over the years. He has gone to his eternal home and will watch over you from the heavens. God Bless and may he rest in peace.

Stacie Davis
KNI staff and friend of NHN guys.

Stacie Davis - April 24, 2017 at 12:20 PM



“ Basket of Memories was purchased for the family of Frederick O. Tilton .



April 23, 2017 at 10:18 PM

DD

“ Alice
We were so sorry to read about Fred
We did not know of his illness.
He indeed was a very special person.
Our best to you friend and family.

Dan and Jo Dyer

Dan and Jo Dyer - April 23, 2017 at 07:20 PM

RT

“ *Uncle Fred*

An uncle that always asked how you were doing, had a sense of humor, was kind and gave useful advice when he knew it would be helpful. We had a common love of the outdoors, and he also helped me to develop a good work ethic that I am thankful for today. He was a positive influence in my life and that made me a better person.

Robert D. Tilton

Robert D. Tilton - April 23, 2017 at 03:11 PM



“ *Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Frederick O. Tilton .*



April 23, 2017 at 02:37 PM

TC

“ *jeff sorry for loss your dad was a nice man denise&terry casebier*

terry casebier - April 23, 2017 at 07:44 AM

JC

“ I can honestly say, being able to call him "grandpa" is a true honor. He has taught my brothers and I many life lessons, that without those teachings we wouldn't be the people we are today. He was our first hunting buddy, our friend, our teacher and most important a loving grandfather to all his grandchildren. We will miss him dearly, but are at peace knowing his suffering is over. He can now go back to chasing rooster pheasants and turkeys, playing golf, and doing what he does best, which is watching over all his family. The world lost a great man but heaven gained an angel.

Jason Cooper - April 22, 2017 at 09:35 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Frederick O. Tilton .



April 22, 2017 at 09:06 PM

JB

“ My dad has always been an exceptional family man. My mom, his kids and grandchildren (and now their children) have been the true center of his life for many years. Taking care of us has been his lifelong goal and joy. He was also a loving “Uncle Fred” to every one of his nieces and nephews as they grew up. Dad and my uncles (Bob, Ray, Jim) have stayed close throughout their lifetimes. Songs always have a way of helping me express my feelings and I have two to share with everyone: The song “That’s My Job” by Conway Twitty has always reminded me of him. And recently Tim McGraw sings a song that my dad might have authored himself titled “Humble and Kind”.

That's My Job: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L7XK_zNq930

Humble and Kind: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=awzNHuGqoMc>

To dad I say: I miss you badly, but am so glad that you are finally free from that horrible disease that invaded your brain. You always worried about each one of us and even up to the very end you asked: “What about the Children?” Dad, I say to you that all your children will be okay. You taught us well and I know your spirit will continue to guide us. May you finally rest in peace. I love you lots!

Janis Lee Branch

Janis Branch - April 22, 2017 at 05:34 PM

JT

Yes, humble and kind are the perfect adjectives for Fred. He is a wonderful person. I say "is" because one's spirit never dies, and he will always be a beautiful example for all of us.

Julie Tilton - April 22, 2017 at 08:13 PM

JT

“ *My dad taught me many very important lessons. One that is tied to what i think defoned him was to value all people. He was always genuinely happy to meet a new person. Always glad to hear their story, their point of view and always seemed to find a way to learn something from them. I hope I never forget that lesson.*
Joe Tilton

Joe Tilton - April 22, 2017 at 12:46 PM

CS

Frequent and loyal shoppers at Tilton's West almost every Friday. Sorry for your loss, Jeff. Sincerely, Carol, daughter Lori and the 4 yr. old "tornado" , Bradley.

carol stephens - April 23, 2017 at 11:00 AM