



Billy Jack Rudd, D.D.S.

April 21, 1937 - February 24, 2015

Dr. Billy “Jack” Rudd, D.D.S., an extraordinary human being and founder of Teethsavers International, Inc. left this earth on Monday, February 23 at his home in Lubbock, Texas at the age of 77.

Jack was born on April 21, 1937 in Ballinger, Texas. At the age of 10, he moved with his family to Abilene, where he graduated from Abilene High School in 1955. Jack studied and worked as an athletic trainer at SMU and graduated from McMurray College in Abilene in 1960. That same year, he married former wife Kay Campbell, who preceded him in death in 2014, and began dental studies at the University of Texas Dental School in Houston. Two years later, he transferred to the School of Dentistry at the University of Missouri-Kansas City. Upon graduating in 1965, Dr. Rudd moved his family to Lubbock, where he practiced dentistry for 30 years.

Dr. Rudd volunteered at the City-County Dental Clinic and the Presbyterian Medical Center. He helped develop a network of dental services for the indigent and played a pivotal role in creating a philosophy of community-service dentistry in the region. Jack received a Fellowship in the Academy of General Dentistry and served as President of the South Plains Dental Society in 1972. He was also involved in Alcoholics Anonymous for many years. From 1995-2000, the retired Dr. Rudd began to travel the world, to experience beauty and to seek out poverty. In 2000, on a mission trip to Belize, Dr. Rudd met the Minister of Health and started talking about dental education in schools. On returning to Lubbock, he began contacting other developing

countries' Ministries of Health and Education about his idea. He had learned of a new filling material and technique that did not require electricity or normal dental equipment, Atraumatic Restorative Treatment (ART). He took a course in glass ionomers and ART in Atlanta, Georgia and in May 2000, with the assistance of Westminster Presbyterian Church in Lubbock, he left for The Gambia, Africa and the beginning of what would become Teethsavers International, Inc., a faith-based organization committed to saving the six-year molars of children living in poverty. From the beginning of his career, Dr. Rudd recognized the importance of the six-year molars and was about to realize his "Purpose in Life". He spent most of the next 14 years in foreign countries "teaching a few to teach many ". Teethsavers has taught oral hygiene, screened and treated hundreds of thousands of six-year-molars, revolutionizing oral health care in many parts of Africa, Belize and Nicaragua. The continuing work of Teethsavers International, Inc. is Jack Rudd's legacy to the world.

Dr. Jack Rudd is survived by his son, Frank, of Lubbock, his sister, Maggie Ault, of San Angelo and a niece, Tonya Williams of Abilene
A Celebration of Life Memorial for Dr. Rudd will be held 1:30 p.m. Tuesday March 10, 2015 at Covenant Presbyterian Church with Rev. Davis Price officiating. Memorial contributions in his name may be made to Teethsavers International, Inc., 3306 34th St., Lubbock, TX 79410.

Previous Events

Memorial Service

MAR 10. 1:30 PM (CT)

Covenant Presbyterian Church
4600 48th. St.
Lubbock, TX 79414

Tribute Wall

DO

“ *I was only one of Jack's friends who helped on his travels to Africa. No man has showed me how much an individual can do to help others. God loves you, Jack.*

donna - September 15, 2015 at 09:26 PM

BO

“ *1 file added to the tribute wall*



bobkat - March 14, 2015 at 09:05 PM

BO

Kathy the Angel w/ Wings of Desire (Der Himmel über Berlin)

bobkat - March 14, 2015 at 09:09 PM

KA

“ *1 file added to the tribute wall*



Kayrene - March 11, 2015 at 04:31 AM

KA

“ 1 file added to the album *New Album Name*



Katmo - March 11, 2015 at 04:04 AM

FR

“ 3 files added to the album *New Album Name*



Frank - March 11, 2015 at 12:19 AM

FR

“ 1 file added to the album *Loved Ones*



Frank - March 11, 2015 at 12:05 AM

HT

“ I drove from Denver City, Texas for several years until I moved to Lubbock in 1984, because we thought (knew) he was the best dentist in the country.

He was always upbeat. interested in my family & shared some of his life experiences with me.

I hated to change to a new dentist, but one who totally admired him Kelly Robinson, which is wonderful.

The world has lost another great man whose life was well lived. He will always be remembered and missed.

Blessings, Hannah Tipps

Hannah Tipps - March 09, 2015 at 06:49 PM

BS

“ Jack has been a good friend of mine since 1968. Frank, I am so devastated for your loss. Judy and I send our deepest an most sincere condolences. Besides his professional life, I knew jack as a deeply caring man who gave so much of himself to others, that some times there just wasnt enuff left over for Jack. He was a poet and an essayist as well and I treasure a writing he gave me back in the mid 80s.

Bob S. charlottesville, va

bob s - March 08, 2015 at 09:03 AM

JC

“ I was one of Dr. Rudd's early patients when he came to Lubbock. He became more than my dentist. He became my friend and counselor. He helped me through a divorce, becoming a single parent and always encouraged me through those times. All those years he counseled me when I saw him and took care of my family's dental needs and showed us love and acceptance. When I began to think about college, he kept me focused on the process of enrolling and completing college with two children to support. When I remarried he continued to care for our new family. I did my best to encourage him through his rough times and celebrated with his triumphs like Teeth Savers International. He had a great influence on my life, the lives of my family, our community and the world. An exceptional man who truly gave more than he received. He will be greatly missed. Our condolences to his family and many friends.
Jackie and Bill Caldwell

Jackie Caldwell - March 03, 2015 at 02:21 PM

LH

“ My heart is greatly saddened by this news. Dr Rudd was a God send to me as a child. He became my Dentist when I was in the 5th grade and with his kindness, patience, and gentleness he got me over my fear of Dentists. As I grew up I came to think of him as my friend. He always had a smile for me and made time wherever I saw him. He will be greatly missed by many. May God grant his family peace and comfort as they go through this time of sorrow. I will miss you Jack. Lewise (Catlett) Hamby.

Lewise (Catlett) Hamby - March 02, 2015 at 09:09 PM

CW

“ Jack Rudd, was and is the best friend I had at AHS. He encouraged me and believed in me as a football player and friend. When I sprained my ankle on Tuesday of the bi-district game Rudd literally worked night and day to get me ready to play. My ankle was taped to prevent swelling. At mid-night Rudd came to my house and walked up and down the street in an attempt to reduce the pain and swelling. A police car stopped us and wanted to know what we were doing out that time of the night. The policeman asked me my name and I told him Glenn Woods, he replied are you Sam's (Woods) boy. I said I was, he then took Rudd and I to an all night cafe for hot chocolate. Rudd, came back on Wednesday night and we walked again. Rudd's treatment was so good I was able to play on Saturday against El Paso Austin. Coach Moser decided that I did not need to play and to protect my injury for the semi-final game. After practice for the next two weeks Jack took me to the West Texas Rehab Center to receive treatment. With Rudd's help I was able to play in the state semi-finals and the state championship game. Jack Rudd loved the Eagles and the "54" Seniors were his special friends. Jack continued looking after people in his closing years through TeethSavers. To Jack's family I wish God's blessings for you and know what a special parent, friend, and team mate Jack was and is now. Sincerely, Charlie Glenn Woods

Charlie Glenn Woods - March 02, 2015 at 01:05 PM

JM

“ Billy Jack was a tremendous guy not only when I knew him in high school but also as a dentist and the founder of Teethsavers! For the later he sacrificed to help kids in Zambia as well as other countries with his 6 year molar program. This world is much better for having Billy Jack in it to bless so many. Jim Millerman

Jim Millerman - March 02, 2015 at 11:33 AM



“ *Billy Jack was a lovely man. After high school we got to know one another better at SMU. I hitched a lot of rides back home to Abilene with him before I got a car of my own. Kathleen and I visited with him at our 2012 AHS class reunion. I'm glad I got to see him then. We will all miss him.*

Julian Long - March 02, 2015 at 11:30 AM