

Jamie Keener, 69, of Highlands and Raytown, Ga., loving husband, devoted father, grandfather and friend of many, passed away peacefully on Tuesday, Nov. 28, 2006.

Born in Mt. Pleasant, Ark., he served in the U.S. Army before spending his career with Keener Brothers Construction Company in Highlands. Splitting his time between Highlands and Raytown, he enjoyed family, friends, Pat's Store, fishing, deer hunting, barbecue contests and cattle farming.

Admired for his generosity, sense of humor and kindness, Jamie touched the lives of many throughout his life. As a husband, father, friend and mentor, he demonstrated integrity, courage, wit and a ready smile that should serve as an inspiration to all of us.

He is survived by his wife and lifelong companion, Mary Keener; two daughters, Sharon Manning and husband Mike of Charlotte and Melanie Miller and husband Buddy of Highlands; two sons, Tim Keener and wife Donna of Raleigh and Michael Keener and wife Stephanie of Zurich, Switzerland; a brother, Johnny Keener of Destin, Fla.; seven grandchildren, Christine, Kelsey and Michaela Manning, Christian and Caleb Keener, Benjamin and Jonathan Miller, and an eighth grandchild expected in March.

The family will receive friends Friday, Dec. 1, from 6 to 8 p.m., at Bryant Funeral Home in Highlands and other times at the home.

A funeral service will be held Saturday, Dec. 2, at 11 a.m., at Yellow Mountain Baptist Church in the Norton community. Revs. Walter Wilson, Wayne Price and Keith Ashe will officiate.

Burial will follow at the Stewart Family Cemetery. Pallbearers will be Tim Keener, Michael Keener, Don Keener, Buddy Miller, Mike Manning, David Sims and Gene Massey.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Lewis Rathbun Wellness Center, 121 Sherwood Rd., Asheville, NC 28803.

Bryant Funeral Home in Highlands is in charge of the arrangements.

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