



Mr. Chester Rodolphus Green

July 9, 1915 - October 9, 2017

Chester Rodolphus Green, 102, died October 9 at his home in Nashville, TN. Affectionately known as Chessie, Pap-Paw, Chet, Big Daddy, Granddaddy, Dad, Snooks, CR, and Uncle Chester, he lived an amazing life. Each of his nicknames represents who he was to so many people.

Born in Albany, GA, on July 9, 1915 to William Walter Green and Ruby Rebecca Culpepper, he will be fondly remembered for his fun-loving spirit and loyalty, and respected for his business acumen.

He graduated from Albany High School in 1933, after being basketball team captain and All-State Guard, and also played on the Albany Blues, a well-regarded semi-pro basketball team.

His father died when he was 18, which thwarted his plans to attend college on a basketball scholarship and left him in charge of supporting his mother and two younger sisters. He worked from the time he was a young boy, throwing papers and working at his father's store. He began his career at Kraft Foods as an entry-level salesman during the Depression. Chester once commented that he had no time to grieve properly or miss work when his father passed away. Money was scarce and he was now responsible for others—responsibilities that he upheld throughout his 102-year life.

In 1939 at age 23 he met the girl next door, Doris June Moore, who also happened to be his sister's best friend. It was love at first sight and they married in 1940, embarking on a 65-year honeymoon that lasted until Doris' passing in 2005. Three years after marriage, Chester enlisted in the Navy to serve in WWII.

<http://navylog.navy Memorial.org/green-chester>

His ship, the USS Panda, joined the huge assault on the Philippines. In 1944, he was part of the largest naval engagement ever fought, the Battle of Leyte Gulf. After being discharged, Chester headed back to Georgia where his son Bill (born in 1943) awaited him. Four-and-a-half years later, daughter Susan was born.

He moved three times in five years for his job and eventually landed in Chicago, the national headquarters of Kraft Foods. During his 50-plus-year career with Kraft, he rose through the executive ranks, serving as Corporate Senior Vice President of Marketing, Advertising and Sales Worldwide.

An innovator of marketing strategies, Chester led Kraft to sponsor the Junior Miss Contest and launch the Kraft Music Hall on television. He worked with top performing artists, including Bing Crosby, Milton Berle, Perry Como, Andy Williams, Dinah Shore, Johnny Cash, and others. In 1968 he led Kraft to take the bold step of televising the Country Music Association Awards, the first time CMA awards appeared on television. This new publicity helped expand the audience for country music, resulting in a significant increase in recording sales.

When Chester retired in 1980, he and Doris moved from Kenilworth, IL, to Nashville where they continued to enjoy spending time in the country music community, as well as traveling, playing golf at Richland Country Club, and attending Woodmont Baptist Church where Doris taught Bible studies. After

Doris passed in 2005, Chester remained in Nashville and celebrated his 100th birthday with a party that included the singing of "Happy Birthday" by recording artist Ray Stevens. Willard Scott also featured him on TODAY's Smucker's 100th Birthday segment.

Chester was respected as an industrious hard worker, self-made businessman, a loving husband, father, and friend. After Doris's death and as he grew old, Chester began to depend on God. Who better to support him as he learned how to make coffee, use a microwave, Skype, use a cell phone, and most importantly, face death in a dignified manner as he depended on others to help him? He made time for friends by meeting almost every day with his buddies at Krystal's. In writing, his trademark farewell was "0/0," or in person he always said "over and out."

Chester was preceded in death by his parents, brother W.W. Green Jr. (Leila), sister Ruby Helen Hambrick (Taplin), sister Grace Riley (Jim), son Bill (Sheila), and granddaughter Katie Findley.

Surviving family members include daughter Susan Baten (Greg) of Dallas, TX; granddaughters Terri Ewton of Kauai, HI, and Michelle Nicely (husband Daniel Nicely) of Santa Cruz, CA; grandson Ryan Findley of Dallas, TX; great-grandsons Kade Findley (Dallas) and Sam Nicely (Santa Cruz, CA); great-granddaughter Grace Nicely (Santa Cruz, CA); and many nieces and nephews.

A very special thank you to Terri, Tina, Patricia, Nina, Gennie, Kayla and Shelly who lovingly cared for Dad in his last years, making him comfortable and able to trust them for all of his needs.

Memorial services will be held at 10 a.m. on October 20 at Kimbrell-Stern

Funeral Directors, 1503 Dawson, Rd., Albany, GA.

SIGNIFICANT DUTY STATIONS:

NPSC JACKSONVILLE, FL

NTS BAINBRIDGE, MD

NAS NEW ORLEANS, LA

NRS ATLANTA, GA

USS PANDA IX-125 - SOUTH PACIFIC

SIGNIFICANT AWARDS:

ASIATIC-PACIFIC CAMPAIGN MEDAL

COMBAT ACTION RIBBON

AMERICAN CAMPAIGN MEDAL

WORLD WAR II VICTORY MEDAL

NAVY OCCUPATION SERVICE MEDAL

PHILIPPINE LIBERATION MEDAL

Previous Events

Visitation

OCT **19**. 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Kimbrell-Stern Funeral Directors
1503 Dawson Rd.
Albany, GA 31707

Funeral Service

OCT **20**. 10:00 AM (ET)

Kimbrell-Stern
1503 Dawson Road
Albany, GA 31707
(229) 883-4152
<https://www.kimbrellstern.com?>

Tribute Wall



“ *Mr. Chester Rodolphus Green*

May 22, 2023 at 10:29 AM



“ *Mr. Chester Rodolphus Green*

May 22, 2023 at 01:29 AM



“ *Mr. Chester Rodolphus Green*

December 24, 2022 at 02:54 AM



“ *Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Mr. Chester Rodolphus Green.*



October 19, 2017 at 09:16 AM



“ *Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Mr. Chester Rodolphus Green.*



October 19, 2017 at 09:16 AM



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Mr. Chester Rodolphus Green.*



October 18, 2017 at 06:08 PM



“ *Susan, Family, & Friends of Chester - Sending my love, thoughts, and prayers. Chester has always and will continue to be an inspiration. I will always remember and look up to his entrepreneurial life and amusing spirit. He had a bright mind and big heart. I wish I had the opportunity to spend more time with him, but the memories I do have are distinct and cherished. Prayers to you all during this period and ceremony. - Robert Green*

Robert Green - October 18, 2017 at 06:04 PM



“ *Susan and Family, very sorry for the loss of Chester. He was such and interesting and witty man. He will be missed greatly. Prayers to you all.*



William Green - October 17, 2017 at 11:36 PM



“ *Susan and Family - Sending lots of love to you all. Uncle Chester really was and always will be an inspiration to us all in so many way! Wish I could be there this weekend, will be thinking of you all!*

Katie Gillig - October 17, 2017 at 02:58 PM

DS

“ Susan and Family, Please know that you and your family are in my thoughts and prayers! Your parents were special people and were a part of the "Greatest Generation"! I have fond memories of them both and especially your Mom. Chester and my mother and Uncle grew up together. Ralph and Ruth Jones TenHagen. I remember your mother being at our house many times to visit my mother. I have a lovely picture of her with my mother and cousin Marty! Chester lived a long and successful life. He was a self-made man, of which there are few left! He is in Heaven with his "Junie"! Sincerely,
Debbie TenHagen Sutton

Debbie Sutton - October 16, 2017 at 09:13 AM

BC

“ Tappie, I was sorry to read of Chester's death, but O what a long life he had. I met Chester in 1943, he would come into Postal Telegraph Co. every Friday to send in the funds he had collected in his area to Kraft Foods. Kraft knew they had a good man and he rose high into management [think VP]. Chester was a wonderful man and gentleman. Ruby Helen [Green] phoned me a few times and I would go to see him at your parents home. I am glad to have known him and the Green family of 417 Flint Ave. May there be blessing and comfort for the family.

Buddy Clanton - October 14, 2017 at 12:53 PM