



Howard Ketron Jack Akard

February 17, 1941 - April 7, 2026

Howard Ketron Jack Akard, age 85, of New Market, passed away on April 7, 2026. A graduate of the University of Tennessee, he served in the US Air Force for 4 years as a Nuclear Weapons and Re-entry Vehicle Specialist. After 36 years, he retired from the Tennessee Department of Labor. He was a member of Shady Grove Church. He also served his community as a county commissioner and helped establish the New Market Volunteer Fire Department. He was a proud 60-year Mason, recipient of the Scottish Rite 33rd Degree, and Grand Commander of Knights Templar. He served multiple roles in York Rite, Red Cross of Constantine, Tall Cedars of Lebanon, Shriners, and the Royal Order of Jesters. He was a devoted father, grandfather, and friend, known for the way he showed up, his humor, consistency, and selflessness. Constantly asking "What can I do for you?", he made it clear that no one in his life ever had to walk through anything alone. He had a true gift for making people feel like family. His home was always open, and his table always had room for one more; his presence brought comfort and belonging to so many. Over the years, he welcomed others into his life not out of obligation, but out of genuine love-forming bonds that went far beyond titles or expectations. He was preceded in death by his parents, Bill and Rheba Akard. He is survived by his wife of 63 years, Geraldine "Gerry" Shrader Akard, daughter, Nola Henderson; grandchildren, Gracie and Hunter Henderson; chosen granddaughter, Lyndsey (Darren) Reese; great granddaughter, Hemingway Reese; brothers, Dill and Bob Akard; brothers-in-

law, Sam (Brenda) Shrader and Charles Shrader; sisters-in-law, Carol (Dale) Kidwell and Martha Howard; and 11 nieces and nephews. The family will receive friends on Tuesday, April 14, from 4 to 6 p.m., at Fielden Funeral Home with service following at 6 p.m. Burial will be on Wednesday, April 15, at 10 a.m. at East Tennessee State Veterans Cemetery. The family would like to thank Amedisys hospice staff for their compassionate care. Fielden Funeral Home is honored to serve the Akard family.

Cemetery Details

East Tennessee State Veterans Cemetery

2200 E. Governor John Sevier Hwy.
Knoxville, TN 37920

Previous Events

Receiving of Friends

APR 14. 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM (ET)

Fielden Funeral Home Inc.
910 Churchview St
New Market, TN 37820
(865) 475-3468
<https://www.fieldenfuneralhome.com>

Celebration of Life Service

APR 14. 6:00 PM (ET)

Fielden Funeral Home Inc.
910 Churchview St
New Market, TN 37820
(865) 475-3468
<https://www.fieldenfuneralhome.com>

Inurnment

APR **15**. 10:00 AM (ET)

East Tennessee State Veterans Cemetery
2200 E. Governor John Sevier Hwy.
Knoxville, TN 37920

Tribute Wall



“ *Fielden Funeral Home Inc. created a Tribute Video in memory of Howard Ketron Jack Akard*



Fielden Funeral Home Inc. - April 13 at 03:46 PM

PI

Such a lovely tribute to Jack. Peace and love to Gerry, Nola and the family.

Pat & Doyal Isenberg - April 15 at 12:26 PM

EJ

“ *Gerry and family, was sad to see this about Jack. Remembering our days at Rutledge High School, where he was always a friendly classmate. You and your family will be in our thoughts and prayers. ❤️🙏 Judy Hammer Lamb & Evelyn Roach Jenkins*



Evelyn Jenkins - April 16 at 04:10 PM

LS

“ *Truly a kind and loving man. He will be sorely missed on this side of heaven. Sending prayers for Gerry, Nola, and the entire clan.*

Linda Schumann - April 11 at 12:06 PM

GH

“ Mrs. Akard and Nola, so very sorry for your loss. My thoughts are with you. Ginger Holbert Huskey

Ginger Huskey - April 10 at 08:32 PM

FB

“ Mrs. Akard, Nola and family so sorry to hear this. Prayers for everyone.



Faye Bales - April 10 at 05:47 PM



“ Serene Retreat was purchased for the family of Howard Ketron Jack Akard.



April 10 at 08:51 AM

LS

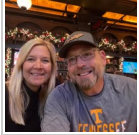
“ Mrs. Akard and Nola, I am deeply sorry for your loss. I pray for peace and comfort as you grieve the loss of your husband and father.

Liam Sellers - April 10 at 07:08 AM

GD

“ Jerri and Nola, my condolences to your family. I enjoyed talking with him when he came into the shop. My prayers are with you.

Glenn Denton - April 09 at 05:57 PM



“ Nola, what a beautiful tribute to your dad. He was such an accomplished man. 85 years of light.... I know you'll keep his memory close.

Joanna Pennoyer - April 09 at 05:46 PM

JB

“ He was just a great man. I am honored to call him friend, and he will be missed.

Jeff Batson - April 09 at 03:43 PM

WS

“ Nola your dad was search a loving person. I know you will miss him. You all are in my thoughts and prayers.

Wendi stiner - April 09 at 03:41 PM



“ Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Howard Ketron Jack Akard.



April 09 at 03:26 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Howard Ketron Jack Akard.

April 09 at 03:26 PM