



## Ezickiel Nash

April 4, 2020

Ezickiel “Zeke” Donald Nash lived his life vibrantly and vitally as a people person and a fighter for the good in everyone. He passed away peacefully in New Orleans, April 4, after a brief illness. He would’ve been 72, May 20.

Zeke, the adored firstborn son, devoted husband, caring dad and doting grandpa, supportive brother and brother-in-law, “generous joyful” uncle and fabled cousin and friend, came by his no-nonsense common-sense nature honestly, growing up in the 1950s and ‘60s in Southwest Louisiana where folks tended to keep it real. He learned core values from his parents who taught him by example the meaning of hard work and giving back to others.

As a youngster, Zeke served for years as an altar boy at his hometown Catholic church, Immaculate Heart of Mary in Lake Charles. With an early appreciation for earning his way, Zeke as a preteen worked as a paperboy for the Lake Charles American Press. His siblings remember him counting coins, going over the receipts entries in the ledger he used on his route.

After graduating from Grambling State University and marrying his college sweetheart, Linda Gadson Nash, in 1971, he fittingly began a career in accounting, initially in southern Arkansas for Murphy Oil Company and ultimately in his treasured New Orleans for Ocean Drilling & Exploration Company (ODECO). He spent more than a decade of his profession working primarily in the oil and offshore drilling industry. After his retirement from ODECO, Zeke worked for Charles Webb & Associates as a tax accountant before starting his own tax service, Nash Accounting and Tax Service, cultivating loyal clients from around the city.

Zeke was an advocate for building community roots, and he championed self-enterprise and service. When in summer 2005 the ravages of Hurricane Katrina dislocated the traditional New Orleans lifestyle that he and longtime neighbors in his subdivision had once bloomed in, Zeke knew it would only be a matter of time before the return and rebuilding. With heart and grit, he and the few families that moved back united to help other families in East New Orleans reconfigure the colorful routine and culture that uniquely is the city.

During the 2006 start of the NOLA renaissance, the boldly worded yard signs: “I’m coming

Home. I will rebuild. I am New Orleans.” were displayed on lawns throughout the city and East New Orleans, backing up Zeke’s profound passion and commitment. He later would say to anyone asking about the effort, it was “worth the sweat.”

Post Katrina, during the retirement years, his life of community service grew even deeper with sharper focus on civic and church causes. He recaptured a childhood post as an altar server at the historic New Orleans East St. Paul the Apostle Church. At St. Paul the Apostle, he was actively involved in the Eucharist Minister to the Sick and Shut-in, served on the fundraising committee and was a member of Sacristan and the Knights of Peter Claver. He also was a volunteer with Notre Dame Hospice, where he would sit and visit with patients for socialization, prayer and provide communion.

In 2009, Zeke was inducted into New Orleans’ Beau Brummell Club, Inc., where he served as the treasurer.

He also was a member of the historical black fraternity Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc. since being initiated through the Gamma Psi Chapter at Grambling State University in 1970.

Given Zeke’s lighthearted and humble spirit, his penchant for telling family stories and his inimitable self-deprecating humor, he would enjoy having it written that perhaps one of his most esteemed and prided honor is that of Chief of Church Fish Fry Events. He would not brag about his natural talent for whipping up a dish from little or nothing and instead defer to his Mama who taught him all things culinary. His epic boyhood scrambled eggs and rice dish remains family lore.

The family’s beloved Zeke is preceded in death by his parents, Gustavia Thomas Nash and Alce “L.C.” Henry Nash, his younger brother, Samuel Matthew Nash, nephew Marvin Abraham Nash, mother-in-law Carinelle Gadson, brother-in-laws Jan Gadson and Victor Gadson and sister-in-law Ruby Nash.

Left to mourn his loss are his wife Linda of New Orleans; father-in-law Oscar C. Gadson, Jr. of Tuskegee, AL; son, Kelsey L. Nash (Nicole Holmes) of San Antonio, TX; daughter, Kelly Nash Forrest (Rodney) of San Antonio, TX; granddaughters Krystal Verline Holmes and Dominique Karinelle Nash of New Orleans; grandsons, Kelsey L. Nash, Jr. of Ann Arbor, MI and Jarrett K. Nash of Houston, TX.

His six siblings, Abraham Nash (Marva) of Lake Charles; Jean Nash Johnson (Michael R.) of Dallas; Debra A. Nash of Lake Charles; Michael J. Nash of Lake Charles; Carl A. Nash of Irving, TX; and brother and godson John F. Nash of Lake Charles. Brothers- in-Law Robert Gadson (Dee) of Tucson, AZ and Ronald Gadson (Mary) of Miami, FL; godmother and maternal aunt, Victoria “Chippy” Roberts (Joseph) of Opelousas, LA and maternal aunt, Emily Lawrence of Los Angeles. And, a host of nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.

Special acknowledgment to Zeke’s first cousin-like-a-brother, Dr. Donald D. Nash, and the rest of the D.J. Nash Family.

Zeke's family has been heartened and comforted by the outpouring of love and support. The Nash-Gadson clan is grateful for the innumerable expressions of condolences and kindness. A memorial service will be held at a later date. For all who are inclined to pay it forward, donations may be made in Zeke's honor to his precious church parish's fundraising efforts for the development of a new community center. For more information, contact St. Paul the Apostle Catholic Church

# Comments

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“ We are so sorry for your loss of such a wise and generous man. His example is a model for us all.

Sincerely,  
Tinker Goggans and Russ Sikes

**Tinker Goggans** - May 02 at 10:53 AM

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“ Darlene Tate lit a candle in memory of Ezickiel Nash



**Darlene Tate** - April 28 at 08:35 AM

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“ Darlene Tate sent a virtual gift in memory of Ezickiel Nash



**Darlene Tate** - April 28 at 08:28 AM

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“ Cherished memories of our dear friend and longtime neighbor, Zeke Nash, will live on in our hearts as we reminisce on his sometimes 'no nonsense' demeanor, dry sense of humor, friendliness, smiles, nods of approval and many acts of kindness shown to us and others down through the years. We continue to pray daily that God will strengthen and grant Linda, his widow, and his beloved children, Kelsey and Kelly a peace that surpasses all understanding.

Your friends and neighbors,  
Don and Frankie

**Don and Frankie Mobley** - April 15 at 02:47 PM



“ Mr. Nash was our accountant for over 12 years. He was a wonderful human and wise counselor. I'll miss him! May God's peace be with his family.

**Daisy Harrison** - April 23 at 04:06 PM



“ Wonderful Memories of my dear friend and neighbor. He was a Wise and Gentle man, and respected by many. He did a marvelous job to my lawn as well as my tax returns for many years, before and after Katrina. He can't be replaced, he will truly be missed. God Bless his soul and his Family. Sending Condolences and Prayers.

Darlene, Wayne & India

**Darlene Tate** - April 28 at 08:10 AM



“ My heartfelt condolences to all the Nash family and friends. During this time of sorrow may you find comfort that comes from the reading of God's word.  
Albert&Darlene C: New Orleans, LA

**Albert&Darlene C** - April 15 at 10:45 AM



“ Zeke meant the world to us at Notre Dame Hospice as a volunteer. His kindness and compassion for our patients will always be remembered. We will miss his genuine kind spirit and presence.

**Janine Bonner** - April 15 at 09:37 AM



“ I had the joy of experiencing a family reunion with cousin Ezekiel and many members of our family this past summer. The time we had was so filled with love, joy, and great food, that I will ever cherish that gathering. Prayers and blessings on all who will miss his daily presence. His life was a gift from God and we are grateful.

**The Jones Family, Atlanta, Ga.** - April 13 at 10:34 PM

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“ Condolences to my beloved family may God our Heavenly Father Bless and keep you. My mother (Mildred Nash Flowers) and I (Mechelle "Coon" Flowers) were Blessed to enjoy being at a family cookout one Memorial Day weekend at cousin John home in Lake Charles. Cousin Zeke could throw down cooking crawfish and frying fish. I watched how he prepared the families feast...the first cooler had corn, sausage, and potatoes. The second cooler had boiled celery, eggplant, onions, red, gold, orange, green bell peppers, broccoli, cauliflower...all veggies. The third cooler loaded with the best eating crawfish ever. Cousin cooked everything but the kitchen sink. I was so happy to be in his presence and watch him do his thing with a big smile on his face as far as the east to the west. I never got pass those three coolers to eat some fish. Now if I attend a crawfish boil I sit there with a stank face when I don't see the same spread cousin Zeke served. I will always be Grateful for the Love my family (Nash) has given throughout the years... Grandpa Henry Nash, uncle LC and aunt Gussie, uncle Don and aunt Bernice, uncle John and aunt Priscilla, uncle Rental and Earnestine, uncle Cleveland and aunt Vivery and my grandparents Hillary "Sweet"and Lillie Bell Nash. God Bless you all!



**Mechelle Rougeau** - April 13 at 08:51 PM

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“ I extend my deepest sympathies to the family. I am honored and blessed to have known Zeke. He was a blessing in our lives. It is my hope the love around you will provide comfort and peace to you through the days ahead.

Walter Tillman

Walter Tillman - April 13 at 08:37 PM



“ I offer my deepest sympathy to you Linda, your immediate family, and the entire Nash family. Zeke was like surrogate big brother to me at Grambling. I share your loss and pray that the love of God will keep you always.

Caffin Gordon - April 15 at 09:35 PM



“ To Linda & Family: I am lifting the family in prayer. I remember how Zeke, my late husband (William Earl (Pig) White), and others from Lake Charles would hang together at Dear old Grambling. That's where we met. Good old days!  
Love,  
Hattie Ferguson White, GSU 1966-1970

Hattie Ferguson White - April 13 at 03:14 PM



“ To the Nash family, please accept my heartfelt condolences. Zeke was a jovial soul. I'm reminded that he always wanted to let me know of the Lenten Fish fry of his church. May your family be comforted by precious memories. Praying for you,  
Margaret F. Washington

Margaret F. Washington - April 13 at 02:32 PM



“ To the Nash Family, it is with heart felt sympathy that we extend our sincere condolences! We were so sorry to hear of the transition of a dear and long time friend. Our prayer is that God would continue to strengthen you, for we know he is in The Arms of his Maker .  
The Conerly & Lewis Family

Jessie/Mary Conerly - April 24 at 03:33 PM