

Ermon Lature – a legacy of giving, inspiration and ‘Habitatitis’

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Ermon Wayne Capps Lature died at the age of 79 on Dec. 25 leaving a legacy of compassion and service that is difficult to measure. A veteran of the U.S. Army, Ermon worked at AT&T for 38 years. He was involved with the Telephone Pioneers and served a term as president of the organization.

After working for several years with Habitat for Humanity in Davidson County, he discovered a real need for a Habitat affiliate in his own county so he founded Habitat for Humanity in Williamson County. Always looking for a challenge and a chance to make life better for others, after 15 years with HFHWC, he joined the Maury County affiliate.



Not only was he a Telephone Pioneer, “Ermon was a pioneer for Habitat,” said Steve Lewis, associate director of HFHWC since 2006. “He started the affiliated here in Williamson County and was executive director from 1992 until 2008. During that time he built more than 80 houses.”

Lature was a mentor who was always ready to share the positive impact Habitat had on both those who received houses and the community and he was a big fan of University of Kentucky basketball.

“Ermon was a very compassionate and loving individual,” said Gary Buchanan, who worked with Ermon for 27 years at Bell South/AT&T and was also actively involved with the Pioneers. “He was a very moral, religious and ethical person.”

According to Tim Knight, current president of HFHWC board of directors, Lature “was the face of the Habitat organization in Williamson County. He had a kind, gentle spirit – always giving, always a smile on his face, always interested in the person he was talking with.”

According to Lewis, even after he retired from the Williamson County affiliate he would drop by the office regularly with a joke to tell.

“We’ll miss that,” he added.

Equating him to an old shoe, Gary added, Lature made everyone around him feel comfortable. “His smile and laugh were infectious. I don’t think he had an enemy,” he said.

Knight, who has known Lature for about 10 years, agreed adding, “Ermon always had a smile, words of encouragement and he could make you laugh.”

Buchanan recalled the time, as Pioneer president, he was making a speech at a statewide meeting. When he looked up from his notes to see everyone in the room wearing red clown noses, the place erupted in laughter. The noses came from Lature.

“I still have that red clown nose,” he said.

Lature had a way of infecting his passion for Habitat for Humanity into the heart of all he met. He called it ‘Habititis.’”

“Every time he spoke about his involvement with Habitat, he would tell the story about being infected with “Habititis” and no matter how many times you had heard that story, you would laugh,” Knight said. “But once you got involved, you were infected with ‘Habititis,’ too.”

Over the years, the people Lature has influenced with his generosity and his spirit are too numerous to count. He leaves a legacy in the Habitat affiliate that includes his character and spirit.

“He’s going to be missed,” Knight added.

“I heard 99.6 percent of most people’s hearts are good – with Ermon – that would be 100 percent,” Buchanan said. “I can’t say enough – he left a legacy, but most of all he left memories and that will be a comfort for everyone.”

He is survived by his wife, Shirley Lature of Franklin; sons, David (Kelly) Lature of Franklin; Dale (Janet) Lature of Lavergne and Mike (Pam) Lature of Johnson City and daughter, Jill (Cary) Gensemer of Murfreesboro; six grandchildren and two great grandchildren.

A Memorial Service was held Dec. 28 at Williamson Memorial Funeral Home; Mike Glenn officiated.

Memorials may be made to the Williamson Co. Habitat for Humanity, 7115 Bakers Bridge Ave. Brentwood, TN 37027 or Brentwood Baptist Church Missions Fund, 7777 Concord Rd. Brentwood, TN 37027.

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