

IN MEMORIAM

Dredging Legend - Don King

It is with great sadness that Dredge Central, LLC of Goodlettsville, Tennessee (TN) learned of the November 19, 2018 passing of our founder and dredging legend, Don King.

Don graduated from Hillsboro High School in Nashville, TN, USA, attended the University of Tennessee in Knoxville and served in the US Navy during WWII.

Donald Richard King

FEBRUARY 16, 1927 - NOVEMBER 19, 2018



In his earlier years Don delivered telegrams by bicycle for Western Union, was a bellboy at the historic Hermitage Hotel in Nashville, sold cars, started the first rolling restaurant in Nashville, and eventually entered the construction business which led to a more than 50 year career in the international dredge manufacturing industry.

Don King had a long, lively and storied career in the dredging industry beginning with American Machinery Corporation (AMMCO), continuing with Dixie Dredge, Dredge Masters International (DMI), Dredge and Marine Corporation (DMC) and King Dredge. Don retired in 2016 from the last dredging company he founded, Dredge Central, LLC.

Don's contacts and world travels read like a National Geographic article with his passport documenting travel to countries that no longer exist by the same name.

One of Don's famous stories involved a trip to Zaire (now Democratic Republic of Congo) in the 1970s during the lead up to the boxing fight between Heavyweight Champion George Foreman against challenger Muhammad Ali for the "Rumble in the Jungle."

Don called ahead to reserve a hotel room and upon arrival he was presented the best suite in the building which puzzled him until he learned that Ali's manager, bearing the same name, had been expected to visit in preparation for the upcoming fight. He didn't explain the name challenge or pass on the room assignment, enjoyed the stay with amenities and closed the dredge sale.

The dredging career Don loved so much involved projects from road building to dam levee construction as a contractor, domestic and international sales of new dredges with several dredge manufacturers, owner of dredge building companies.

Don developed a surplus market site known as the “Dredge & Pit Trader” from a paper mailer to what it is today – an international internet market site allowing equipment owners an avenue to buy and sell surplus dredge related equipment - www.DredgeandPitTrader.com.

Don also founded Dredge Central LLC, a company based on remanufacturing dredging equipment to provide buyers excellent used equipment priced well below the prices of new OEM dredges.

Don was an innovator, an active entrepreneur and at the age of 91 was still looking for great opportunities in dredging and other endeavors.

In lieu of flowers, the family has suggested memorial donations can be made in Don’s honor to St Jude Children’s Hospital.

A Celebration of Life is tentatively planned by the family for mid-June 2019.

The staff at Dredge Central will miss Don and his enthusiasm for our dredging industry!

Best Regards,

Larry Fleeman

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