

Sidney "Sid" Kingery was born in 1933 in Boone County WV, the oldest son of 12 siblings. His parents were blue collar workers that did their best to raise a large family on a coal miner's wages. Being the oldest son, Sid became the leader of the family when his father passed away. Sid's brothers and sisters looked up to him as the family provider and respected him like a father as he worked for a local railroad company to support his mom and siblings. To this day his youngest brothers and sisters call him Dad because of the way he stepped up when the family needed it most.

In the early 1950s with nothing more than a handshake deal and a promise, Sid, his wife Miss Alice and his youngest siblings moved from WV to Miami FL to begin a job working on a metal lathe manufacturing parts for a growing city. In 1962 Sid and his family moved from Miami north to Palm Bay where they purchased 1 of the 1<sup>st</sup> houses ever built by General Development Corp in the area. The Kingery's settled in quickly as Sid opened his own metal lathe fabrication business that eventually grew and became Palm Bay Insulation and Lathing which he owned with his brother Paul Kingery until early 2000.

Sid was a lover of sports growing up and after settling into Palm Bay he played in the local rec softball leagues and built relationships with many of the business men around town through a mutual bond of competition. Sid is the kind of guy that when you shake his hand, you know exactly how he feels about you so people were drawn to him and built lifelong friendships and partnerships with him.

That honesty, his love of sports, and raising young people to be successful in life are what got him involved with supporting not only GWMAA but all of the local Junior and Senior High School athletic programs as well. Sid was a member of the Melbourne High Booster club, as well as a sponsor and fundraiser for Eau Gallie HS, Palm Bay HS, Central Jr HS, Johnson Jr HS, and Southwest Jr HS. All of those sports programs knew they could count on the Kingery family to help fund needed equipment, facility improvements, and especially for some great game day BBQ that would draw in the crowds.

Sid and the entire Kingery family started helping the local schools and WM Athletics by hosting and cooking BBQ lunches and dinners for the companies like Harris Semiconductor that would have them out in the parking lot cooking and serving for all 3 shifts of workers. Sid never named a price for his time...he asked those companies to pay what they thought was fair to support the kids...like we say at WM every day, It's all about the kids. Those companies and their donations helped put lights on the fields of the Jr High and High School fields and bought shoulder pads and helmets.

When Sid was raising money for WM, it was to make Rodes Park a better place for kids from 5-15 to play. Sid was never shy about helping fund needed changes with his own money, but his community ties and the time he spent helping were and are far more valuable. Sid will tell you, I can give anybody money, but you have to be special to get my time. Sid spent countless hours at the fields with his trusty stainless steel cooker. Monday through Saturday he could be found cooking hamburgers, hotdogs, and pulled pork for the concession stand to sell. Families planned their weekday dinners around practice life and that usually included a burger and a smile from Mr. Kingery. GWMAA used the money Sid helped raise with his big cookouts and every day grilling to completely change the original Rodes Park. They reconfigured the field layouts, added fencing, and built new press boxes and a t-ball field because Sid used the community relationships he had in effective ways to make it happen. Eventually the City of West Melbourne built what was named The Kingery Center, a 2 story concession stand and board room building next to the large covered pavilion that Sid cooked next to every day.

That park is now the West Melbourne Field of Dreams thanks to the efforts of Sid and other local leaders working to purchase the 100+ acre facility now known as Max K Rodes Park. He worked with the County Commissioners, local businesses, and land owners on the project to allow for more families and more kids to be able to get outdoors and participate in athletics and learn from experiences at the park.

Sid and his family continue to support the organization and the community by allowing the use of their property for end of the year trophy celebrations and gatherings as well as the use of their walk in coolers, grills, and other items for storage, food prep, and cooking as needed throughout the year. Sid also started and still supports the annual Melbourne Rotary Wild Game Party. This event has gone on since the 1990s and raises money to support GWMAA as well as funds Melbourne Rotary's scholarships for graduating Seniors from local high schools. The large scale cookout was held at his house on Hield Road until the demand for tickets grew too great and now it is held at Wickham Park. Each year over 500 adults come out to support the organizations, dance, and eat some freshly cooked venison, bear, gator tail, fish, and other wild game meats...most of which Sid still has a hand in providing and cooking.

Sid sold his business and retired in early 2000 and now splits his time between his home here in West Melbourne and his favorite hunting and fishing house in North Carolina. When he is in town his home is open to his family, friends, and extended WM family that he has supported since many of us were born.