



Mr. Kenneth J. "Kenny" Kunkel

March 23, 1943 - November 29, 2018

SAUQUOIT - Mr. Kenneth J. "Kenny" Kunkel, age 75, passed away peacefully on Thursday, November 29, 2018 surrounded by his family during this last journey of his life. He assured all, "Don't worry about me... I'm going to a better place".

Born in Utica on March 23, 1943, Kenneth was the son of the late Kenneth M. and Blodwen "Bud" (Lewis) Kunkel. He was a graduate of Utica Free Academy/Class of 1962. Kenny was drafted into the United States Army in 1965 as a medic during the Vietnam War. He served his country with honor as he faced attacks and offensives in the war zone. On June 1, 1974 he married the former Kathleen M. "Kathie" Dooley who went home to God on October 31, 2009. They were life partners during their marriage of 35 years, and they truly believed in the vows they made to one another. The fruit of the spirit is love, peace, patience, and kindness. That's what their marriage was made of. In 1939, Kunkel Ambulance and Livery Service was established by the Kunkel family and was successfully owned and operated by three generations. He began as a licensed ambulance driver, responding to the medical needs of the community. He then took responsibility for the Livery and Ambulette division of the firm. Upon the closing of his business, he joined forces with the Eannace Funeral Home, Inc. and continued the dignity of driving the Eannace hearse. He truly offered his respectful and dignified demeanor as he escorted many loved ones to their place of rest. To this very day, many of the young staff members credit Kenny for being a good mentor and one who held high the

importance of funeral service etiquette. In all his endeavors, Kenny fixed his thoughts on what was true, honorable, and right. He worked hard, knowing that he would prosper, and be satisfied with his life. Because of his vocation, he saw that sometimes angels had to hold our hands.

Ken combined good sense with his passions, remembering that time is a precious commodity. He enjoyed the solitude of the God-given land that surrounded his home and he knew the beauty of what it produced. He had a very quiet demeanor and because of this, he was often misunderstood. It was always his open and honest mannerisms that came from his heart that won the affection of those he came to love. It would charm anyone's heart when Ken found a reason to laugh and put a smile on his face when he embraced his most precious sense of humor. Kenny loved old Western shows and movies, and he was a Buffalo Bills fan who rooted for them to the end. He was a bit of a gardener and a baker, many times cooking up cookies and waffles from scratch. He was a woodworker and found solitude in his shop where he made memorable treasures that remain to this day. As a car aficionado, he appreciated his corvette and the value of classic cars when they were made from metal and chrome. He attended the yearly Carlisle Car Show event (while the girls went shopping), the Corvette Shows at the Beach, and the Syracuse Nationals event showcasing automobiles from decades past. He loved his knowledge of cars. He was fond of the solace and serenity at his camp on Oneida Lake. He would often fish, and make sure that everyone got drenched on the party barge! Ken routinely puttered around the camp, repaired everything that was broken, and he enjoyed all of it.

Becoming a grandparent, especially after Kathie's passing, was a true renewal for Ken. You could see it in his eyes and in the excitement and affection he so openly shared with them. He was a communicant of Our Lady of the Rosary Church, and it was no sacrifice for him to attend Mass or a funeral service because it was done with love and respect for his faith. He believed in the scripture and teachings of his Catholic creed and he allowed his Lord to coach him throughout his days. There was a deeper wisdom that came from knowing

his final journey was before him. That was when he truly discovered all of his major undertakings in life were well worth it.

Kenny is survived by his daughter, “daddy’s little girl”, Jennifer E. and her husband Robert J. Veitch; and Jeffrey “his father’s son”, and his wife Jennifer Kunkel; his precious grandchildren, Mackenzie Veitch, and Jameson Kunkel; and his siblings and their loved ones, Joan and Don Dorn, Jack Kunkel and Cathy Carvelli, and Mary and Robert Zuccaro. He also leaves his nieces, nephews, great-nieces, great-nephews, cousins, uncle Bill Dooley, aunts Marilyn Richards and Helen Kunkel; mother-in-law, Marie Ellen Dooley; in-laws, Maureen and David A. Scarlino, Maribeth and Charles Canter, Michael P. Dooley Jr., and Shawn and Michelle Dooley; extended family, William and Rosalie Veitch, and Tina Veitch; the family canine companion; and friends Bobby Crill, Chuckie Klein, and the late Bobby Gelfuso. He was predeceased by his uncles and aunt, Edward and Marion Kunkel, and George Kunkel; and his father-in-law, Michael P. “Pat” Dooley.

Kenny’s children wish to thank their aunt and uncle Joan and Don Dorn who attended to Kenny with the most awesome love, commitment and dedication that anyone could ask for. The family extends sincere appreciation to the staff of the Presbyterian Home/Willow Unit for their compassionate care, and a special thank you to the numerous family members and close friends who took the time to visit with him. In Kenny’s own quiet way, he shared his laughter, tears, and love with all who walked this final journey with him.

Gratitude is extended to David Morgan who delivered meals and shared companionship and conversation with Ken nightly; Father Tom Servatius for his genuine concern, prayers and personal blessings upon the family; and Michael Viti who was always available to accompany Kenny to his doctor appointments.

Visitation will be held Sunday from 2:00-5:00 at the Eannace Funeral Home, Inc., 932 South St., corner of Hammond Ave. Expressions of sympathy in the form of donations may be made to Feed Our Vets online at <http://www.feedour>

vets.org/ ; envelopes will be available at the funeral home. Kenny's funeral service and Celebration of Life will commence on Monday morning at 10:00 from the funeral home and at 11:00 at the Church of Our Lady of the Rosary where his Mass of Christian Burial will be offered by Rev. Tom Servatius with Military Honors conferred by the United States Army. Interment will take place in Mt. Olivet Cemetery at the convenience of the family.

Cemetery Details

Mt. Olivet Cemetery

Whitesboro, NY

Previous Events

Funeral Service

DEC 3. 11:00 AM (ET)

Our Lady of the Rosary Church
1736 Burrstone Road
New Hartford, NY

Tribute Wall

MC

“ *Maribeth Canter lit a candle in memory of Mr. Kenneth J. "Kenny" Kunkel*



Maribeth Canter - December 03, 2018 at 07:20 PM

MR

“ *Marilyn Richards lit a candle in memory of Mr. Kenneth J. "Kenny" Kunkel*



Marilyn Richards - December 02, 2018 at 08:10 PM

RF

“ *I'm sos sorry to hear of Kenny's passing. I am the late Ronald Stucky's daughter. Sending my condolences to all. May he Rest In Peace.*



*With sympathy,
Renee Fluty and family*



Renee Fluty - December 02, 2018 at 07:36 PM

DW

“ *To the Kunkel Family,
Our thoughts and prayers are with you all at this difficult time.
The Mabbett's - Dan, Denise, Daniel and David*

Denise Wiliczka-Mabbett - December 02, 2018 at 03:22 PM

 Tina
Veitch

“ Remembering the times of Thursday night dinners with Bill and Rosalie. He was always there at 5pm and how he loved Rosalie's desserts. He will be missed. Rest in peace.

Tina Veitch - December 02, 2018 at 12:52 PM

MD

“ R.I.P.
Love to the family....

MD

Mike Dallos - December 02, 2018 at 11:50 AM

DB

“ Danielle Brucker lit a candle in memory of Mr.
Kenneth J. "Kenny" Kunkel



Danielle Brucker - December 01, 2018 at 10:34 PM

SH

“ I remember Kenny as a teenager at the camp on Oneida Lake. He lived making macaroon cookies and introduced me to clam dip! He was very quiet, but he lived music by Paul Anka and especially liked "Put your head on my shoulder!" He took us for many enjoyable rides on the pontoon boat. He also showed me how to clean a fish! It's been quite a few years since I've seen him , but I'll remember him as. a quiet, thoughtful friend.

Susan Holburn - November 30, 2018 at 09:34 PM

CC

“ I remember how much Kenny enjoyed spending time at the family camp on Oneida Lake. His parents and my parents shared many great adventures and fun times together.


Carol Nolan Chen

Carol Chen - November 30, 2018 at 12:51 PM

CK

“ Joan, Jack, and Mary Deb, and the rest of the Kunkel family. My heart aches for you all. You can take comfort in knowing that Kenny is back with his mom and dad and his beloved Kathie and all the family and friends who have gone before him. I will always cherish the time I have spent with Kenny growing up next door to each other, making a skating rink in the winter, going to Fonda/Utica Rome for stock racing, working together on the ambulance all hours of the day and night. I fondly will remember my trips back home the past 30 years and I always made it a point to stop in and see Kenny and going to Chadwicks diner for breakfast Rest in Peace my friend Chuckie

Chuckie Klein - November 30, 2018 at 07:57 AM

 Nicole Cocomazzi

“ On behalf of the Special Care Unit at St. Luke's, we send our thoughts and prayers to all of Kenny's family. We were truly blessed to know him and share a "coffee" with him and he made me promise to visit him ❤️ God Bless!

Nicole Cocomazzi - November 29, 2018 at 08:56 PM

SM

“ So sorry to see this, remember him well, way back to the 60's, bringing pts to xray at St Luke's. Hugs to his family.

sue misiaszek - November 29, 2018 at 08:46 PM

JL

“ It has been over 30 years since my beginning as a young man growing up in funeral service at Eannace. Aside from the knowledge I learned from Nan to be the best at what I do, it was also great men like Kenny in his quiet nature who taught me many of the fine details to funeral service that today I instill in my own staff of what it is to work hard with respect for the sacredness of caring for our loved ones. I had the honor to talk with Kenny a few weeks back and I will never forgot his words “I will be okay” Thanks Ken for being a gentleman and great mentor. Say Hi to Kathy.

John Lilli

John N. Lilli - November 29, 2018 at 07:57 PM

JK

“ I was so glad to visit with Kenny 3 weeks ago. we shared memories of growing up on West street and working the ambulance all those years ago. when I left to come back to Rochester Kenny said "Joey this is the last roundup" I gave him a hug and told him to hang in there. He said you are just like family to me and I love you joey. I will always have great memories of Kenny and the entire KUNKAEL FAMILY> love Joey

joey klein - November 29, 2018 at 03:47 PM