



Mr. Kenneth Randy Starnes

July 23, 1950 - July 5, 2024

Kenneth Randy Starnes was born on July 23, 1950. Ken is what many would call a local legend. After his passing at age 73, nephews and friends have started sharing pictures, internet links, chats and stories. Ken's life had many seasons. We would say life really started changing when he left Red Hill at 18 to go to Vietnam. Because of his marksmanship, he became a door gunner on helicopters. As people entered or exited, it was his job to keep them safe. The life expectancy for door gunners was low, but he lived.

He found his best friend in 1970 and Ken and Susan became a team in every way. She loved and took care of him all the days of his life. She found him after his return from Vietnam. They married on December 3, 1973. He became an industrial electrician and worked with many teams. He played softball for the Red Hill team locally and I am sure that was an experience being on his team or playing against him. The team that captured his heart was the Scottish Highland Athletics that he met through Fred Vaughan and what ensued was a passion to compete and be the best on the field. The medals, trophies, articles, and stories confirmed he was a winner. He put his heart into it and it was a big heart. He found working out to be an important part of his journey and he shared that with others. He and his cousin, Steve Corbett, kept each other motivated. One of his nephews started working out because of him, "He was my hero." He found passion for something and he lived.

During this time as a Scottish Athlete, he was approached by not just a wrestling organization, but Hulk Hogan. He never became a wrestler because it was not something he really cared about. He wanted life his way, he wasn't a man who wanted to be controlled by others, instead he lived.

He did it his way, he stayed where he loved to be, Red Hill. He stayed with his people, his mother, Lorene Corbett Starnes, his father, Wm A Starnes, Sr., who passed when Ken was 11. Having his sister Brenda and her boys Chuck (Susan), Eric and Alvin, was a part of it. When his brother William A Starnes, Jr. passed at too early an age his children Bill (June), Marty, and Teresa (Don), Melissa (DB) were added to his life. Ken had a special place in their lives; he became more than an uncle. His sister, Helen and husband, Alvin completed the family. He had his family, his Susan, and his dog.

He retired from SCDOT and had been able to take care of what he thought needed taking care of doing what he wanted to do but that big heart was beginning to struggle. Tim Goodson was one of his best friends at this time and an ear to listen to him and an outlet for his frustrations.

When he and Susan King married in 1973 he became part of her family. He was a son-in-law to Bill and Mitchell King, a brother-in-law to Kathy (Bud) Rollins, that added Laura and Trez as a new niece and nephew, then, Lawton (Dee) King with Joel, Aaron, Corey, Michelle, and Tonya completed the family.

If you ever worked with him or were on a team with him or were fortunate enough just to know him, you know he was an honest and real man. He didn't take junk and when he smiled or laughed, it made you feel like you had touched the heart of a giant. He was a gentleman and for anyone that ever had a chance to be on a team with him, congratulations. You knew a winner and in doing so, you won.

He was predeceased by his father, W.A. Starnes, Sr.; mother, Lorene Corbett Starnes; brother, W.A. Starnes, Jr.; sisters, Brenda Faye Nunnery and Helen Hancock; nephew, Eric Nunnery; and niece, Melissa Baird.

A family-led memorial will be held at Red Hill Baptist Church on Saturday, July 13, at 3:00 pm. In lieu of flowers, please donate to a charity of your choice. If it happens to be a dog rescue or SPCA, even better; you know he loved his dog named, Dog.

Tribute Wall



“ *Brown - Pennington - Atkins Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Mr. Kenneth Randy Starnes*



Brown-Pennington-Atkins Funeral Home - July 08, 2024 at 10:57 PM

TW

So sorry for your loss praying for your family

Tommy & Sherrille Wilks - July 09, 2024 at 01:41 PM

MJ

“ *I send my deepest condolences to the family of Mr Starnes. May all the wonderful memories you have of him bring comfort to you during this difficult time.*



M. Jones - July 22, 2024 at 04:45 PM

RG

“ My condolences. I worked with Ken with Sonoco when he came as an electrician, quickly became friends with this gentle giant. His stories fascinated me and enjoyed his serious but wonderful sense of humor. I was off during the ice storm that he hurt his knee and never recovered to return. Only heard news about him through those that played golf with him or lived in the same area. It's always a trying time to lose a loved one, but God gives us strength and the amazing brain function of memory. Will always remember Ken with fond memories and his bravery and abilities to provide and love his family and friends. RIP old friend.



Richard Galloway - July 14, 2024 at 07:50 AM

RG

“ Ken and I worked many years together at H B Robinson Plant in Hartsville. He was a man of integrity and wisdom who knew him. He will be missed. Prayers go out to his wife and family during this difficult time.



Robert Garner - July 09, 2024 at 07:50 PM

TW

“ Awesome video..sending heartfelt condolences. to all...Terri

Terri Northcutt Woodham - July 09, 2024 at 12:05 PM

MW

“ Mike Ward lit a candle in memory of Mr. Kenneth Randy Starnes



Mike Ward - July 09, 2024 at 11:04 AM

LY

“ LEON YATES lit a candle in memory of Mr. Kenneth Randy Starnes



LEON YATES - July 09, 2024 at 09:58 AM

MB

“ Matt And Betsy Bramlett lit a candle in memory of Mr. Kenneth Randy Starnes



Matt and Betsy Bramlett - July 09, 2024 at 06:42 AM

GG

“ Worked with Ken at Robinson Nuclear Plant. He was such a nice guy. I am sure he will be missed
Prayers for the family in the coming days.

Gwendolyn Gandy - July 08, 2024 at 07:40 PM



“ 45 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



Brown-Pennington-Atkins Funeral Home - July 08, 2024 at 06:53 PM



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Greg Smith - July 08, 2024 at 06:13 PM