



Edward Felix Kander

November 11, 1923 - November 16, 2018

Though it is with great sadness we note Edward's passing, due to natural causes, on November 16th, five days past his 95th birthday, we embrace the opportunity to honor the kindness, wisdom and gentle dignity he shared with family, friends and his community every day of his life. Born in 1923 to Harold and Bernice (Aaron) Kander, he attended E.C. White School and Westport High where he was a top student and athlete. Despite a natural love for musical theater, he eagerly agreed with his younger brother, John, that if one of them was destined for show business, it probably wasn't him. Ed would graduate from Antioch College, but not before flying 1,500 hours as a radioman for the Army Air Force over the "Hump" from Casablanca to Cairo to Baghdad to Karachi and back more times than he cared to remember. Upon his return to Kansas City, his first order of business was to marry Ann Benjamin, with whom he would soon have John (Marcia), Steven (Janet) and Susan (Warren). Ann predeceased him in January 2016, just shy of 70 years together filled with lifelong friends, travel and the support and advocacy of many musical, educational and civic enterprises that continue to enrich the city.

In 1948, Edward was at Harvard Business School when his father passed away, and the newlyweds had to return home for Ed to go to work for the Edward Aaron Corporation, the poultry business founded by his maternal grandfather. Not surprisingly, the joy of "chicken plucking" was lost on him and, after managing the company's sale, he joined a lifelong friend to rebuild Meinrath Brokerage Company. He also continued to dedicate himself to his community, as a board member and president of Jewish Family Service and, subsequently, the local chapter of The United Way. At an age when most men of his generation choose to retire, he finally made his professional entry into "the arts" by virtually inventing the position of Director of Development for The Kansas City Lyric Opera where he pioneered new paradigms of arts fundraising and management that helped The Lyric grow to become one of the premiere opera companies in America. Even more than the challenge of operationally fixing organizations, he loved hanging with the people in the theater—singers, musicians and stage crew— finding profound inspiration in standing on an empty stage that would, by curtain time, be transformed into a magical set for creative expression, passionate performance and audience enjoyment and enlightenment. So it

was that with his quiet, joyful talent for encouraging others to fulfill and share their creative gifts, he found his own true art, which in fact, he had been practicing his whole life.

Along with his children, Edward is survived by his brother, John (Albert), six grandsons— Jason Kander (Diana), James Kander (Sharen), Samuel Ashworth (Shannon), Jeff Kander (Sasha), Jacob Ashworth, and William Kander—and, so far, four great-grandsons and (at last!) a granddaughter, all of whom are blessed with the sense-memory of his gracious, knowing heart. Contributions in his name can be made to ALS Association (alsa.org) and Let America Vote (letamericavote.org).

Cemetery

No services are planned at this time

MO,

Comments



“ Ed and I were doubles partners every Wednesday night for 25 years and I enjoyed every minute of that time with him. He had the best backhand on the court. Also we shared an interest in opera and occasionally travelled together to Scottsdale where ruined a few golf courses. We were both "members" a weekly Friday lunch with the boys where we talked politics and what's going on in Kansas City.

Donna and I send our condolences to John, Steve, Sue and the entire Kander family. We will miss his quick smile and his sense of humor.

Arnold and Donna

Arnold Brown - November 26, 2018 at 06:04 PM



“ Bert and I send our heartfelt condolences on your loss. Ed was a wonderful man- full of energy, always smiling and devoted to his family. Love to all.
Janice Benjamin

janice - November 23, 2018 at 11:26 AM



“ I had the good fortune to meet Ed on the golf course. A fine golfer who allowed me to see how a true gentleman walks through life. In our brief conversations he was always so very proud of his family. A very kind man...

Josh Garry - November 21, 2018 at 07:13 AM



“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Don Dagenais - November 20, 2018 at 09:09 PM



“ Ed was a wonderful man who lived a great life with many fast friends. His influence was substantial and he is missed by many.

Don Dagenais

Don Dagenais - November 20, 2018 at 09:05 PM



“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



donna bronw - November 20, 2018 at 04:24 PM



“ I feel a very present grief for each of you yes, and for myself as well over the death of Ed. He was one of the most fulfilling persons in a real human way that one could meet and be with. I also felt this way about Ann and the quality of your family. How fortunate all of us have been to have Ed and Ann in our lives. In my mind there is a certain "foreverness" about him and about them.
My sincere and deepest condolences,
Rabbi Stuart Davis.

Rabbi Stuart Davis - November 20, 2018 at 04:09 PM



“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Donna Brown - November 20, 2018 at 02:33 PM



“ A beautiful obituary for a graceful, kind man. I know my parents are "up there" welcoming his arrival.
Randee Krakauer Kelley

Randee Kelley - November 20, 2018 at 11:49 AM



“ Wow! A beautifully-written obituary for an praiseworthy man. Condolences to all.

Mark Edelman and karin lichterman - November 20, 2018 at 11:23 AM