



Kenneth "Ken" "Kenny" L. Hilton

April 29, 1950 - December 17, 2011

Kenneth Lee Hilton, we call him Ken or Kenny, passed away Saturday December 17, 2011. Memorial services will be at 1:30pm Thursday, December 22, at The Louis Memorial Chapel, 6830 Troost Avenue, Kansas City, MO, with receiving by family 1 hour prior. Ken was born April 29, 1950, the son of Kenneth and Artie Hilton and was raised in Grandview, MO.

After serving in Vietnam, he married Patti and they settled at Rose Hill Cemetery in Kansas City, where he was the sexton/caretaker. Ken worked in the cemetery and funeral industry for 38 years. He was known for the care and professionalism he brought to work each and every day. On June 5th, 1981, Ken and Patti suffered the tragic loss of their son, Christopher Wayne Hilton, after his struggle with cancer. He was also preceded death by his parents. Then, on October 3rd, 1984, Ken and Patti were blessed with the birth of their daughter, Rachel. Ken is survived by his daughter and son-in-law: Rachel and Justin Gann; step-daughter: Carey Strangeway and her husband, John; brother and sister-in-law: Rick and Annette Hilton; sisters: Becky Fay and Sharon Barker; grandchildren: Nick, Zack, Alex and Jack. Also surviving is his very special companion, Kaycie Skyler and his many friends and family whose lives have been enriched by his spirit. Ken always gave more than he got out of life regardless of who he was dealing with, and leaves a huge hole in our hearts and lives that we will fill with our memories of him.

Comments



“ I Miss Kenny alot. I met kenny at touches through a mutual friend. I had a crush on him and i would tell my friends that I wanted him for various holidays but he was involved at the time so I settled for a good friend. He would be there for me when I needed to talk. I had lost my youngest daughter and we would talk about both our loses. I never heard him talk badly about anyone. He always had that great smile. he once heard that I needed my bushes trimmed and I woke up one morning and looked out the window and he was doing it. That was the same weekend that he got so sick. he will be missed so much. I hope he meets mydaughter in heaven.
Jane

Jane Sengpiehl - December 30, 2011 at 03:15 PM



“ Kenny was our son-in-law. Ken was truly an outstanding person. I can remember many great qualities that Ken had. He was both admired and loved for the kind ways that he treated people for his easy-going manner for his politeness and that fantastic smile. Kitty and I will miss Ken he was taken from us much too young. There has to be a special place in heaven for Kenny who brought so much happiness and kindness to so many. He was truly one of the outstanding members of my family.

Kitty and Leonard Walker - December 26, 2011 at 07:52 PM



“ Kenny was one year ahead of me in High School, so I really never got to "know" him on a personal basis, but the Hilton name was very popular in the Grandview area. I finally got to know him last year, 2010, when we had a joint High School reunion and what a "gentleman" I found him to be. My deepest sympathies to his family and friends. I know he is with our savior and at peace.

Zoe Zaiser - December 22, 2011 at 08:45 AM



“ Dear Becky, I want to let you know that I am thinking of you and your family and hope that you are finding comfort. I didn't get an opportunity to meet your brother but from the notes I have read in the guest book, he obviously has touched my lives with him kindness and hard work. Hugs to you, Amy

Amy Franklin - December 21, 2011 at 09:35 PM



“ I work at Forest Hill and I have known him for eleven years. Really thought alot of him.
Last spring I saw him at CVS at 75th- He had the happiest look on his face. I asked him what he was was doing in this part of town--with a big smile on his face I'm buying a birthday card for my 40 year old daughter.

Carol Downey - December 21, 2011 at 03:55 PM



“ May the many good times shared together with Kenny be a comfort to you all. We are so sorry for your loss.
We enjoyed getting to meet Kenny this summer!

Mike & Linda Irwin - December 20, 2011 at 10:19 PM



“ Kenny, Thank you for being my friend, I will miss You. Kevin Nissen

Kevin Nissen - December 20, 2011 at 04:13 PM



“ I would like to paraphrase from Maya Angelou - folks often won't remember what was said, or what was done, they WILL remember how you made them feel. I believe everyone that Kenny met as he walked down his path of life will remember how good he made them feel. In my 40 plus years of friendship with this fine man - he did not lower himself to talk negative about other people. Each person has the opportunity to make a difference - Kenny made a positive difference in my life. A piece of him lives on in our hearts and a piece of ours goes with him. How lucky I was to know this man!

Bob Neely - December 20, 2011 at 04:06 PM



“ My prayers are with the family at this time of loss of Kenny - a great man. A true pleasure to have worked with Kenny over many years at Rose Hill. He will be missed dearly, but glad he is not suffering. He can now live it up to the fullest and we will always know there is an Angel looking over us, helping us daily.
Julie Tough (Eligius Bronze)

Julie Tough - December 20, 2011 at 03:50 PM



“ Ken will be so very missed, it was a blessing to have him in our lives. I can now hear the laughter in heaven a little louder now that Ken is up there with his dad. Their laugh is/was one that you just never forget.
I pray that with each day things will come a little easier for everyone.
God Bless,
Donita

Donita Dalton - December 20, 2011 at 01:23 PM



“ Kenny, I miss you. I will always remember your warm & sunny smile every time you came into my office. You were always happy and didn't have an unkind word to say about anyone. There is a special place here at FH for you, that can never be replaced. God bless you.

Stacy Johns - December 20, 2011 at 11:59 AM



“ Like many others, I was fortunate to know Kenny from grade school through High School. He was one of those special people that had a positive impact on whomever he met. His family and friends will be in my thoughts and prayers.

Tom Fulkerson - December 20, 2011 at 09:20 AM



“ SO SORRY TO THE HILTON FAMILY FOR THIER LOSS. KENNY WAS ONE OF THE KINDEST PERSON I KNEW. THE WORLD WAS A BETTER PLACE BECAUSE OF HIM AND HE WILL BE SADLY MISSED BY A LOT OF PEOPLE.

GARY REED - December 20, 2011 at 08:17 AM



“ To the Hilton family I'm sorry for your loss. Being friends with kenny was a BIG PLUS in my life. I'll have fond memories of our school days and the golf games we played, which he recovered from. A great person has left us and heaven has a new treasure. Kenny will be missed by one and all.

Fred W Taylor - December 20, 2011 at 12:20 AM



“ I met Kenny 2 1/2 years ago during an exceptionally difficult time. I called him on numerous occasions to ask different questions, and he always called me right back. He was a very kind man with a heart of gold. As I stood in 3 feet of snow last winter kicking the snow away to find the headstone, low and behold Kenny came up behind me with a shovel and dug and dug until he found it. He always had a kind and comforting word to say. His presence will be greatly missed.

Susan Peavler - December 19, 2011 at 05:12 PM



“ I met Kenny from some of his friends he grew up with about 30 years ago. He recently introduced me to Kaycie and Jim. God took Kenny from us to soon; however, he is in a much better place now. It was definatley an honor and a privledge to know him. May you rest in peace my friend.

Debra Wissman - December 19, 2011 at 02:00 PM



“ To Your Entire Family: My thoughts and prayers are with all of you. What a special man Kenny was to all the lives he touched. May his memory be a blessing to all of you. Warmly, Debra Goldstein & Family
Staff at The Temple, Congregation B'nai Jehudah

Debra R. Goldstein - December 19, 2011 at 12:48 PM



“ Much has been said of Kenny's kindness and I agree. I cannot say it any better than many of my high school friends. Kenny was kind, respectful to once shy girl in high school. I've never forgotten it Kenny...thank you! I found the following on the Rose Hill website... I'd like to offer it up to Kenny...somehow the angel's wil deliver it to him personally. God's grace to you! Eagle's Wings

You who dwell in the shelter of the Lord,
who abide in His shadow for life,
say to the Lord, my refuge,
my rock in whom I trust.

And He will raise you up on eagles wings,
bear you on the breath of dawn,
make you to shine like the sun,
and hold you in the palm of His hand.

Betty Fielder Theis - December 19, 2011 at 12:10 PM



“ What a loss for us all. Kenny cared devotedly for the Rose Hill community. He always patiently helped me find the scattered graves of my many ancestors and, by so doing, he kept me anchored to them. He maintained the connection between the living and beloved relatives and friends who have passed on. There is no replacing him. You will be sorely missed, Kenny. Safe journey to you.
Randee Krakauer Kelley

Randee Krakauer Kelley - December 19, 2011 at 11:37 AM



“ To the family of Kenny.....

I am one of the students from his class, 1968, that has known Kenny since Jr. High...and I have to say without a doubt, Kenny was one of the nicest guys we all ever had the privilege of knowing. His beautiful smile just drew you into him and then upon getting to know him, he was everything you thought that smile represented. He was so sweet, kind, warm, funny, bright, cheerful, happy, and just the dearest person ever. All that he exhibited in his mannerism,, personality, and that smile, just drew you in and when you arrived close to him by friendship, everything you thought about him was so beautifully true.

Kenny was so loved by everyone that had the honor of knowing him and I pray as he has arrives home to be with Christ, he feels, knows and sees the love we all share for him.

Kenny you will be missed so much. And you truly were the wonderful person we all came to know and love....bless you my friend. I am so grateful for that time with you at RCs and our visit....I got to see that wonderful wonderful smile one last time. And the happiness you had radiating on your face that night was typical Kenny, thrilled to see everyone! You were so special to all of us....bless you always...I know you will be with us in that smile forever.

Stephanie Robertson Ladd - December 19, 2011 at 11:04 AM



“ Rest in Peace Kenny. May god be with you and your family.

Kelly Mentzer - December 19, 2011 at 10:32 AM



“ Becky, my thoughts are with you and yours at your great loss.
If you need anything just ask.

Susie Halstead - December 19, 2011 at 10:28 AM



“ My condolences to Kenny's family from a classmate who knew him from elementary school on. Kenny was a dear person, an individual of the highest caliber, with a loving heart. I'll always remember his big, bright smile. May he rest in peace, his journey over, smiling and well again.

Jan Graves

Jan Graves - December 19, 2011 at 12:36 AM



“ I am so sorry to hear of Kenny's death. He was a great help to me through a very difficult period in my life. He was always available and helpful in meeting our needs at Rose Hill, always remembering a name. Can't imagine Rose Hill without him. He will be missed. My condolences to his family.

Walter Rosel - December 19, 2011 at 12:31 AM



“ Kenny and I were schoolmates together from third grade and neighbors living only a few blocks away, through our youth. Loss track of Kenny after leaving High School with us both going in the Military. Did re-connect about 18 months ago at the school reunion. Anyone that knew Kenny sensed his kind, gentle, spirit. I resting in the hope that he is in the arms of Jesus now, with his struggles of this world behind him. R I P Kenny!

Denny May - December 18, 2011 at 11:58 PM



“ I am sorry for your loss. Kenny was a good friend in high school and I am very sorry to hear of his passing. Know that he will be missed by many.

Cathy (CeeCee) Wilson - December 18, 2011 at 11:08 PM



“ I worked on a reunion committee with Kenny last year. He always had the most fabulous smile and was fun to be around. RIP my friend.

Laurie Viles - December 18, 2011 at 10:38 PM



“ I was blessed by knowing Kenny from the 7th grade and all through high school. He was always a fine person & a class act. Our loss of Kenny here on earth is certainly Heaven's gain. God Bless you old fiend.

Bob Duffey - December 18, 2011 at 10:34 PM



“ Hilton family--I got to know Kenny when I was on the Temple Board and worked with Mark Katz on the Cemetery Committee. Ken was such a sweet and kind man. Through the years, as our family has suffered losses, he has always taken the time to visit with us at Rose Hill. He had a big heart and a great sense of humor. He will be truly missed. May his memory be for a blessing. We are unable to attend the service on Thursday but please know we'll be thinking of you. Fondly, Gayle Krigel

Gayle Krigel - December 18, 2011 at 08:59 PM



“ To the family iam so sorry for your loss he was such a kind person who really took great care of the cemetery and also families. He will be truly missed. He was understanding when I lost both of my parents. Nanci,Brian Bucksner

nanci and brian bucksner - December 18, 2011 at 04:35 PM



“ Love. Life's single greatest risk. Life's single greatest reward. Love captures your heart in a second and holds it for eternity. You are without a doubt one of the most loved persons I have ever had the privilege to have walked a short time with on this earth.

Patti Hilton - December 18, 2011 at 01:37 PM



“ Ken was so sweet and caring when my mom & dad passed away. He always had such respect and showed that when he took care of the beautiful grounds around my parents. We will miss Kenny so much. May he rest in peace. Prayers to his family. Lisa & Greg Kurz

Lisa & Greg Kurz - December 18, 2011 at 01:34 PM