



Kenneth Dean Dingman, Jr.

September 19, 1944 - July 18, 2011

Kenneth Dean Dingman, Jr. was born on September 19, 1944 in St. Louis, Missouri and departed this life on July 18, 2011 at his home following a lengthy illness. He was preceded in death by his parents, Kenneth Dean Dingman, Sr. and Alvina (Hanselman) Dingman of the state of Iowa. He is survived by his wife of 42 years, Myra (Phillips) Dingman and by his son, Dr. Sean Dingman and wife Renee of St. Louis, Missouri. He is also survived by his sister Karen Reynolds and husband Gary, his nephew Eric Reynolds, his niece Teri Poppen and husband Terry, and their sons Garret and Gabe; all of Iowa. He leaves behind a host of friends.

Ken was born in St. Louis, Mo. After his father's return from service in World War II, the family moved to Leon, Iowa, where he grew up. He graduated from Leon High School in 1962. Following graduation, he worked for grocery stores until he was inducted into the U.S. Army in 1965 and served until 1967 at Ft. Leonard Wood, Missouri. He left the Army with the rank of Spec. 5 having served with distinction in Army Food Service as a head cook.

Following his time in the Army, Ken worked in management positions for a variety store chain in Iowa and Missouri. It was during this period that he and Myra were married in 1969. Their son Sean was born in Albany, Missouri. From Albany, the family moved to Boone, Iowa, before coming to Waynesville, Missouri in 1972.

On returning to the Waynesville-Fort Leonard Wood area. Ken worked for Toombs and Sons as head cook and first shift cook in the Ft. Leonard Wood mess halls. He also worked as a head cook at the Fort Leonard Wood Officers Club for approximately two years. He left Ft. Wood to run the prison kitchen at the Missouri Eastern Correctional Facility at Pacific, Missouri. Ken was a superb chef and excelled in every place where he worked in food service.

In 1983, Ken began working as a substitute teacher for the Waynesville School District. His good work and good classroom discipline soon had him in great demand. He found that he had to limit his work to Wood Middle School and Waynesville Senior High School within the district. In October of 1985, Principal Jack King of Wood Middle School asked Ken if he would accept a position as a teacher's aide working with the learning disabilities teacher. Ken accepted the position and worked as a teacher's aide at Wood Middle School and East Elementary School until the time of his retirement. Following retirement, he continued to work as a substitute teacher. The children were special to Ken and he was very devoted to their education and welfare. It was in education that he found work he loved even more than cooking.

Ken was made a Master Mason on April 12, 1982 at Waynesville Lodge # 375 Ancient Free and Accepted Masons. He went on to become Master of the Lodge in 1987. In 2000, he was elected Master of Rolla Lodge # 213 where he had his membership until the time of his passing. On April 13, 1984, he became a Royal Arch Mason at Lebanon Chapter No. 64. After transferring his membership to the York Rite Bodies in Rolla, he served as Excellent High Priest of Rolla Chapter No. 32 Royal Arch Masons in 1996; Illustrious Master of Rolla Council No. 39 Royal and Select Masters in 1998, and Commander of Rolla Commandery No. 59 Knights Templar in 1998. Ken was honored with the Missouri York Rite's Lewis and Clark Award in 1998, and he was appointed District Deputy Grand High Priest for Region 4, District B of Royal Arch

Masons of Missouri in that same year. He was a member of the York Rite High Priesthood in Missouri and in Iowa, Minnesota , and Illinois. In 1999, he was appointed Grand Representative of Minnesota in Missouri. In 2007-08, he presided as Grand High Priest of Royal Arch Masons of the State of Missouri.

Ken served as Sovereign Master of Mid-Missouri Council No. 291 of Allied Masonic Degrees; Governor of Ray V. Denslow York Rite College No. 180; and Excellent Chief of Cell Airne Council No.75 Knight Masons.. He held the Knight of York Grand Cross of Honor. In 2003, he received the Order of the Purple Cross (York Rite Masonry's highest honor).

His other Masonic memberships and honors include: 32nd Degree Scottish Rite Valley of Columbia--secretary of Knights of St. Andrew; Holy Royal Arch Knights Templar Priesthood.--House of Lord's Tabernacle No. 72; St. Christopher's Conclave Red Cross of Constantine; Royal Order of Scotland; White Shrine of Jerusalem; DeMolay Legion of Honor; Abou Ben Adhem Shrine (with eight crutches) and Past Rajah of South Central Shrine Club: Socmo Shrine Clown Unit; Past Royal Patron of Amaranth and Past Grand Prelate of the Grand Royal Court of Amaranth; Past Patron three times of Hanson Chapter No. 22 Order of Eastern Star; and the Ozark Council No. 109 Sword of Bunker Hill.

Ken was a Past Noble Grand of Big Spring Lodge # 237 Independent Order of Oddfellows in St. James, MO. At the time of his passing, he served as the Secretary of Rolla Lodge # 231--Knights of Pythias. He was a Grand Officer in the Grand Lodge of Knights of Pythias for the jurisdiction of Missouri and Kansas. He was an active member of the Pulaski County Area Retired School Personnel (PCARSP) and the Missouri State Retired Teachers Association (MRTA). He was also a member of the American Legion. He held other memberships and honors too numerous to mention.

In addition to his devotion to the Masonic Lodge, Ken enjoyed tending to his vegetable garden and supporting the St. Louis Cardinals in the summer. He loved old cars, antiques, and antique furniture. The best thing in this world that could ever happen to a cat was to be adopted by Ken and Myra Dingman. Ken loved his cats--especially his big black cat Ali Baba. Coming home from the hospital to be with them gave him peace in his last few days.

Ken's life touched so many people across the State of Missouri and the nation. He was a devoted husband, a proud father, brother, and uncle, He was an effective teacher and a loyal friend. The waves of love have gone out from his life to touch distant shores for ages to come.

A memorial service with military honors was held at 3:00 p.m. Saturday, July 30, 2011 in the Memorial Chapels and Crematory of Waynesville / St. Robert with Rev. Roy Gilkey officiating. The songs "Blessed Assurance", "Just A Closer Walk with Thee" and "You'll Never Walk Alone" were played. Military honors were provided by the Missouri Honors Team of Rolla, Missouri.

Memorial contributions may be made in memory of Ken Dingman and may be left at the funeral home.

Tribute Wall



“ *Memorial Chapels and Crematory created a Tribute Video in memory of Kenneth Dean Dingman, Jr.*



Memorial Chapels and Crematory - July 18, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ *Kenneth Dean Dingman, Jr.*

January 28, 2023 at 06:53 AM



“ *Myra, I am so sorry that Jean and I could not be at the service for Kenny as we were out of town. Kenny was a great man and a good friend. He will be sorly missed by all. Our prayers go out to you and your family.##imported-begin##Bill & Jean O'Dell##imported-end##*

August 06, 2011 at 08:49 AM



“ *It's really great that ppeople are sharing this information.##imported-begin##Karcy##imported-end##*

August 05, 2011 at 05:22 AM



“ I just read through Memorial Chapel's website, and saw Ken's name. So sorry to hear of his passing. There are many fond memories of him at school. You are in our thoughts and prayers.##imported-begin##Mary Lou & Bill Kesselring##imported-end##

August 03, 2011 at 08:52 PM



“ my prayers are for you. keep your hand in the lords he will help you through . just found out to day of kens death##imported-begin##Helen Spellman##imported-end##

July 30, 2011 at 01:39 PM



“ Myra, Marj and I are so sorry to hear of your loss. We know he has been so sick so long. God's blessings to you and your family. Norman and Marjorie##imported-begin##Norman and Marjorie Stoll##imported-end##

July 29, 2011 at 10:09 PM



“ Ken was a wonderful man. I had the honor of working with him when I first starting teaching in Waynesville at East Elementary. He was assigned to my classroom and he did a wonderful job. He will be missed!##imported-begin##Tony and Arthena Dye##imported-end##

July 28, 2011 at 11:35 PM



“ I will miss Ken, as will all his lodge brothers. He will always be in our memory as a really nice guy who was friends with everyone. Our loss is heaven's gain.##imported-begin##Chuck Morris##imported-end##

July 28, 2011 at 04:25 PM



“ I knew and respected Ken through the Scottish Rite of Freemasonry. Ken was an outstanding Mason and a fine man. I am proud to have known him.##imported-begin##Shannon L. Payton##imported-end##

July 27, 2011 at 11:43 PM



“ Ken is now at peace. I will miss him.##imported-begin##Harold F. Coots##imported-end##

July 27, 2011 at 11:39 PM



“ Myra and family,

You are in our thoughts and prayers as you face this difficult time. May our all-loving God give you peace and comfort in this time of need.

Jeanie##imported-begin##Jeanie Porter##imported-end##

July 27, 2011 at 10:52 PM



“ Dearest Myra,
I am so sorry for your loss; it is our great loss also. Ken was a wonderful person. I am sorry I did not get to see him, but I hope the cards I sent comforted you both. You have been and are still in my prayers. God Bless you and your family.
Love,
Eleanor##imported-begin##Eleanor Terry##imported-end##

July 27, 2011 at 08:57 PM



“ Dear Myra, Sean, and Renee,

I'm completely shocked at the death of Ken. We are sure going to miss him. May God give him eternal rest and his soul rest in peace. Please be strong and accept our condolences.

All my sympathy,
Alan Morris,
Grand Chancellor
Grand Lodge Knights of Pythias##imported-begin##Alan Morris##imported-end##

July 27, 2011 at 03:30 PM



“ Our Sincere Sympathy - Chris & Family -

Clark & Family##imported-begin##C.C. & Deanna McLemore##imported-end##

July 27, 2011 at 02:26 PM



“ Wanda and I convey our deep and heartfelt Christian sympathy to you and loved ones in your sorrow and loss. May our Heavenly Father comfort you and strengthen you. We prayed for you and Ken ... know God took him on to heaven to be with Him and saved loves in Glory. We'll see Ken ... God knows we will all be together in the joys of heaven ... and He knows when. God has given us a sure hope ... and we can depend on it. God be with you always. Love and Christian Sympathy, ~ Lee n Wanda Todd##imported-begin##Lee n Wanda Todd##imported-end##

July 27, 2011 at 01:52 PM



“ Myra, We are so sorry to read in the paper of Ken's passing. I know we have been out of touch for some time, but we think of you often. Jenny, Missy & the girls##imported-begin##Jenny Fluty & Melissa (Mc Ninch) Forbes##imported-end##

July 27, 2011 at 12:56 PM



“ Our thoughts and prayers are with you. So pleased I was able to see Ken when I did. May he rest in peace and God bless you and the family. Best regards.##imported-begin##Ted Harrison##imported-end##

July 27, 2011 at 11:01 AM



“ I had an opportunity to visit Ken many times when he was at ST. JOHN'S, I would drop in, early in morning before work to say hello and spend time with him. He would always enjoy talking about the old Wood jr. high days, and the people he worked with. We will miss his humor and good natured attitude about life. God bless ken and family. Larry##imported-begin##Larry Hines##imported-end##

July 27, 2011 at 10:10 AM



“ Rest in Peace, our dear friend. Sean and Myra, we are thinking of you during this difficult time.##imported-begin##Luge and Paul Hardman##imported-end##

July 26, 2011 at 10:27 AM



“ Myra, Sean, Renee,
We are thinking of you and remembering you in our prayers in the loss of such a fine man. He will be greatly missed by so many who knew and loved him.##imported-begin##Pulaski County Area Retired School Personnel##imported-end##

July 25, 2011 at 10:56 PM



“ Myra, Sean, and Renee,
Our thoughts and prayers are with you all now and throughout the difficult days ahead. We have prayed for each of you for the last ten months, and our prayers will continue on your behalf. Your dad was such a fine gentleman, with a ready quip or smile for each of us. We always enjoyed sitting by him at our retired school personnel meetings. We will be missing him.##imported-begin##Martin and Georgia White##imported-end##

July 25, 2011 at 10:51 PM



“ *Myra & Sean, my deepest condolences on your loss. He will be missed by so many.*

Laura##imported-begin##Laura Huffman##imported-end##

July 25, 2011 at 08:07 PM