



Kenneth D. Hlatky

January 6, 1963 - April 1, 2020

Kenneth D. Hlatky, age 57 of North Royalton, survived a struggle with lung cancer for two and a half years and passed suddenly on April 1, 2020. He was the beloved husband of 10 years to Amy (nee Dusenberry); the adored son of Kenneth and the late Carol; the loving step father of Martha Perez; and the dear brother of Marianne Sebes.

Through the years of working with GFS, Ken met coworkers that became his dearest friends. His passions were his family, including his dogs, music, playing guitar, traveling the US, Sanibel Island, and most recently, drawing.

A Celebration of Life will be announced on a later date.

Cemetery

Sunset Memorial Park

6265 Columbia Road PO Box 729

North Olmsted, OH, 44070

Comments



“ Kenny was, quite simply, one of the best people I’ve ever known. He had a warmth that was so comforting, and he was always willing to share it with you. He had enough humility for 100 people even though he was deserving of countless accolades. I might’ve been the only employee at GFS who looked forward to quarterly meetings because it meant I got to ride 2 hours each way with Kenny, and that meant it was going to be a great day. I’m hard pressed to think of anyone who made me laugh or smile more.

I miss you, my friend. I love you.

Ben Mullins - April 08 at 10:11 AM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Kenneth D. Hlatky.



April 05 at 06:25 PM



“ Our deepest sympathy to you Amy and Martha...We are so happy you Ken in your lives...He was your knight in shining armor~~ Many prayers of comfort for both of you as you go on in life...We are here is you need anything at all...Love and Hugs,
Melanie and Dave

Melanie Archer - April 04 at 04:51 PM



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Kenneth D. Hlatky.



April 03 at 07:31 PM



“ Ken and I were childhood friends and knew each other since 1st grade. We lost contact and I'm glad we reconnected. I will miss our breakfasts and conversations together. You will be missed my friend! Thank you for so many good memories!

Tim Valek - April 03 at 07:22 PM



“ I have a lot to say about Ken, but I will try to keep it brief. Ken picked me up on my first day at GFS, and I was able to take him home on his last day at GFS. From the first day we immediately become close friends. We learned that both of us graduated from Normandy, a few years apart. He grew up in a neighborhood that I was very familiar with, and it turned out we knew a lot of the same people. As stated through out this memorial, Ken was always there to help. Ken helped me coach soccer and baseball in Parma. If you know Ken, I kept him around not for his athletic ability, but his pure comedy relief. Ken was pure Joy. Ken was at all of our family events, even my 50th birthday, which was the past February. Ken was part of our family and will be missed.

I cannot remember a time that he had bad things to say about anyone or kept a grudge. Just always looking at the bright side. Ken was a fantastic listener and I am a great talker, so we got along great. I do not have a brother, but Ken filled that roll.

I remember when Ken Met Amy and how happy Amy made Ken. As crazy as it may sound, I don't think the passion he had for Amy and Martha, changed one bit. It was as if the day they met, they had known each other forever. The love Amy and Ken share is not common.

Ken lived life the right way and even toward the end was always concerned about everyone else. I am glad I was able to spend time with Ken the last 18 years. I can still hear him calling me little buddy and saying Top of the morning to ya.

I would ask the next time you are out, get yourself a chocolate malt shake and do a toast to Kenny.

I love and miss you,

Your little buddy

Tom Schwartz - April 03 at 04:37 PM



“ Working with Ken, at GFS, for 10 years I learned of Ken's dependability and loyalty. Ken was a humble man who thought of others first. Ken was a kind and gentle soul, sincere and honest. Ken definitely let his light shine on this earth! I am grateful for knowing Ken and pray that Ken is now experiencing the good promises of the Almighty God. "Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the land" (Matthew 5:5).

God bless you Ken!

Renee Wolfe - April 03 at 01:26 PM



“ Kenny was a very special person to me, and he was a true brother to me. There is so much I could say about this wonderful person that I could go on forever. I have decided to keep this message light and say something that all of the GFS employees that Kenny worked with can relate to. Kenny and I rode to all of the meetings together and he always insisted on driving. I had no problem with that, but there was something he was not telling me that ended up causing me to worry if we were always going to get to the meeting or home afterwards. Kenny loved to see how far he could go on a tank of GAS without stopping to fill up. Are you with me. I could not tell you how many times I had to pray that we would see a sign on the highway that said Gas in 2 miles, then hope we did not have to push the car to the station. That was my brother Kenny. Mr gas conservative. I will always remember those rides together and would not change them even if we had to walk to get gas, which we did one time.
Kenny was my best friend and I will love him as my brother for ever.

Jim Jagers - April 02 at 08:21 PM



“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Alison Jagers - April 02 at 06:56 PM



“ Ken- you lived your life with grace, humility and compassionour world is a better place because you were here. Keep watch over us from above, heaven has another beautiful angel.

And he will raise you up on eagles wings,
Bear you on the breath of dawn,
Make you to shine like a sun,
And hold you in the palm of his hand.

Theresa Petkunas - April 02 at 02:32 PM



“ I have so many incredible memories of Kenny. He was a person so full of life and passion. Kenny always made time for you, no matter what he had going on, he was always willing to listen and sort out the most complex situations and put them in simple terms. If he could help, he would always pitch in and bring that wonderful smile. Kenny made life fun and he made all of us better people. I can't think of a more hard working, conscientious and principled centered person then Ken. God bless you Kenny for how you touched our lives!!!

Mike Sprenger - April 02 at 12:32 PM



“ Mr. Ken, as my siblings and I grew up knowing him, was always a great friend to my dad and my entire family. I remember Mr. Ken showing up to my birthday parties, always asking how my family and I were doing. You always knew it was Mr. Ken on the phone with my dad, as there'd always be the trademark "HEYYYY" upon answering it. Being 18 years old, I haven't been of age to have known him very well through my life, but I have a handful of memories that I remember vividly about him:

In fourth grade Mr. Ken came to my birthday party and brought me the only present I remember from that year, as soccer ball - and a really good one at that- which was a complete shocker. I hardly expected anything from someone not in my family, let alone something so nice. From that day on it was my favorite ball.

On a car ride to a soccer tournament, my dad decided to call Mr. Ken up and have a talk. First came the "HEYYY"s, then came more fat jokes than I've ever heard in my entire life. For about an hour, that's essentially what the conversation consisted of. To this day I have never seen two grown men laugh at themselves and at each other more than in that conversation. Say what you want about the questionably funny jokes - if your dad is crying laughing and you know the guy on the other end is too, that's a pretty special bond.

A few weeks ago my dad and I visited Mr. Ken at his house and shared lunch and a good conversation with him. And as good as Swenson's may be, the cheeseburgers aren't what I'll remember from the visit. Instead, it'll be that although the chips were down, he remained in high spirits and was moving forward. Throughout the conversation, it seemed to me that Mr. Ken still cared more about others well being before his own, where even in his final stages of life, he put others first. This is what I had always heard about Mr. Ken from my parents, and I was able to witness it firsthand that day, and that's what I'll remember him most for.

Mr. Ken, thank you for always being such an amazing friend to my dad and my family. We will miss you greatly and always cherish the memories. Rest In Peace.

Joey Schwartz - April 02 at 12:21 PM



“ I worked with Kenny when he first came to work for Gordon Food Service up in Cleveland, I was his manager for the first few years of his long employment with company. What I always appreciated was his consistant positive outlook on things, even on his toughest days he never let it get to him. When I spent the day with him I always had a good day and left energized. He made an impact on my life as I am sure he has had of many others.

Matthew 25:23: His lord said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.' --- Kenny I am sure you truly are in a better place and being blessed!!! -- John Riley

John Riley - April 02 at 10:23 AM



“ Meeting Ken many,many years ago through GFS, I have to tell you that there was not a better salesman that I have met in my 40 yrs of being a chef- the funny thing is he was a better person. We just spoke last week and he was doing a drawing of The Boss for me. Now he is the Big Boss in Heaven. RIP my friend!

michael mills - April 02 at 08:41 AM



“ Ken came to Red Lobster in Mentor, Ohio as an Assistant Manager. His quirky sense of humor enamored most of us to this brilliant man. We played as hard as we worked. I haven't seen his face directly in way too long. I look forward to seeing it again some day.

Todd Rufe - April 02 at 08:35 AM



“ So very sorry to hear of Ken's passing. What a great person and a joy to work with when I was with SCA. Condolences to Ken's family, friends and co-workers. Rest In Peace Ken.

nancy tecklenberg - April 01 at 10:36 PM



“ Ken would show up at the GFS office every morning, smile on his face, ready to help all. He was a great friend, mentor, and colleague. He gave true meaning to the word, "Gentleman". Love you brother, may God Rest your soul

Jon Demko - April 01 at 09:19 PM



“ I have known Ken for the past 16 years. We worked together at HPS in 2017 prior to him being diagnosed with cancer. Ken was truly a great friend and we had many great deep conversations. He has been an inspiration to me as he has battled the ups and downs of lung cancer these past few years. He never gave up while keeping a positive attitude throughout. His love for the arts was so evident as he recently began drawing and found such pleasure through his sketches and paintings. He and Amy enjoyed a love for each other few ever experience. Amy has been a pillar of strength. I will forever be grateful for his friendship and influence in my life. Ken came to accept Christ as his personal Lord and Savior and is now in paradise with God.

Love
Steve

Steve - April 01 at 07:17 PM



“ So sorry to hear of Ken’s passing. I worked with him at GFS in Brooklyn. He always had a smile and a kind word! I am praying for your family

Chris Walter

chris walter - April 01 at 06:47 PM



“ Ken was such a nice guy. Always giving of friendship or knowledge. He was one of the first sales reps I got to know after moving to the Cleveland area. He had an energy and a passion for the business. He will be missed!

Gregory Smail - April 01 at 06:38 PM



“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Alison Jagers - April 01 at 05:48 PM



“ Ken was a wonderful man, husband and step-dad and son-in-law. We both love him so much. He was a wonderful husband to Amy. Loved how loving and kind they both were to each other always. Loved his art work, music, gardening, cooking, and so much more, Just as recent as late January when I was there, he and I were jamming to a Beatles song that he was playing. I have a video of it that we will always cherish. So many memories of this wonderful person.

Sharyn Dusenberry - April 01 at 05:31 PM



“ I will never forget the day that one of my co-workers came into my office and said that she wished our sales rep. Ken could meet someone nice because he was such a great guy and he deserved to be happy. My completely dumbfounded response was "Kens not married?". I long assumed that such a wonderful man had to have been married. I soon mentioned my beautiful sister Amy to him and it wasnt long until Ken was sitting in front of me telling me how much he loved my sister. Our family is so fortunate that we were able to get to share in the joy and caring that Ken brought into Amy and Marthas lives. Everytime we were together in good times and in not so good times I couldnt help but to see and feel how much love Ken, Amy and Martha shared. I am so happy that he called Amy all those years ago.

Lisa - April 02 at 10:52 PM



“ I first met Ken 23 years ago when I married into the family. We instantly had a strong bond. I enjoyed my conversations with him over the years pertaining to life, philosophy, and politics. Ken was always open-minded and a true gentleman. I will miss his wisdom and insight.

If the old proverb "only the good die young" is true, my only regret is I won't see you for a long time. Till then, farewell my friend.

Dave Steitz

David Steitz - April 05 at 11:54 AM



“ Amy -

So sorry to hear the news. Best wishes to you and yours and all our thoughts and prayers from the entire Shaw family.

Dana Shaw

Dana Shaw - April 08 at 10:38 AM