



Kenneth "Ken" Mullen

DEC 19, 1941 - MAR 27, 2021



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Bixby-South
Tulsa Funeral Service
& Crematory

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Kenneth Mullen Obituary

Kenneth “Ken” Gene Mullen was born December 19, 1941 in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania to John Atchison Mullen and Audra (Chenoweth) Mullen. When Ken was just fourteen months old, his mom tragically passed away. His aunt Ruth, lovingly known as “Yen”, moved in with the family to help care for Ken and his older brother, Patrick. Unfortunately, Ken experienced another tragedy at the age of twelve with the death of his dad. Patrick, who was now nineteen, was legally able to raise Ken. However, this wasn’t done alone- Yen continued living in the home and was a tremendous help. Ken also pitched in by doing several odd jobs including delivering coal and newspapers.

Ken was an exceptional athlete, excelling in both football and baseball. He was so talented that he was being scouted by a baseball team in New York. Again, no stranger to tragedy, Ken was injured playing football and wasn’t able to continue with his dream of playing professional baseball. He began working as a mechanic in the automotive industry. Little did he know, he was extremely skilled. This, along with his hard work ethic paved the way to build a successful career that he loved in the automotive aftermarket industry.

During high school, athletics wasn’t the only thing Ken was focused on. He was quite smitten with a young lady by the name of Carol Nordstrom whom he met at the age of 14. There was an immediate attraction; however, Carol’s Mom asked that they not get serious at such a young age. They submitted to her wise counsel. Several years later, Ken was still thinking about Carol and decided to give her a call and invite her to a New Year’s Eve party, which she accepted. The happy couple married on November 17, 1962. They made their home in Pittsburgh where they eventually grew their family with the birth of daughters, Christine, Joann and Anita.

Ken was employed by Remco and eventually Moog, where his career took off. He was transferred to Detroit, Michigan in 1974 where he was a District Manager. Westland, Michigan was home for



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more than eight years. Here, Ken and Carol became foster parents to more than thirteen babies.

Ken and his family moved to St. Louis, Missouri after another transfer. Here, Moog realized his strong work ethic and how dedicated Ken was to their company and promoted him to the Vice President of Sales. He retired in 1997 as the Senior Vice President of Sales. Ken made quite a name for himself and once word got out that he had retired, he was recruited by Cardone Industries and moved to Philadelphia. His role was to establish a sales force and train and mentor young executives. He retired for a second time in 2007. He remained an advisor on the Board at Cardone until 2015. He was also on the Board for Teaching the Word Ministries in Lancaster, Pa.

In 2007, Ken and Carol moved to Tulsa. They immediately joined Victory Church where they were extremely active. Ken loved the Lord and started each morning spending time in the Word. He was generous and giving and enjoyed supporting new churches and young pastors. His lifelong career allowed him the opportunity to continue mentoring young professionals- always sharing with them the priority of God and family in life.

Ken received the honor of earning a spot in the Automotive Hall of Fame. He was also an author and published his first book, Thriving in God's Life Preserver. Of all his accomplishments, Ken's greatest accomplishment was his family- his number one goal was to have and love a wife and family!

Ken passed away March 27, 2021 with his family by his side. He was 79.

Those he leaves to cherish his memory are: wife, Carol Mullen of Jenks; daughters, Christine Branson and late husband Rick of Labadie, MO, Joann McFarland and husband, Pastor Rick of Colorado Springs, CO and Anita Klein and Mark of Frisco, TX; grandchildren, Ashley Exler and husband, Andrew, Kenneth Austin and wife, Carmella, Patrick Eberle and wife, Casey, Mason Klein and Anderson Klein; great grandchildren, Abigail, Ari David, Kristian, Tatiana, Sophia, Lorelai, Bella, David and Kai; and close cousin who was like a sister Shirley Morschl and husband Carey Morschl of Pittsburgh, Pa. along with a host of other relatives and friends.

Ken was preceded in death by his parents; Aunt Ruth "Yen"; brother, Patrick Mullen and wife, Anita; and son-in-love, Rick Branson.



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Ken's family will greet friends from 7-9:00 pm Thursday, April 1, at RiverCrest Chapel and Event Center. The funeral will be 11:00 am Friday, April 2, at RiverCrest Chapel and Event Center. The service can be viewed live by following this

link: <https://webcast.funeralvue.com/events/viewer/51274>

Read More



Tribute Wall

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Bixby Funeral Service shared a **Video**.



April 22 at 7:39 AM



Robert Smith posted:

Ken was one of the few executives that walked the talk every day and his testimony was a shining light to all of us. Well done thou good and faithful servant was Kens legacy. Ken is rejoicing with his savior and he will be missed !!!! Bob Smith

April 5 at 5:48 AM



Keith Yoder posted:

Thank you for extending the memorial service online that those of us who were not able to be present to experience the testimony, ministry, and honor to the Lord and our fellow servant of God, Ken. It was a blessing to be with you in this manner.

April 4 at 4:07 PM



Alan Bostwick posted:

Ken was one of the great mentors that touched my life and guided my career and personal life. I always admired his calm nature and learned to soften my approach in business and life, which benefited me greatly. I followed Ken through his management in Michigan when I was fortunate enough to replace him when he advanced to VP of Sales at Moog. As they say in business, those were big shoes to fill. His customers loved him everywhere he went and that taught me to earn the same respect and strive to be more like him in every role he helped me achieve. Working for him was never like working for a "boss", it was like having a Dad to consult with and learn from. I owe much of my career and life path to Ken and will never forget that. My prayers and thoughts go out to Carol and the entire family. And I feel that God will very quickly put Ken in charge of recruitment for future residents in Heaven, as he did on Earth.

March 31 at 3:57 AM



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WH

William Dave Howard posted:

Ken was a very kind and gentle soul. He always had time to mentor me and instill confidence. While working at Cardone, Ken often knew the right words to get me through a tuff day. Ken was always there for people sharing his knowledge but also his passion for people. I will always remember and cherish the memories. You will be missed. Praying for Carol and the family.

March 30 at 3:01 PM

KK

Karen Kurdziolek posted:

Just working for you a short time I experienced your love and care. I will never forget being invited to your home for a Thanksgiving dinner. I still think of enjoying that time of sharing with your family and your kindness to invite me. The small things can mean so much to a person's life.

March 30 at 2:21 PM

JH

Joni Huff posted:

Pastors Joann and Rick; You are deeply loved by RRC and we miss you. You are in our prayers for comfort, peace, and rest as you celebrate Ken's life. His was a much-loved man of God and I am so happy to have met him and Carol - very special people to us at River Rock Church. May you feel our Heavenly Father's presence each moment and continue to rest in Him. Ken's legacy lives on through his family and as we know you, Joann, and Pastor Rick, you bring much love, faithfulness, kindness, and teaching to all of us. Ken is in glory now as we long to be and will see him again. Love you both so much.

March 30 at 9:53 AM

KP

Keith Yoder, Founder, Ttwm, Pennsylvania posted:

Ken served for several years as a board member of Teaching the Word Ministries—a ministry to leaders and their organizations. We loved him for his chuckle, positive outlook, encouraging heart. As a highly respected leader in business, Ken's heart overflowed with the kind of servant leadership he saw in Christ. Through his influence other business leaders engaged chaplains for their organizations and integrated business and ministry more fully as one. In our region, he was sought after for his wise counsel given in a gentle yet straightforward manner. His mission after retirement was "To introduce people to CHRIST LIKENESS as a lifestyle to transform people and cultures around the globe." To this end he devoted his efforts to writing to pass on his love for the Word of God and his commitment to be led by the Holy Spirit.

March 29 at 11:18 AM



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GV

Gary Volentine posted:

Ken was a father figure to me. He guided and mentored me through the early part of my career. He was the kindness most caring person I have ever had the honor of working for. He always had my best interest at heart. Ken is the reason I received my MBA; if it weren't for him, I would have quit that journey. He always knew the right words to motivate people to succeed. He will be missed however Heaven will be a better place with Ken there.

March 29 at 10:49 AM

MB

Mary & Larry Bellon posted:

Ken was a wonderful person, a gentleman, a true man of God. He had great faith, as does his great family. He will be vastly missed. He is truly with Our Lord and will be a wonderful greeter when we meet him again. God bless him, Carol and his faith-filled family

March 29 at 9:40 AM

TM

Tom And Phyllis Martin posted:

Ken was a gentleman, great father and husband, mentor, intelligent business manager and a friend when you needed one. He seemed to bring a lot of peace to most of his conversations - you always knew that God was his co-pilot. Referred to wonderfully as 'the wind beneath your wings'. God bless him and peace and prayers to his loving family. We will see you again, Ken. Tom and Phyllis Martin

March 29 at 7:56 AM

SK

Steve And Donna Knox posted:

My God Bless this man, his wife Carol and family. Ken had the biggest heart and soul of any person I've ever met. He found something good about every person he touched.

March 28 at 10:06 AM



Media

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Bixby Funeral Service shared a **Video**.

April 22 at 7:39 AM





Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Kenneth by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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