



## Kenneth Orr

May 10, 1939 - June 14, 2016

Kenneth Orr, 77, Topeka, passed away June 14, 2016, at Lexington Park Assisted Living.

Kenneth was born May 10, 1939, the son of Thomas and Nell Davis Orr in Pittsburg KS. He graduated in 1960 from Wichita State University. Kenneth married Marlene Samra in 1963 in Chicago IL. He loved computers, photography, art, architecture, music and above all, family. He was endlessly curious about the world and amassed a library of thousands of books on every imaginable subject. Ken could frequently be found walking around his beloved Potwin neighborhood with a camera and a Diet Coke.

Kenneth is survived by his wife, Marlene; children, Nancy Walter (David), Judy Murphy (Tim), Katie Hester (Mike), Paige Orr; grandchildren, Daniel Walter, Joy Shantz (Ben), Grace Walter, Gus Hester; and two great-grandchildren.

Visitation will be 5 to 6 p.m. Friday at Kevin Brennan Family Funeral Home, 2801 SW Urish Road, Topeka KS 66614. Funeral service will be at 11 a.m. Saturday at St. David's Episcopal Church, 3916 SW 17th Street, Topeka KS 66604.

Burial will take place in Old Mission Wichita Park Cemetery in Wichita, Kansas.

Memorial contributions may be made to Children's Mercy Hospital, the American Cancer Society, or St. David's Episcopal Church, sent in care of the funeral home.

# Cemetery Details

## Old Mission Wichita Park Cemetery

3424 East 21st St  
Wichita, KS 67208

# Previous Events

## Visitation

JUN 17. 5:00 PM - 6:00 PM (CT)

Kevin Brennan Family Funeral Home  
2801 SW Urish Road  
Topeka, KS 66614  
(785) 272-7888  
[info@kevinbrennanfamily.com](mailto:info@kevinbrennanfamily.com)

## Funeral Service

JUN 18. 11:00 AM (CT)

St. David's Episcopal Church  
3916 SW 17th Street  
Topeka, KS 66604

# Tribute Wall



“ *Kevin Brennan Family Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Kenneth Orr*



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**Kevin Brennan Family Funeral Home** - June 16, 2016 at 02:00 PM



“ *Kenneth Orr*

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January 28, 2023 at 12:08 PM

SM

“ Saddened to learn today of the passing of Ken Orr.

*Ken was a real renaissance man. I consider myself fortunate to have spent some time with him.*

*He could jump seamlessly from computing to epistemology to linguistics to psychology with an infectious and bottomless curiosity.*

*He is one of the few people I have ever been able to have a long conversation about Jackson Structured Programming/Jackson Structured Design with.*

*He is the "Orr" in Warnier-Orr Diagrams ([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Warnier/Orr\\_diagram](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Warnier/Orr_diagram))*

*RIP Ken.*

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**Sean McGrath** - September 13, 2016 at 12:16 PM

DL

“ Very sorry to learn of Ken's passing. His book, *Data Structured Systems Development Methodology*, was an inspiration to me in university in the 80s, and throughout my career. May his memory be a blessing.

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**Doug Laney** - August 27, 2016 at 10:44 AM

RH

“ To the family of Ken Orr  
*I am so sorry to hear of Ken's passing. He has been an inspiration to me for many years and his work changed the way that I think.*

*robinkharris@Q.com*

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**Robin Harris** - August 01, 2016 at 09:11 PM



“ Dear Orr Family, although I knew Ken for just a very short time near the end of his life, it was obvious what a wonderful man he was to both family and friends. He talked often of his beloved daughters, wife and his many grandchildren. It was a pleasure to have known him - I am so sorry for the loss of such a great man to your family. I will remember him and ( because of his great stories ) your family with much fondness. Deepest Sympathy, Diana Ellis

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**Diana Ellis** - June 17, 2016 at 10:34 PM



“ Shona and Sam Izenberg and family purchased the Love's Journey for the family of Kenneth Orr.



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**Shona and Sam Izenberg and family** - June 17, 2016 at 08:12 AM

CC

“ Dear Marlene and Family,

*Ken made an indelible impression on my early career. It was my privilege to work for him in the mid '80s, and to share an office with you, Marlene. You both inspired the pursuit of excellence, voracious learning and dedication to a business that meant something.*

*Above all, you fostered family. From my pregnancy on the job through my son's later hospitalization, Ken's strength and support were not just lip-service from a busy executive but the heartfelt caring of a patriarch. That meant more than you will ever know.*

*I am so sorry for your loss, and I hope that the memories of an extraordinary lifetime fill your heart during the difficult times ahead.*

*With Warmest Regards,*

*Cathy Chatfield-Taylor  
cctunlimited@comcast.net*

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**Cathy Chatfield-Taylor** - June 17, 2016 at 06:32 AM

BN

“ Ben and Sherrae Nelson purchased the Strength & Solace Spray for the family of Kenneth Orr.



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**Ben and Sherrae Nelson** - June 16, 2016 at 11:09 PM

RW

“ Dear Marlene,

*I want to offer my sincere sympathy for your loss.*

*I also got my first experience with computers working with you and Ken. Additionally, I developed a liking for methodologies in general. Thank you for your generosity of spirit and an environment that engendered learning.*

*My heart goes out to you and your family at this sad time.*

*Retta Whinnery*

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**Retta Whinnery** - June 16, 2016 at 11:03 PM

DS

“ Dear Marlene Orr,

*When I heard you had sold 104 Woodlawn, I went online and found Zillow with its description and photos of the house. I sent it to both my "kids." We were pleased at what care you took of our beloved house. Your remodeling and updating were better than anything we could ever have afforded. You made it special. We are glad you had so many years there and raised your family there. Thank you very much.*

*My condolences to you and your family on Kenneth's death. "May his memory be a blessing." Please know my thoughts and best wishes are with you.*

*Diana Siegal, 274-5575*

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**Diana Siegal** - June 16, 2016 at 05:49 PM

RA

“ *Raj lit a candle in memory of Kenneth Orr*



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**Raj** - June 16, 2016 at 10:16 AM



“ *To Marlene & family,*

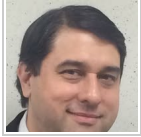
*I am very sorry for your loss. Ken Orr & Associates was my first job after graduating from college. I was hired by Geoff Roper just a few months before Pac Bell signed the deal which brought on many more people as they were going to put DSSD online.*

*I will never forget Ken nor the others that worked there as he had made the place truly feel like it was a family. The saddest day working there was the day that we closed it down for the Chicago people as I was there to take out the networking. Ken's company was one of those companies that one could always be proud to be part of.*

*Sincerely,  
Nick Cannon*

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**F Nick Cannon** - June 16, 2016 at 09:37 AM



“ I had spoken to Ken just several weeks ago and my wife had spoken to him about 2 weeks ago: he was a bright, endearing, optimistic, kind and generous soul. Ken had been a personal mentor and friend to me and I had shared my linkedIn note of gratitude for his and my other mentorship ( <https://www.linkedin.com/pulse/mentorship-thought-diversity-arun-majumdar?trk=mp-reader-card> ) which I had written on May 10th. I am grateful that I had the personal opportunity to express my thanks to him while he was alive and could receive my gratitude. I know he is no longer suffering and for that I am also thankful but deeply sad, and missing of his unique thoughtful approach to life and coaching others, like myself. My sincerest wishes to his family - Marlene and Paige, whom I hope will know that although Ken may be gone, he will never be forgotten. God bless and Peace with you all. - Arun Majumdar, Palo Alto, Wed. June 15th, 2016.

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**Arun Majumdar** - June 15, 2016 at 11:05 PM

KB

“ Marlene & family, I'm so sorry to hear about Ken's passing. He literally changed my life by introducing me to computers. It was a pleasure and a privilege to work for him and to know you and your family. I still have all the books I worked on for him—guess I'll have to clean them out pretty soon so Darah won't have to deal with them when I'm gone! My love to you all.

*Karen Brown  
306 Tahlequah Drive  
Loudon TN 37774  
(865) 271-8536*

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**Karen Howard Brown** - June 15, 2016 at 02:41 PM