



## Kenneth Ranker Sr.

July 23, 1933 - December 11, 2024

Kenneth Leroy Ranker, Sr. of Topeka, Kansas passed away on December 11, 2024, at the age of 91. He was born on July 23, 1933, in Ellsworth, Kansas to Robert and Susan Ranker.

In school, Ken played football. After graduation, he joined the United States Air Force at the end of the Korean War. Ken built communication towers all over the world, including Greenland and North Africa. In Washington DC, Ken met the love of his life, Della Parker. They married on September 14, 1955, and had two sons and a daughter.

Ken worked as a lineman for Southwestern Bell for many years. His hobbies included spending time with family, meeting his friends for coffee, watching football, playing cards, fishing, and traveling. Ken and Della visited all 50 states, along with some international destinations. Ken adored his grandchildren and made so many happy memories with them.

When people think of Ken, man of faith comes to mind. He enjoyed going to church, helping others, volunteering for Meals on Wheels and New Hope Food Pantry, and donating blood.

Ken was preceded in death by his parents, siblings, Bill, Dorothy, Mary Ellen, Richard, and Robert, and daughter-in-law, Karen.

He is survived by his wife of 69 years, Della; sons, Ken Jr. and Martin of Topeka; daughter, Shawna (David) Welch of Highland, Kansas; granddaughters, Lisa and Mindy (Derek) of Topeka, and Stephanie of Highland; grandson, Lucas of Topeka; and many other honorary grandchildren.

Visitation will be 5-7 p.m. Monday, December 16, 2024, at Kevin Brennan Family Funeral Home, 2801 SW Urish Rd, Topeka KS 66614. Funeral service will be 2 p.m. Tuesday, December 17, 2024, at Northern Hills Baptist Church, 920 NW 62nd St, Topeka KS 66618. Burial will follow in Silver Lake Cemetery.

Ken's funeral service will be live-streamed on the funeral home's Facebook page, you can follow this link. <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100063672125244>

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Northern Hills Baptist Church, and sent in care of the funeral home.

Condolences may be sent online to [www.kevinbrennanfamily.com](http://www.kevinbrennanfamily.com)

# Cemetery Details

**Silver Lake Cemetery**

## Previous Events

### Visitation

DEC 16. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

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

### Funeral Service

DEC 17. 2:00 PM (CT)

Northern Hills Baptist Church  
920 NW 62ndStreet  
Topeka, KS 66618

# Tribute Wall



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Kenneth Ranker Sr..*



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December 16, 2024 at 05:00 PM



“ *Knew you only for a short time, but miss you every lunch and dinner. Rest in peace my friend.*

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**Spud Kent** - December 16, 2024 at 04:45 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Kenneth Ranker Sr..*



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December 16, 2024 at 02:55 PM



“ *Martin, so very sorry for the loss of your father. Thinking of you and your family.*

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**Steve & Brenda Meier** - December 16, 2024 at 12:37 PM

TS

“ *The Schousters purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Kenneth Ranker Sr..*



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**The Schousters** - December 16, 2024 at 09:23 AM

LH

“ *Larry and Kathy Hortenstine purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Kenneth Ranker Sr..*



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**Larry and Kathy Hortenstine** - December 15, 2024 at 07:49 AM

LH

“ *Larry and Kathy Hortenstine planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Kenneth Ranker Sr..*

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**Larry and Kathy Hortenstine** - December 15, 2024 at 07:49 AM

KS

“ *Our condolences to the family. Ken Sr. was like a grandfather to our family and will be missed. Thoughts, prayers and love to the family.*

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**Kevin, Jill, Scott, Jennifer, & Spenser** - December 14, 2024 at 10:31 PM

ES

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



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**Evelyn Schouster** - December 14, 2024 at 09:48 PM

TJ

“ Twomblys, Marriotts, Peterson, Johnson purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Kenneth Ranker Sr..



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**Twomblys, Marriotts, Peterson, Johnson** - December 14, 2024 at 10:56 AM

TJ

“ Twomblys, Marriotts, Peterson, Johnson planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Kenneth Ranker Sr..

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**Twomblys, Marriotts, Peterson, Johnson** - December 14, 2024 at 10:56 AM

DH

“ I was so sorry to hear about the loss of Ken. He was always so friendly to everyone. I don't remember seeing Ken without a smile on his face! He will be missed for certain. Prayers and condolences to his wife, Della, and family.

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**Debbie Hughes** - December 13, 2024 at 01:10 PM

SL

“ Kenny and Lisa....so sorry to hear of your loss. Lisa, you are so lucky to have had your grandpa for so long. I bet you have so many good memories of him. Sending hugs!! Sandy Larsen

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**sandy Larsen** - December 13, 2024 at 12:42 PM

ED

“ Martin sorry to hear about the loss of your dad. Thoughts and prayers to you and your family. Ed Dresslar

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**Ed Dresslar** - December 13, 2024 at 11:53 AM

WM

“ I was fortunate to get to go on some of their family trips. Grandpa & grandma (Ken & Della) were so much fun to be around. Our thoughts & prayers go out to the family for the loss of Grandpa Ranker. Heaven has another another angel. Whitney Marcum & family.



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**Whitney Marcum** - December 13, 2024 at 11:39 AM

SB

“ Our condolences  
Bill & Shelly Bartron

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**Shelly Bartron** - December 13, 2024 at 10:38 AM

DM

“ so sorry to hear about Ken's passing. my thoughts and prayers are with you all at this time. Don McCullah

don mccullah - December 13, 2024 at 09:18 AM

KI

“ Heaven gained another angel. Ken can now play cards with dad and Karen he will be missed. He always treated us all like family. He loved his grandson Lucas and they love to do things together. He loved spending time with everybody. Love you all. Kim and Duane and Lucas Hines.

kim - December 12, 2024 at 07:33 PM

ES

He was a special person. When he was talking to you you were the most special person on earth. I remember his video of talking to a retired seasoned captain in Maine. He made that captain's day and ours. He met my sister apologizing for his friend's rudeness to her. Pray for Della 69 years is special. Sorry we can't be there for you I'm in a Nursing Home now. My prayers are with you.

Evelyn Schouster - December 12, 2024 at 09:38 PM

MH

We do not have adequate words to express how much Ken Sr. will be missed. He was the man I hoped to be, the type of father I desire to be, and the man of God I pray to be. He impacted my life in ways I couldn't articulate well. He is well loved by family and friends alike. Our prayers are with you all.

Mike and Debbie Hortenstine

Michael Hortenstine - December 12, 2024 at 09:54 PM

SH

What a wonderful Husband, Father, Grandpa, Uncle and Friend 🌸🌸

Sherry - December 19, 2024 at 04:20 AM

VP

*The Burlew family is saddened by the passing of Ken. However, we rejoice Ken had a personal relationship with Jesus Christ and is forever with Him. My parents, Bill and Norma, thought so highly of both Ken and Della when they attended church together several years ago. They are unable at this time to reach out to Della and family, but their hearts are full of good memories and the Christian fellowship they had together. May God continue to embrace Della and family with His peace and the comfort in knowing you will all be together again one day.*

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**Vickie Palmer** - January 03, 2025 at 09:58 AM