



Kenneth Filkins

August 31, 1957 - January 1, 2019

Kenneth Duane "Kenn" Filkins, age 61, of Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan passed away Tuesday afternoon, January 1, 2019, at the Hospice of the EUP - Hospice House.

Kenn was born on August 31, 1957, in Flint, Michigan to the late Earl and Lucille (Atkins) Filkins. He graduated from North Branch High School and later earned his Bachelor's Degree from Great Lakes Christian College. Kenn was a former minister at the First Church of Christ, Donaldson Presbyterian Church, and the founding minister of New Beginnings (now the E-Free Church). He was also a writer who authored several books, magazine articles, and was a former editor of the Sault News. He was the owner of Filkins Fotos and, in his youth, the co-owner, with his brother, of Byte Brothers Computers.

Kenn had many hobbies. He enjoyed fly fishing. He taught classes on tying flies and had been a salmon fishing guide. He was an avid chess player and loved to teach kids the game. He also ran several tournaments for both high schoolers and grand-masters. One of his biggest joys was falconry. He raised birds from baby chicks and was the first person in Michigan to get a permit to obtain a snowy owl. In addition to the snowy owls, his favorite birds were the Harris hawks and red-tailed hawks. Kenn helped so many people and was so full of compassion and grace. He was always there for anyone

that needed help, from lending a helping hand to lending an ear.

Kenn is survived by his wife: Marti Lin Filkins, whom he married on May 13, 2000, in Barbeau, Michigan: two sons: Micaiah Filkins of San Francisco, CA, and Andrew (Holly) Filkins of Lansing, MI: three step-sons: Mark Bisdorf of Sault Ste. Marie, MI, Greg Bisdorf of Point St. Lucie, FL, and Bradley (Marina) Bisdorf of Sault Ste. Marie, MI; and two grandchildren: Jack and Ida Filkins. Kenn is also survived by three siblings: Leroy (Cheryl) Filkins of Davison, MI, Douglas (Mary Lou) Filkins of North Branch, MI, and Michelle (Mark) Gavelya of Hudsonville, MI.

Kenn was preceded in death by his parents, a brother: Donald Filkins; and a step daughter-in-law: Brittany Bisdorf.

A gathering will be held from 5:00 until 7:00 PM on Friday, February 8, 2019, at C.S. Mulder Funeral Home. A memorial service will be held at 11:00 AM on Saturday, February 9, 2019, at the Sault E-Free Church with Pastor Greg Steere officiating. Friends may call at the church that same day from 10:00 AM until the time of the service.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be left to Hearthside Assisted Living.

Tribute Wall

HU

“ I am so very sorry for the passing of Ken, he was an amazing man I never knew him in his early days but in the days I did, seeing him at hearthside, he was always cared for and loved and forever he will be. My regards to the family.

Hue - February 24, 2021 at 12:00 AM

JE

“ I was raised by my parents in a catholic home. When I married my husband (Derick Eitrem) I became a member of the First Church of Christ, while Ken was ministering there. Ken baptized me. He was the warmest, kindest, big teddy bear kind of guy, who made EVERYONE feel welcome and loved. He always had a big hug for anyone and everyone who wanted or needed it. He would look at you and it was like he just knew what you needed. Very gifted man in SO many ways. Im so sorry for your loss. Prayers to all who loved him.

jill eitrem - February 09, 2019 at 12:00 AM

JB

“ The gift Kenn brought to me in my lifetime was that of learning how to hear God. As someone who was brought up to believe a specific set of teachings that didn't sit well with me, it was the beautiful way in which Kenn would deliver a message that captivated me and eventually led me to the light as an adult. His message was one of love and inclusion, an inspiring path to follow. I was blessed with the gift of seeing Kenn many years later and sharing with him impact he's had on my life. My most sincere condolences go out to his loving wife Marti, his family and all of those whom his life also touched.

Jayne Baker - January 16, 2019 at 12:00 AM

TS

“ I am sad to hear of Ken's passing. I graduated with him from Great Lakes Christian College in '79. I remember he won the Drachma Award for his excellence in biblical languages. God bless his memory.

Tom Spoons - January 14, 2019 at 12:00 AM

DD

“ Kenn, was a dear friend growing up and a friend in the Lord. He had an amazing life, and I regret never having the opportunity to know him in his latter years of ministry.

Del J DeHart - January 13, 2019 at 12:00 AM

CE

“ We were so sad to hear of Kenn's passing. I have a memory of fishing with him (which was an honor) and serving the Lord together and being with him in a couple special meetings. God bless the family with Comfort from above. The Holy Spirit will see you through. Our heart and prayer are with you.....Chuck and Amy Emmert

Chuck and Amy Emmert - January 11, 2019 at 12:00 AM

JS

“ Dear Marti and family, Joey and I were so sorry to hear about Kenn. We have so many fond memories of him at the Soo Indians games and with eating popcorn with our daughter Rachel. We hope that the many memories will help you and your family through every tomorrow. We pray that you will find comfort in these memories and in knowing that he is with our Lord. With love, Joe and Laura Shawhan.

Joe and Laura Shawhan - January 11, 2019 at 12:00 AM

BN

“ To Ken's family, We are very sad to hear of Ken's death. But we also know where he is and praise the Lord for that. We have very fond memories of Ken. Our prayers are with you.

Barry and Julie Newcomb - January 08, 2019 at 12:00 AM

PF

“ What a loss..prayers for his family. May you find peace that Kenn is with his Lord .No more suffering or pain.

Penny Firmingham(Gates) - January 07, 2019 at 12:00 AM

DJ

“ To the family of Ken Filkins.....I am saddened and share your sorrow. I coached Ken in basketball both in Junior High and high school varsity. He was a fine person and an inspiration to others....my prayers are with you.



David Johnson - January 07, 2019 at 12:00 AM

KI

“ Dear Marti and Family, My Thoughts and Prayers are with you at this Very Difficult time. Kenn is a Very Special Friend to me and I will Miss him Greatly. I went to Donaldsons Church when he was the Pastor there and then followed him when he started New Beginnings. He had such a Passion for what he was doing and when he had Bible Study at his Place. He always had a Big Hug and Smile for you. He was never too Busy to talk to you or listen. Even after Kenn's diagnosis he continued to be the Loving and Caring Friend and he continued to Bring People to the Lord till his disease got into the later stages.. I know it isn't ours to ask the Lord "WHY" but I do know that he now has KENN there with him that Kenn is now Whole Again. No Louies Body Dementia. He is Smiling down on Everyone and waiting for the time when we will all be together again. Love You Kenn and will Miss You, Sincerely, Kim I. Cryderman Dementia.

KIM - January 07, 2019 at 12:00 AM

ST

“ I am so sorry to read this. What a loss, but he apparently loved his Lord. This was a wonderful family from my early teaching years. God bless you with His strength and peace.



Sharon Trato - January 07, 2019 at 12:00 AM

MM

“ Marti and all Kens' family; Heartfelt sympathy to you all for this loss in your lives. He was a vibrant, soft spoken man and will be missed greatly. God Bless and comfort you all. I can only imagine what he must have felt to see the face of Jesus as he departed this earth. The greatest joy ever and he is with his savior now. We will meet again. Hugs and love to you all. Marilyn

Marilyn Mackie - January 07, 2019 at 12:00 AM

RC

“ I only had the pleasure of knowing Kenn for a few months but he really was a person that could warm your heart. Such a sweet man, he will deeply be missed by anyone who knew him.

Rose Castaneda - January 06, 2019 at 12:00 AM

KG

“ I am so very sorry for your loss. Your family is in my prayers. May our Lord comfort, encourage and bless you all during this difficult time!

Kim Genella - January 06, 2019 at 12:00 AM

GG

“ Kenn will forever be in my heart! He was a very funny and kind man who was always available to listen and mentor. I feel very blessed to have known him. Prayers and blessings for his family and friends.



Gabrielle Ganson - January 06, 2019 at 12:00 AM

FW

“ Ken's book, *Comfort Those Who Mourn* has been required reading for every Advanced Homiletics class I have taught. His leadership and legacy will continue to touch generations to come and he will be missed.

Frank Weller - January 06, 2019 at 12:00 AM

MV

“ *Marti, I am so sorry for your loss. Ken was an amazing man. He was so interesting to sit and talk with. I know Hue and I both enjoyed the time we were blessed to know this great man.*

Mandy Volrath - January 06, 2019 at 12:00 AM

CH

“ *Even when we know sad things are inevitable, it does not lessen the pain. Kenn was a dear friend from the first time I met him. While our relationship began with his helping me fulfill a lifelong dream of mine (to become a falconer), his friendship gave me so much more. I owe him a debt I can never repay. This world is a lessened by his absence.*

Chris Heth - January 05, 2019 at 12:00 AM