



Kenneth Allen Bruce

NOV 2, 1941 - MAY 15, 2021



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FUNERAL HOME & CREMATORIUM

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Obituary of Mr. Kenneth A. Bruce

Mr. Kenneth A. Bruce of Dagsboro, DE and formerly of Silver Spring, MD passed away at home on Saturday, May 15, 2021 while in the care of his family and Delaware Hospice.

Ken was born on November 2, 1941 in Charleroi, PA to the late William Henry and Helen Duvall Bruce. In addition to his parents, he is preceded in death by two brothers William Bruce and Joel David Bruce.

Ken graduated from Charleroi High School in 1960 and soon after enlisted in the Navy, in which he served 4 years. He then began working at the David Taylor Model Basin, Carderock Division, Naval Surface Warfare Center where he began as a HVAC specialist, then planning and estimating. In the last 10 years of his career, he moved into the field of computers, retiring as a specialist. He worked at the Model Basin for 28 1/2 years and upon retirement, he and Shirley headed East to Lower Slower Delaware.

Ken is survived by his loving wife of 55 years Shirley Mae Bruce of Dagsboro, DE; a daughter Christine Manlapaz (Wil) of Olney, MD and a son Jeffrey Bruce (Amanda) of Owings, MD, two brothers Thomas Bruce (Barbara) of Charleroi, PA and Brian Bruce (Terry) of Chesapeake, VA and a sister Alice Burton of Monongahela, PA. He also leaves behind four devoted grandchildren: Grace and Ethan Manlapaz and Tanner and Carly Bruce whom he loved with all his heart. He has an abundance of nieces, nephews, and cousins who loved him dearly.

Ken enjoyed crabbing and fishing in the Indian River. His family were always in for a treat when "Poppy" was steaming crabs! He could always be found working around his yard, doing wood projects, helping around his neighborhood and anyone that needed a hand. He spent many hours happily helping his family with projects around their homes.



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A memorial service will be held on Saturday, June 19, 2021 at 11:00 AM at the Watson Funeral Home, 211 S. Washington St., Millsboro, DE 19966 where friends may call from 10 AM - 11 AM for visitation with the family.

In lieu of flowers the family suggests donations to Delaware Hospice, 100 Patriots Way, Milford, DE 19963.

Letters of condolence may be emailed via www.watsonfh.com



Tribute Wall

Kenneth Allen Bruce

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Anonymous lit a candle in honor of Kenneth.

June 13 at 8:00 PM



Leora lit a candle in honor of Kenneth.

There are so many fond memories of times long ago when I was growing up alone side Christine and Jeff. I recall a few New Year's Eve parties, many camping trips, beach trips, and the trip to the Tennessee in 1984. I wouldn't trade those memories for anything. Though I am sad to hear of Ken's passing, I'd like to think my dad and he are now enjoying catching up. My condolences to the family.

June 13 at 8:00 PM





Tribute Wall

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Ken Currie lit a candle in honor of Kenneth.

What does one remember of each conversation with someone--almost everything! I first met Ken Bruce when he was helping to extend the boat launch into Indian River by laying in two precast concrete slabs. His attitude and actions were neighborly, friendly and helpful. In fact, my prevailing remembrance of Ken was his attitude toward other people. He was a man of "good will to others" as in the Christmas Song. I don't believe I ever heard him pronounce a pejorative against anyone else on the street. Hard to be optimistic when certain unjust, unfair things were happening but he was not blind or self-deluded. He knew who was at fault but eschewed heaping additional blame. For many days he seemed to be singing the song "and never was heard a discouraging word" and "the skies are not cloudy all day." That could be irritating sometimes! One of the most interesting and telling characteristics of Ken Bruce was evidenced by his yard. Most people's front yards are neat as pins but their backyard contains piles to dispose of and jobs only part finished. Not Ken Bruce. He was exactly who his front yard stated--organized and conscientious. He was publicly and privately the same--what we used to call, "What you SAW WAS WHAT YOU GOT." He always made time to talk and LISTEN. He was a good listener. He really listened and you knew he was listening. It was active and complimentary. It made you feel that you could talk to him honestly. Somebody actually listens! I could always rely on Ken not for irrational support of taking sides but hearing out the issues in the neighborhood and giving good advice. He never incited. Always looking for reconciliation rather than condemnation or judgement. I never felt Ken needed to blow himself up in comparison to anyone else. He was so comfortable with who and what he was. He knew a lot about gardening, grilling, computers, fishing, electricity and plumbing too but never bragged. But he always responded with assistance if asked. That's a real neighbor. Ken was a caregiver for his wife. One who has had many of the problems of my wife. But I never heard a complaint. He would never stand for office on the street and I finally came to realize why. It's not that he didn't have principles or was hesitant to share them. He knew somehow that active involvement would be unproductive. Nor did he want his wife involved. Years ago there were 3 Kens on the street. Ken number one was Ken Sharp. I called him "Mr all american volunteer." Ken Bruce as Ken no 2. He stood as a neighbor you could trust. And Ken number 3, that's me--who it falls by providence to praise the other two. We could use some more of both Kens as neighborly anchors. I say Goodbye to Ken Bruce and feel privileged to know him as a friend and neighbor. ken currie



May 18 at 8:00 PM



Linda Hurley lit a candle in honor of Kenneth.

Family, we know god accepted uncle Kenny with loving arms he is with his loved ones who has passed before him, I could write a book about this special uncle of mine but there's no need to because every family member / friend who was blessed to know him already knows what a wonderful man he was. Auntie, Christine & family, Jeff & family and all the Bruce families hold on to all the many wonderful memories you've made through the years as I will RIP uncle Kenny ❤️ Lovely Linda



May 23 at 8:00 PM



Tribute Wall

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AB

Amy Beyreis lit a candle in honor of Kenneth.

So hard to hear. My deepest sympathy to you Shirley, Jeff & Christine & their families. Amy

May 22 at 8:00 PM



MD

Molly Cris And Casey Detwiler lit a candle in honor of Kenneth.

Our deepest condolences to the Bruce family and friends. He had a big heart and he was a very good friend to talk to. He will be missed so very much. Take care, Molly Cris and Casey Detwiler (Pa)

May 19 at 8:00 PM



JM

Jean Miller lit a candle in honor of Kenneth.

Oh my gosh! Shirley, Christine and family, and Jeff and family, You have my deepest sympathy! So very saddened to hear about Ken. I have the fondest memories of our friendship. God bless you all. Just take one day at a time. Love you all. Jean

May 19 at 8:00 PM



Anonymous lit a candle in honor of Kenneth.

May 18 at 8:00 PM





Memories only last if you share them

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



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