



Kenneth Akers

January 20, 1938 - November 15, 2022

AKERS - Kenneth Reed Akers, PE, age 84 of Loganville, GA passed away on Tuesday, November 15, 2022. A Celebration of Life Service will be held at a later date. Kenneth served his country honorably in the United States Army and was the Director of Engineering US Army Corps of Engineers, South Atlantic Division for 30+ years prior to his retirement. He was a loving husband, father and grandfather. Kenneth was preceded in death by his parents, William Reed and Pearlie Oniece (Epps) Akers, brother John William Akers, sister Leta Marie Middlebrooks (Eugene). He is survived by his loving wife of 58 years, Dianna (Varnese) Akers of Loganville, GA; children, Allison Sullivan (William) of Highlands Ranch, CO, Amy McAleer of Loganville, GA, and Anthony Akers (Jennifer) of Lawrenceville, GA; grandchildren, James L. Blaylock, III (Amanda) of Castle Rock, CO, Sarah Sullivan of Highlands Ranch, CO, Emily Sullivan of Highlands Ranch, CO, and Jackson McAleer of Loganville, GA; numerous family and friends.

Kenneth was born in Tishomingo County, Mississippi on January 20, 1938. In 1941 the family moved to Memphis, TN and Kenneth graduated from Messick High School in 1956. He was always proud of his time delivering the paper for the Commercial Appeal in Memphis, TN. After graduation, he enrolled in Mississippi State University and began to pursue his career in Civil Engineering. As a co-op student, Kenneth alternated between going to class a semester and working with the US Army Corps of Engineers as a surveyor on

the Mississippi River the next semester. He always said he never saw Mississippi State win a home football game or lose a home basketball game during his time in Starkville.

Kenneth graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in Civil Engineering in 1962. He was drafted by the United States Army during the Cuban Missile Crisis. After completing basic training at Fort Gordon in Augusta, GA he was assigned to Cold Regions Research Experimental Laboratory in Hanover, NH on the campus of Dartmouth College. He was given a field assignment in Greenland during his military service. In April of 1964 he met Dianna Varnese and the two wed July 18, 1964. After Kenneth's Honorable Discharge, he started his civilian career with the United States Army Corps of Engineers at the Waterways Experiment Station in Vicksburg, Mississippi. Kenneth and Dianna had their first child, Allison, during their time in Vicksburg.

Kenneth was promoted to Chief of Foundations and Materials Branch, Memphis District. During his time in Memphis, Kenneth completed his Masters degree in Engineering from Memphis State University. Kenneth taught Engineering Technologies at State Technical Institute in Memphis. While in Tennessee the couple had their second and third children, Amy and Anthony.

In 1981, Kenneth was transferred to Little Rock, Arkansas as Chief of Engineering for the Little Rock District. In spring of 1982, Kenneth and Anthony took up golf and had their first of more than 2,500 rounds they played together.

In 1983, the family moved again to Ken's final position, Chief of Engineering of the South Atlantic Division of the US Army Corps of Engineers. Kenneth held that position until retirement in 1993. Kenneth committed over 30 years of service to the United States Army Corps of Engineers.

During retirement, Kenneth and Dianna built a log cabin, rebuilt a recreation vehicle and took it to Alaska and played numerous rounds of golf at Cedar Lake Golf Club in Loganville. Ken made hundreds of friends on the golf course over the years and managed to make five hole-in-ones in his golfing career.

Kenneth and Dianna visited 49 states, over 20 countries and made many memories with their children and grandchildren. Kenneth passed in his sleep surrounded by his family. The family would like to extend special gratitude to Miss Ashley and her coworkers at Bristol Hospice of East Georgia.

The family asks in lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to Bagley College of Engineering, Mississippi State University in memory of Kenneth R. Akers, PE. Memorials may be made through the Mississippi State University Foundation and designated for the (Bagley College of Engineering).

Commitments may be made online at www.msufoundation.com or checks payable to the MSU Foundation Inc. may be mailed to P. O. Box 6149, Mississippi State, MS 39762.

Arrangements by Tim Stewart Funeral Home, 670 Tom Brewer Road, Loganville, GA 30052. 770-466-1544. Please sign the online guest registry at www.stewartfh.com.

Tribute Wall

SF

“ You should never put off until tomorrow, if you have a friend you need to contact. Ken and I were very close friends at Memphis District, Corps of Engineers, and continued our phone friendship through many years of retirement. He loved the folks at Memphis District, and tried to keep up with whatever was going on by calling me to see what I knew, and sharing memories. I am very fond of Ken and Diana, but life and old age got in the way of keeping in touch. Not that I ever stopped thinking of them and intending to call. Ken was special and I will treasure my many good memories. My sincerest condolences to Diana and the family. Shirley Fite

Shirley Fite - November 22, 2022 at 05:46 PM

JP

“ Ken was a good guy and always great to talk to. I enjoyed his company many days at Cedar Lake golf course. He reminded me of myself with set opinions and a resistance to change. My sympathies to Anthony and the rest of his family.

John Padgett

JOHN PADGETT - November 19, 2022 at 04:16 PM

BP

“ I have sure been missing Ken at the course. We would sit around and talk every Saturday and Sunday mornings at the course waiting on daylight so I could tee off. He was a fine man and I consider him a good friend. Praying for his family. You will be missed by many friend

Burt Perham - November 18, 2022 at 07:11 PM

ES

“ *Ernestine Smith lit a candle in memory of Kenneth Akers*



Ernestine Berry Smith - November 18, 2022 at 05:48 PM

JB

“ *jim blaine lit a candle in memory of Kenneth Akers*



jim blaine - November 18, 2022 at 09:25 AM

GE

“ *I will miss my friend and fellow engineer of a different discipline, we had numerous however brief discussions, most about our respective golf games.
I have great respect for Ken and his accomplishments, non greater than his family. It is a sad time for all, please take comfort in knowing his life was well lived.
Gary*

Gary Eaton - November 17, 2022 at 08:47 PM



“ *Meeting Ken made a lasting impact on our whole family. A super classy man that will be deeply missed. Our condolences to the Akers family. Shannon, Lori and Jeremy Wood*

LF Wood - November 17, 2022 at 06:09 PM

RF

“ For many years I would see Ken every Saturday morning hanging out in the clubhouse and chatting with everyone. He would always ask me faithfully if we were still keeping the electricity on over at the power company. I would always reply "yes sir!" We had many conversations over the years and I always enjoyed his stories. I always thought the many times he played golf with Jackson was time well spent. I'm sure Jackson will now treasure those moments for years to come. Ken was a pleasure to know and someone who was always kind and friendly to me. I always thought it was cool that he would bring his wife out to Cedar Lake so that she could work on the flower beds around the course on Sunday afternoons while I was working. He couldn't help her much physically but he would always be there for moral support. My thoughts and prayers go out to all of the Akers family. Rest in peace Ken.

Randy Fears - November 17, 2022 at 04:23 PM

BS

“ Ken, Anthony, Tim Quinn and I played many rounds of golf together. Great times. Great memories. Many discussions, many topics, many opinions and all very interesting. It was always great to talk with Ken
He will be missed.

Bob Stultz - November 17, 2022 at 04:09 PM

JS

“ I have some fond memories of conversations about military, government, and politics. I really enjoyed our conversations around golf. He shared many memories of Anthony's early days in golf, and he was so proud of how well Anthony has done both in the golf business and as a golfer. What a great man Ken was! He will be greatly missed. We will be praying for peace and comfort for the family. Jake and Denise Strength

Jake Strength - November 17, 2022 at 01:35 PM

DW

“ I met Ken many, many years ago at our home away from home, Cedar Lake Golf Club. I couldn't begin to count the times we spent sitting in the Clubhouse discussing a myriad of topics, from family to sports, our working careers and one of our favorites, politics. We didn't always agree but one thing you knew for sure, Ken strongly believed in his convictions. He shared with me often his favorite pastime in years past was playing golf with Anthony and in later years with his grandson Jackson. Ken was a good man and friend. He will be deeply missed. Rest In Peace.

Don Wall - November 17, 2022 at 01:22 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Kenneth Akers.



November 17, 2022 at 12:37 PM

JS

“ Ken had a long and productive and successful career. My favorite memories of Ken are the stories he told of his times in Memphis studying engineering. I also enjoyed our discussions on politics and government he was a wonderful man and will be greatly missed rest in peace.

Dean and Margaret Sparks

Jack D Sparks - November 17, 2022 at 12:30 PM

ES

Dianna, Allison, Big Al, and Amy, I am so sorry for your loss. Ken was such a force--he was brilliant, had a strong work ethic, took up golf in his fifties, and played more than anyone I know. He and Dianna could build anything! It was my pleasure to be his friend and I loved to listen to him tell stories about everything.

Ernestine Berry Smith - November 18, 2022 at 05:48 PM

FS

Ken was a very likeable person to be around. I valued his friendship while he was here in Memphis with the Corps of Engineers.

Fred Sawyers - December 12, 2022 at 07:55 PM