



William 'Ken' Kenneth Cool

September 19, 1940 - June 21, 2022

William Kenneth “Ken” Cool, 81, passed away unexpectedly but peacefully on June 21, 2022, surrounded by his loving family. Ken was born on September 19, 1940 in Lansing, Michigan to William and Beulah Cool. Growing up in Webberville, Michigan, Ken first attended a one-room country school, then Webberville High School. He graduated from Michigan State University and went on to earn a Master’s Degree from Western Michigan University. Proudly serving his country, Ken was in the U.S. Army, 2nd Infantry Division, with part of his time including a tour with the 304th Signal Battalion in Seoul, South Korea. In civilian life, Ken enjoyed a long career in accounting and public administration, spending the last years of his employment working for the State of Michigan’s Department of Education. Ken had numerous hobbies and interests, including international travel, cutting wood from the family acreage, financial planning and investments, and staying physically active. After his retirement, Ken continued working as a volunteer, sharing his talents preparing taxes and helping where needed at Charlotte’s Senior Center as well as assisting with the democratic process, in which he deeply believed, by serving as a poll worker for local, state, and federal elections.

Perhaps Ken’s greatest interest, however, was spending time with his beloved family. On January 2, 1965, in Michigan State University’s Alumni Chapel, Ken married Sarah Garfield. When asked to share about the beginning of their relationship, he wrote recently that he was simply “enchanted” with Sarah.

Theirs was a marriage, a friendship, and a true partnership that lasted fifty-seven years. Ken is survived by Sarah. Others who survive Ken, and who will remember him for his honesty, gentleness, patriotism, humility, generosity, tolerance, intelligence, and quick sense of humor, are his three children; Susan (Mike) Hall of Ludington, Mike (Anne) Cool of Cadillac, and Jennifer (Todd) Davlin of Portland; numerous nieces and nephews, as well as his grandchildren: Tom Hall, Julia Hall, Jeffrey Davlin, Jill Cool, Sarah Davlin, Ellie Cool, and Marian Davlin, who survive him with memories of time spent around the water at his Duck Lake family home and on vacations together, shared stories and jokes around campfires and at family gatherings, and a smart, witty, loving, tech-savvy, involved Grampy who was deeply interested in each of their lives and who knew and accepted each of them lovingly and unconditionally. Ken was preceded in death by his mother and father as well as by his brother, Robert A. Cool.

The family invites friends to join them in a time of visitation at Pray Funeral Home in Charlotte, Michigan, on Friday, June 24, from 2-4:00 pm and from 6-8:00 pm. A funeral service will be held at the First United Methodist Church in Eaton Rapids, Michigan, on Saturday, June 25 at 11:00 am, with a period of visitation beginning just prior to the service at 10:00 am. In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to Charlotte's Senior Center. Friends and family are encouraged to share memories of Ken on his tribute page at www.prayfuneral.com/obituaries/William-Cool/ The family is in the care of Pray Funeral Home.

Cemetery Details

Riverside Cemetery - Albion

1301 S. Superior St.
Albion, MI 49224

Previous Events

Visitation

JUN 24. 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM (ET)

Pray Funeral Home
401 W Seminary St
Charlotte, MI 48813

Visitation

JUN 24. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Pray Funeral Home
401 W Seminary St
Charlotte, MI 48813

Visitation

JUN 25. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

First United Methodist Church Eaton Rapids
600 S. Main St.
Eaton Rapids, MI 48827

Funeral

JUN **25**. 11:00 AM (ET)

First United Methodist Church Eaton Rapids
600 S. Main St.
Eaton Rapids, MI 48827

Tribute Wall

TM

“ I first got to know Ken when I started attending his Sunday School class at Lawrence Avenue United Methodist Church. Ken became a friend and we crossed paths many times through the years. I am not sure I have ever met another man with such integrity. Though we didn't see each other often I was shocked when I learned of his death and shed some tears that morning. My condolences to Sarah and his family. The world is a little less kind and gentle place without his presence.

Terry Marquardt - June 26, 2022 at 10:05 PM

HR

“ The more I knew Ken, the more I respected him. Ken was one of the most liked and respected managers in the MI Department of Education.

Ken was a team leader in the true sense of the word. He brought staff together on difficult projects that would fray our nerves, but his gentle style of leadership wrought an atmosphere of positivity that was precious, a big help to us all.

We will all miss Ken.



Hal Richardson - June 26, 2022 at 10:19 AM

BL

“ My sincere condolences to Ken's family. Ken was such a wonderful man who lived a life of kindness and service.

Brenda Lindsay - June 26, 2022 at 06:51 AM

CG

“ He and Sarah were wonderful to my mom. He was such a kind man and will be missed.

Carol Geisen - June 24, 2022 at 04:18 PM

DL

“ Debbie, Michelle, Kevin, Linda purchased the Garden Accent Stone - “It Broke My Heart to Lose You” for the family of William 'Ken' Kenneth Cool.



Debbie, Michelle, Kevin, Linda - June 24, 2022 at 02:51 PM

GC

“ We are very sorry to hear of Ken's passing, a shock for, Family, Friends and Community.

What good man and great fellow, he will be missed by so many.
Gene & Ruth Conley and family

Gene Conley - June 24, 2022 at 02:14 PM

JS

“ So so sorry for the Cool families loss. Ken was a very kind and generous man. Our thoughts and prayers are with you all.

Jeff and D'Lynn Smith - June 24, 2022 at 12:57 PM

MH

“ From camping on the shores of Lake Michigan to relaxing on the sand in Panama City Beach, we have such wonderful memories of spending time with Ken and his family over the decades. Ken was truly a fantastic person that will be so missed by so many people. He and Sarah are such special and dear friends to my parents. Sending all our love to the Cool Family.

Meg Holycross

Meg Holycross - June 24, 2022 at 10:56 AM

MH

“ Meg, Bob, Nick and Hannah Holycross purchased the Love's Tapestry for the family of William 'Ken' Kenneth Cool.



Meg, Bob, Nick and Hannah Holycross - June 24, 2022 at 10:42 AM

JM

“ Jim M. purchased a sympathy card for the family of William 'Ken' Kenneth Cool.



Jim M. - June 24, 2022 at 10:39 AM

JM

“ i was quite stunned to hear the news of Kens passing. i grew up just down the road from ken and Bob. when i started pheasant hunting Ken became my mentor and trainer, as teen agers we hunted together many times. Ken was 2 years older than me. Ken joined the army and when he returned we were both going to MSU. i was planning on having a career in business but i didn't drink coffee, Ken said i had to learn so 2 days a week for an entire quarter i tried, finally told Ken, i didn't like the stuff and have never drank coffee since, that was 1963. i wound up moving out of state and about 15 years ago i started having lunch with Ken and Bob when i would return to michiagn every summer, we shared many, many found memoires. then we lost Bob and not Ken, my visits to michigan will be a littel hollow now without seeing ken. we always had such a enjoyable time together and although we were not close ken was a life time friend that i will miss.

*Jim Millis
cottonwood Arizona*

Jim millis - June 24, 2022 at 10:32 AM

MC

“ I had the opportunity to meet Ken when he was with the Department of Ed and respected all that he did for the State of Michigan. In small world mid Michigan fashion, my wife Deb and I then had the opportunity to meet Ken again through his daughter and dear friends Jen and Todd Davlin. Our sympathy goes out to the entire family.

Mike Coyne - June 24, 2022 at 10:17 AM

MS

“ How blessed we are to have known Ken Cool. I worked with him at the Michigan Department of Education. I was so excited to have the opportunity to chat with him about a month ago at his granddaughter’s softball game. I thank God for a man who truly made the world a better place and send prayers for his family.

Marilyn (Mertz) Schneider - June 24, 2022 at 08:23 AM

PB

“ Ken was a great colleague and a friend to all. He will be missed

Paul Bielawski

Paul Bielawski - June 24, 2022 at 07:50 AM

MD

“ There are no words to adequately express my profound sadness at the loss of your beloved husband and dad. Ken was a shining example of what it means to be a very good man. His devotion to his family and friends was inspiring. He had a servants heart and made such a positive and profound difference.

Many of my happy and precious memories from my childhood involve time with your amazing family in Charlotte and Duck Lake. Please know we are thinking of you all during this difficult time.

Mary Gager Drew

Mary Gager Drew - June 24, 2022 at 05:03 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of William 'Ken' Kenneth Cool.*



June 23, 2022 at 04:36 PM



“ *Aunt Sarah and family,
Our deepest sympathies and condolences. Our family has so many fond memories of Uncle Ken. His warmth, generosity, kindness, quick wit, patience as a teacher, and humility have made a strong impression on us that won't be forgotten. We enjoyed so many good times including skeet shoots, musket lessons, fishing for bass, and of course hearing stories about him and my Dad growing up and the adventures they had! He is a wonderful Christian role model and inspiration for us all.
You all are in our prayers for comfort and strength during this difficult time.*

*Love,
Jeff Cool and family*

Jeff Cool - June 23, 2022 at 04:17 PM



“ *Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of William 'Ken' Kenneth Cool.*



June 23, 2022 at 04:00 PM

GS

“ *Gayle Wolf (Karen Davlin's sister) purchased the Garden Accent Stone - "Wherever a Beautiful Soul..." for the family of William 'Ken' Kenneth Cool.*



Gayle Wolf (Karen Davlin's sister) - June 23, 2022 at 04:00 PM

VW

“ *Dear Sarah and Family,
We extend our deepest sympathy to you in this time. Please know that we are keeping you in our thoughts and prayers, now and in the time to come.*

Rev. Karen and Vince Wheat

Vincent Wheat - June 23, 2022 at 11:52 AM

JT

“ *James, Keia, Anna, Jacob, Maddix and Tip purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of William 'Ken' Kenneth Cool.*



James, Keia, Anna, Jacob, Maddix and Tip - June 23, 2022 at 10:17 AM

GB

“ *Remembering Ken's commitment to public service with admiration*

Gus Breymann - June 23, 2022 at 09:18 AM



“ *Stately Lilies was purchased for the family of William 'Ken' Kenneth Cool.*



June 23, 2022 at 09:13 AM



“ *I am at a loss of words as a wonderful man has been lost and will truly be missed in this township, His warm smile was always a welcome site. My condolence goes out to his wife Sara and all his family he will truly be missed*

Laura Friia - June 23, 2022 at 09:05 AM



“ *I am so sorry for your loss. I loved hearing stories of Mike's great dad over the years. Anne always said she hit the jackpot with her in-laws. Thinking of the Cool family and sending love.*

Melissa Kendell

Melissa Kendell - June 23, 2022 at 08:56 AM



“ *Dear Sarah and Family,
So very sorry for your loss. Ken was a one-of-a-kind man. You all are in our prayers for God's comfort.
Steve and Pat Willard and family*

Patricia Willard - June 22, 2022 at 10:40 PM

AC

Ken was a very kind and thoughtful brother in law. He was helpful and supportive after we lost Bob. My thoughts and prayers to Sarah and family. Ann Cool

Ann M. Cool - June 23, 2022 at 11:08 AM



“ *I have so many warm, happy memories of my Grampy. He loved comics, as well as cartoons. We often laughed together during a dose of morning Looney Tunes, and he had a hearty, infectious laugh, which bubbled up from his heart. As I got older, I enjoyed talking with him about more complex ideas, and his intellect came through. I will miss his presence around the Euchre table and his careful jokes. He was truly wonderful and a gift to the Earth.*

Julia Hall - June 22, 2022 at 09:38 PM

PB

“ *Are hearts are all broken at the Senior Center, Ken was a great friend and did so many wonderful things for the Senior Center. He will be sadly miss. 😞*

pam burt - June 22, 2022 at 09:20 PM

BE

“ *So sorry to hear my heart felt condolences go out to Sarah and family. So sad.*

Brian Elliston - June 22, 2022 at 04:47 PM

LH

“ *I am at a loss for words, Sarah and family. Our family will always have fond memories of Ken, his calm, sensible nature, and his kind and caring friendship. Our sincere condolences to all of you. Robert, Linda, Robbie, Lizzie Huber*

Linda Huber - June 22, 2022 at 04:31 PM

PB

“ *What a well loved and respected man. Sarah, and family - such a deep loss! Don't know the words, but prayers which God knows are from the hearts of those that love you.*

Pat, Ron, Brandylee - June 22, 2022 at 01:57 PM

ML

“ *Ken was always a great guy! I've known him for a long time. My condolences to the family in this time of grieving!*

Michael Lovaas - June 22, 2022 at 12:54 PM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of William 'Ken' Kenneth Cool.*



June 22, 2022 at 11:51 AM

CR

“ *Sarah and family, our thoughts and prayers are with you. May God give you comfort and peace. Tom and Cindy Raymond*

Cindy Raymond - June 22, 2022 at 11:39 AM

AJ

“ *We got to know Ken as our adult Sunday school teacher at Lawrence Avenue United Methodist Church. He was a gentle leader with a quick smile, a listening ear and strong desire to grow in faith. What a wonderful man. We are so sorry to hear of his passing. Dave and Angi Jewell*

Angela Jewell - June 22, 2022 at 11:14 AM

LF

“ Linda McGuire And Family purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of William 'Ken' Kenneth Cool.



Linda McGuire And Family - June 22, 2022 at 08:41 AM

GR

“ Ken was a great mentor, friend, and running buddy to me! I have many great memories of working together at MDE. As a manager, he gave me opportunities to grow in both my academic and career pursuits. My thoughts and prayers are with the Cool family as they mourn his passing!

Glenda Rader - June 22, 2022 at 08:40 AM



“ A gentlemen, father, grandfather, and husband that was a example of the best this world has seen. I will miss you dearly William K. Cool.

Mike Hall

Michael Hall - June 22, 2022 at 08:10 AM

KP

“ So very sorry to hear of Ken's passing. I have so many fond memories, my sincerest condolences to Sarah, Susan, Mike and Jenny. He will be greatly missed but never forgotten. Hugs and prayers.

Kim McGuire Pinks

Kim Pinks - June 22, 2022 at 07:59 AM

BV

So sorry for your loss 🙏🙏 prayers to Sarah and your family

Bernadette Vesnaugh - June 23, 2022 at 12:44 PM

CS

Sorry to hear of your loss condolences to you and your family 🙏

Claudette Sheets - June 23, 2022 at 08:19 PM

GB

Deepest sympathy to Sarah and her Family in this time of sorrow. I know you have fond memories to cherish. Thank you for the kindness you have shown to me and so many others. May you be blessed and comforted always.

Gary Buxton - June 24, 2022 at 01:06 PM

CR

Dear Sarah and Family,

What a wonderful and kind man Ken was. He had such a calm and easy way about him. Loved that a smile came easy to him. He will be truly missed by so many. Our thoughts and prayers will be continuously with you. Love from all the Robinette families.

Cindy Robinette - June 24, 2022 at 02:52 PM

MP

Deepest sympathy to Sarah and Family. Remember all of the fun times that you had with him. Ken was a wonderful boss to me for many years. Easy to work with and enjoy to work with.

Mary Page - June 24, 2022 at 09:38 PM