



Kenneth Roger Carlson

February 8, 1963 - August 26, 2024

“To give anything less than your best, is to sacrifice the gift.”

-Steve PreFontaine (American Long-Distance Runner)

Pine Valley, Utah-Kenneth Roger Carlson, 61, passed away on Monday, August 26th, in Pine Valley, Utah, as he was taking his morning bike ride through the Pine Valley mountains. Ken was born on February 8th, 1963, in Glendale, California, the first-born son of Grant Roger Carlson and Delores Maxine Tipton Carlson.

His childhood days were spent in La Puente, California and Baldwin Park California. Ken's younger brother Brad joined the family in the spring of 1966. In the summer of 1976, when Ken was 13 years old, the Carlson family moved to Santa Clara, Utah.

During Ken's formative years he established a life-long interest in all styles of music, sports, water skiing, fast cars and the beach. Ken attended Dixie Junior High and Dixie High School where he had many opportunities to develop his musical abilities in the Dixie High Jazz Band and the "Sound of Spirit!" Show Band. He also was involved in football, wrestling and track and

field events. As a teenager Ken was diagnosed with cancer and underwent invasive surgery and treatment. He fought with tenacity and great faith to regain his physical and mental strength. He has been an advocate for cancer patients throughout his life.

Ken served a full-time mission for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints in the Louisville, Kentucky, Mission. Upon returning from his mission, he began attending Dixie College and Southern Utah University. In November of 1984 Ken married Kathy Jolley. This union was incredibly blessed when they were able to adopt two very special children, Stefanie and Scott.

Ken completed his education at SUU receiving his Bachelors degree, Masters degree and Administrative degree in Education. Ken and Kathy Jolley were later divorced. In December 2005, Ken married Kathy Kent. Their marriage was solemnized in the Salt Lake LDS Temple on November 26th, 2011. Together their blended family consists of three sons and three daughters.

Ken has been an educator with the Washington County School District for over thirty-two years. He was passionate about teaching, supporting and advocating to improve children's opportunities to learn and be successful.

Ken was an active, faithful member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints. He served in many capacities and especially loved working with the youth. The time he spent as the Young Men's President in the Washington 11th Ward and his service as First Counselor in the Santa Clara 7th Ward Bishopric were among his most cherished experiences, and he would speak of them often. Ken loved his Savior Jesus Christ and strived to exemplify Him

in every area of his life.

Ken and Kathy consider their children to be heroes in every sense of the word. Their willingness to join two families together with grace and understanding has been nothing short of a miracle. They have been blessed with 13 grandchildren, Matix, Rocko, Blake, Jett, Gwen, Quinn, Finn, Beck, Rubie, Willow, Briggs, Ellie and L, with another grandchild coming in November, who is spending time with Ken right now. Ken was an extraordinary grandpa, and he enjoyed a close relationship with each one of his grandchildren. He was so proud of them and so amazed at their goodness.

Ken is survived by his wife, Kathy, and their children, Stefanie (Beau) Stratton, La Verkin, Utah, Scott (Nicole) Carlson, Washington, Utah, Lyndy (Jon) Butler, Hurricane, Utah, Kody (Stacie) Rogers, Santa Clara, Utah, Kyle Rogers, St. George, Utah, Lacey (L J) Smith, Seal Rock, Oregon, 13 grandchildren, his father, Grant Roger Carlson, Santa Clara, Utah, his brother, Bradley Grant (Trudy) Carlson, Santa Clara, Utah, as well as many extended family members. Ken was preceded in death by his dear mother Delores Maxine Tipton Carlson, who passed away just 6 months ago on January 31st, 2024.

The family would like to thank the Pine Valley Rescue EMTs and the multiple doctors and nurses at the Dixie Regional Medical Center who did all they could to save our beloved Ken.

Funeral services will be held on Tuesday, September 3rd, 2024, at 11:00 am at the Rachel Chapel located at 3815 Rachel Dr., Santa Clara, Utah 84765. A

viewing will be held on Monday, September 2nd, 2024, from 3:30-5:30 pm at the same location, with an additional viewing before the funeral on Tuesday from 9:30-10:30 a.m. Interment will be at the Santa Clara City Cemetery.

Family and Friends are invited to share tributes online at www.SerenityStG.com.

Arrangements and memorial tree planting are under the direction of Serenity Funeral Home, St. George of Southern Utah, 986-9100.

Cemetery Details

Santa Clara City Cemetery

3900 Ancestor Way
Santa Clara, UT

Previous Events

Viewing

SEP 2. 3:30 PM - 5:30 PM (MT)

Santa Clara Rachel Dr. Chapel
3815 Rachael Dr.
Santa Clara, UT 84765

Viewing

SEP 3. 9:30 AM - 10:30 AM (MT)

Santa Clara Rachel Dr. Chapel
3815 Rachael Dr.
Santa Clara, UT 84765

Funeral Service

SEP 3. 11:00 AM (MT)

Santa Clara Rachel Dr. Chapel
3815 Rachael Dr.
Santa Clara, UT 84765

Tribute Wall



“ *Serenity Funeral Home of Southern Utah created a Webcast in memory of Kenneth Roger Carlson*



Serenity Funeral Home of Southern Utah - August 29, 2024 at 03:09 PM

SK

“ *Hi mr.carlson I miss you so much?* 🎀🎀🎀

Skye - September 06, 2024 at 09:46 PM



“ *1 file added to the album Funeral Video Recording*



Serenity Funeral Home of Southern Utah - September 06, 2024 at 01:56 PM

LP

“ *LJ Pomeroy lit a candle in memory of Kenneth Roger Carlson*



LJ Pomeroy - September 05, 2024 at 01:27 PM

LP

“ I was a student at sunset, my last year at the school was 2022. I looked forward to his P.E class every week. He was a great mentor, and a great guy. because of him i am motivated to work out, and I still do his videos to this day. Sending prayers to the Carlson family.
With Love, LJ Pomeroy

LJ Pomeroy - September 05, 2024 at 01:25 PM



“ 1 file added to the album Funeral Audio Recording



Serenity Funeral Home of Southern Utah - September 03, 2024 at 05:42 PM

KP

“ I send my condolences to the family; I grew up with Ken's brother, Brad.
Kent Page

Kent Page - September 03, 2024 at 04:39 PM

MJ

“ Dear Kathy. . .
What a beautiful, doctrine-focused memorial service.

Because of Ken, you, and both of your freely-shared testimonies of restored truths, many indeed have been changed for good; I am grateful to be in your wide circle of influence.

*May you carry on with confidence in Christ,
Love, Marilyn Allred Jenkins*

Marilyn Jenkins - September 03, 2024 at 02:58 PM

DP

“ Our love goes out to Kathy and family. It sure was a pleasure to work with Ken. We were stunned to get the tragic news. We were blessed to time races together. He sure is a good man. We hold Ken in the highest regard and will greatly miss him. You are in our thoughts and prayers.

Doug & Lynette Padilla - September 02, 2024 at 06:36 PM

DB

“ Ken was a great friend at the MTC and an even better Elder when we were in Kentucky. It was great catching up with him on facebook. Where Ken is we all want to go. ❤️🙏❤️🙏❤️🙏

David Behunin - September 01, 2024 at 11:22 AM

GS

“ My thoughts and prayers go out to the family with their loss. I had the opportunity to teach with Ken as a fellow P.E. teacher and to also call him my friend. It was a privilege to go to work everyday to see Ken with his enthusiasm to teach the children we worked with. He was so encouraging for the students and gave them many challenges to improve in physical fitness but in life also. Ken made everyone better who he worked with. I will miss our talks about his L.A. Rams and my Denver Broncos. I appreciate his caring attitude towards me and how he checked on me. I will truly miss him but am grateful for the friendship and the opportunity I had to work with and to have him as a friend.

GREG STANFIELD - August 31, 2024 at 08:50 PM

SE

“ *Sunset Elementary purchased the Tender Tribute for the family of Kenneth Roger Carlson.*



Sunset Elementary - August 31, 2024 at 01:02 PM

EN

“ Just wanted to extend my condolences to the family and tell you that my son is a 5th grade student at Bloomington Elementary and when I told my son about his passing, he started to cry. I had no idea how much he enjoyed him as his PE teacher. When I asked him more about him, he just told me how fun he was and just how much he enjoyed going to PE because of him. He did come home several times and watched/did the youtube videos that he posted online. Just want you know that he had a great impact on my son Dawson and he will definitely be missed by him. Just wanted you to know that! Our thoughts and prayers are with you as you go through hard times.

- Emily Noorda

Emily Noorda - August 30, 2024 at 06:41 PM

SD

“ Sean and Courtney Dezahd planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Kenneth Roger Carlson.

Sean and Courtney Dezahd - August 30, 2024 at 05:21 PM

SD

“ Sean and Courtney Dezahd purchased the Large Basket Garden for the family of Kenneth Roger Carlson.



Sean and Courtney Dezahd - August 30, 2024 at 05:21 PM

CC

“ Ken was ones of my son’s very best friends. They had many special bonding experiences together. One time when I was visiting my son we spent a day at the lake with Ken and his beautiful wife Kathy. I admired the love they had for each other and they showed such kindness and care to me, making me feel comfortable. Kathy, my heart aches for you and your family, and for my son for having such a wonderful husband and friend taken home so sudden. I pray you will feel the warmth of the Saviors comforting and loving arms around you.

I wish I could put my arms around you and give you a grandma hug. With sympathy and love, caroline Condie. (Mike’s Mom)

caroline Condie - August 30, 2024 at 12:20 PM

CR

“ Mr. Carlson was a wonderful soul with such a kind and uplifting energy. He always invited the girls to join in sports with the boys during recess, and daily had an encouraging word. He knew every child by name and made everyone feel special. I knew from a young age I was strong, smart, kind, and capable; and largely in part due to this incredible man. Every decade or so I would run into him around town and he still remembered who I was. He is a rare soul who will be missed by many. nearly 30 years has gone by and he's still my favorite teacher. God Bless and carry you.

CR - August 30, 2024 at 11:53 AM

TF

“ The Call Family purchased the Rose Remembrance for the family of Kenneth Roger Carlson.



The Call Family - August 30, 2024 at 11:43 AM

TF

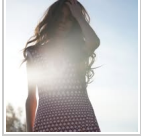
“ *The Call Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Kenneth Roger Carlson.*

The Call Family - August 30, 2024 at 11:43 AM

MV

“ *One of the finest men I've ever known, and one of the best friends I've ever had. Love and miss you my brother.*

Michael Vaterlaus - August 30, 2024 at 03:05 AM



“*Something hits close to home. Hitting so hard. That Suddenly the world stops spinning and nothing else seems to matter.*

That's what it felt like when I got the call that I had lost my favorite “cuz”, my cousin Ken.

Then you realize how much your time here matters, and you cherish every memory, like never before. You remember every phone call, every single text on every special occasion. And you wished you had cherished them a little bit more, because you didn't realize that last text you got on June 16, just two months before, saying “thanks cuz!” was going to be the last.

My heart has taken a trip down memory lane these last few days. I have cried my eyes out as I have relived every detail of every moment.

When you adopted me as your little sister that year I came to Dixie College. Fresh out of high school and feeling lost, but looking for new adventures, to discover who I really was, only to discover something even more precious; that I had a second family that loved me, and took me in as if I were their own.

You became my home away from home. My family. I felt loved, accepted, valued, and watched over. Because you took it upon yourself to be that older brother who would watch out for me, take me for fun rides in the classic cars that you loved so much. Take me to hear your band play. Take me on road trips to Pine Valley. But most of all I felt your support. I felt your friendship. And it didn't just end when I moved away. Life went on and we went our separate paths. But still keeping in close touch.

We shared similar somewhat tragic experiences that we didn't know if we could get through, but we had those 2 hour conversations, whether they were in person or over the phone. You were there to buoy me up through it all.

And you continued to reach out as the years went by. Texts that I could count on every few months, just reaching out to say “Hey cuz. Just wanted to know I was thinking of you. How are you doing? When are you coming to St. George?” And every holiday or special occasion we would send GIF’S of “Merry Christmas!, Happy

Easter”,... and then the last one i got from you on June 16, when I wished you a “Happy Father’s Day” GIF and you responded with “thanks cuz!”

Every time I needed to visit or travel through you openly took me in to your homes so I could have those cherished visits. With your mom and dad, and you. So much support and encouragement I would received over the years!

Little did i know that last February on your birthday (which was a fitting day for your mother’s funeral, being the day of celebration that she brought you in to the world) and she was leaving the world. First thing I saw when I walked in the door for her funeral was your bright smile as you immediately walked up to me and softly said “Jeannie” and grabbed me and gave me a hug, Little did I know that would be the last time I saw your smile, and the last hug I would every get from you on this earth.

My heart is broken right now. But I will always hold you and your family deep in my heart. Your family will miss your dearly. And that included me! Your little “cuz” or maybe I should say the nick name you always gave me, which I never quite liked but always was used to “Maynard”.

Don’t know how I earned that name. But I will always cherish being your “cuz”

Til we meet again. I long for the day when we can all be together again. For now, I love you dearly, and will sure miss you dear Cuz Ken. Love, Jeannie

Jeannie Imagery - August 29, 2024 at 09:48 PM

BU

“ When my son Britt was 8, he was in Ken's third grade class. He was not a confident kid. Ken told him he was fast. He told him if he worked hard he could possibly break the school record in a run from the sidewalk to the fence and back. (I learned later there was no such record.). He timed Britt every recess. Britt kept charts on graph paper and came home and ran every day after school. He asked for running shoes for Christmas. he broke the record in the sidewalk-to-the-fence run. Now jump forward just two years. Coached by Coach Ken Carlson, Britt travelled to Reno Nevada and finished 4th in the nation in the 2 mile. All-American. At age 10, he ran the marathon in 3:41. He became a confident kid because Coach Carlson told him he was fast taught him this Steve Prefontaine quote, "To give anything less than your best is to sacrifice the gift." 3rd grade Britt Staheli is now Dr. Britt Staheli and saves lives every day. Thanks Coach!

Burke - August 29, 2024 at 08:35 PM



“ Rose Remembrance was purchased for the family of Kenneth Roger Carlson.



August 29, 2024 at 05:38 PM