



## Kenneth Randy Starnes

July 23, 1950 - July 3, 2024

Kenneth Randy Starnes was born on July 23, 1950. Ken is what many would call a local legend. After his passing at age 73, nephews and friends have started sharing pictures, internet links, chats and stories. Ken's life had many seasons. We would say life really started changing when he left Red Hill at 18 to go to Vietnam. Because of his marksmanship, he became a door gunner on helicopters. As people entered or exited, it was his job to keep them safe. The life expectancy for door gunners was low, but he lived.

He found his best friend in 1970 and Ken and Susan became a team in every way. She loved and took care of him all the days of his life. She found him after his return from Vietnam. They married on December 3, 1973. He became an industrial electrician and worked with many teams. He played softball for the Red Hill team locally and I am sure that was an experience being on his team or playing against him. The team that captured his heart was the Scottish Highland Athletics that he met through Fred Vaughan and what ensued was a passion to compete and be the best on the field. The medals, trophies, articles, and stories confirmed he was a winner. He put his heart into it and it was a big heart. He found working out to be an important part of his journey and he shared that with others. He and his cousin, Steve Corbett, kept each other motivated. One of his nephews started working out because of him, "He was my hero." He found passion for something and he lived.

During this time as a Scottish Athlete, he was approached by not just a wrestling organization, but Hulk Hogan. He never became a wrestler because it was not something he really cared about. He wanted life his way, he wasn't a man who wanted to be controlled by others, instead he lived.

He did it his way, he stayed where he loved to be, Red Hill. He stayed with his people, his mother, Lorene Corbett Starnes, his father, Wm A Starnes, Sr., who passed when Ken was 11. Having his sister Brenda and her boys Chuck (Susan), Eric and Alvin, was a part of it. When his brother William A Starnes, Jr. passed at too early an age his children Bill (June), Marty, and Teresa (Don), Melissa (DB) were added to his life. Ken had a special place in their lives; he became more than an uncle. His sister, Helen and husband, Alvin completed the family. He had his family, his Susan, and his dog.

He retired from SCDOT and had been able to take care of what he thought needed taking care of doing what he wanted to do but that big heart was beginning to struggle. Tim Goodson was one of his best friends at this time and an ear to listen to him and an outlet for his frustrations.

When he and Susan King married in 1973 he became part of her family. He was a son-in-law to Bill and Mitchell King, a brother-in-law to Kathy (Bud) Rollins, that added Laura and Trez as a new niece and nephew, then, Lawton (Dee) King with Joel, Aaron, Corey, Michelle, and Tonya completed the family.

If you ever worked with him or were on a team with him or were fortunate enough just to know him, you know he was an honest and real man. He didn't take junk and when he smiled or laughed, it made you feel like you had touched the heart of a giant. He was a gentleman and for anyone that ever had a chance to be on a team with him, congratulations. You knew a winner and in doing so, you won.

He was predeceased by his father, W.A. Starnes, Sr.; mother, Lorene Corbett Starnes; brother, W.A. Starnes, Jr.; sisters, Brenda Faye Nunnery and Helen Hancock; nephew, Eric Nunnery; and niece, Melissa Baird.

A family-led memorial will be held at Red Hill Baptist Church on Saturday, July 13, at 3:00 pm. In lieu of flowers, please donate to a charity of your choice. If it happens to be a dog rescue or SPCA, even better; you know he loved his dog named, Dog.

# Previous Events

## Celebration of Life

JUL 13. 3:00 PM (ET)

Red Hill Baptist Church  
4695 Red Hill Road  
Camden, SC 29020

# Tribute Wall



“ Hancock-Elmore-Hill Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Kenneth Randy Starnes



Hancock-Elmore-Hill Funeral Home - July 08, 2024 at 06:58 PM

PS

*Loved the pictures, always though Ken was amazing. I hope him and Frankie meet again in heaven. Love you Susan. ❤️*

Phyllis Sturkie - July 09, 2024 at 04:16 PM

TH

*My heart is so sad.*

teresa s hawk - July 09, 2024 at 09:33 PM

DB

*What a great tribute. I hope Ken, Granny and Melissa Corbett are celebrating together! Love and Prayers Susan.*

Dwayne Beard - July 09, 2024 at 10:25 PM

CC

*So sorry for your loss. My prayers and thoughts are with you.*

Cheryl O. Cole - July 10, 2024 at 04:33 AM

AN

*A beautiful tribute for a beautiful soul.  
In a world of history, there is "Fiction" and Non-fiction".  
There is "Super Man" and there is Ken Starnes!  
I love and miss you Uncle Ken.*

alvin nunnery - July 10, 2024 at 11:46 PM



*Susan, I am so sorry to hear about Ken. You two were a part of my life when I needed friends. Lynn*

Linda Weatherly - July 12, 2024 at 07:35 PM



*VERY WELL DONE LOTS OF GREAT MEMORIES*

Laura Rusher - July 12, 2024 at 07:37 PM



*To Susan, Kenny's family and friends:*

*As a later-in-life Scottish Games competitor, I first met Kenny on the field in Glasgow, about 35 years ago. I was immediately in awe of this 6'3," 300 lb. giant of a man, bigger, stronger, and more chiselled than any NFL football player that I've ever seen on tv or in real-life...It took me a long time to get to know him, because he seemed to be a very private person who guarded his inner sanctum very seriously. But what I later found, was, that within that massive frame was an even bigger heart: for his God, for his country, for Susan, for his mother, for his friends and family, and yes, for his beloved old dog (aptly named "Dog")...*

*God rest your soul, Kenny...I will always think of you as my brother...I will forever miss you, big time...*

*P.S. for those of you who have not decided on if, or how, you want to financially remember Kenny, may I suggest that you go on-line and check out:*

*OLD FRIENDS SENIOR DOG SANCTUARY  
765 Nonaville Rd.  
Mt. Juliet, Tn. 37122 (this is the town where I live)*

*It's a 501-c non-profit, that states:*

*"We do not concern ourselves with the quantity of the time they have left, but rather with the quality of life that we can provide them with for that time..."*

*J.M. Kuno  
Mt. Juliet, Tn.*

J.M. Kuno - July 13, 2024 at 02:10 PM



*I met Ken at the cotton festival in bishopville around 86-87 he was a big dude then. I talked to him about bodybuilding and he motivated me to go for it. If it wasn't for him my passion wouldn't had been so great to bodybuild. He was super nice. Saw him 15 yrs ago at piggy wiggly I believe. First time I saw him since the cotton festival. I was big into bodybuilding then. He told me to be careful taking stuff it can lead to problems. He was right it did. Very humble nice guy. My condolences to his family*

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**Jimmy Morrow** - January 07, 2025 at 06:23 PM

SM

“ Sharon M. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Kenneth Randy Starnes.

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**Sharon M.** - July 13, 2024 at 09:11 AM

FR

“ Susan, my thoughts and prayers are with you 💖 Frances (Amerson) Rogers

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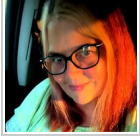
**Frances (Amerson) Rogers** - July 12, 2024 at 07:19 PM

GC

“ I am grateful to have shared the field in the highland games, with Ken on numerous occasions. It was always a pleasure to see Ken and Susan. We shared many stories, many meals, and many laughs. Ken was a stand up man with integrity and sincerity, not to mention an outstanding competitor. My condolences to Susan and all his family, and friends. Rest in peace Ken.

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**George Chiappa** - July 12, 2024 at 04:23 PM



“ *My thoughts and prayers are with you Susan and family and many friends who we all will miss the gentle giant. Rest easy Ken. Your work on earth is done.* 🥹🥹💔💔



**Vicki Preast** - July 10, 2024 at 11:37 PM



“ *Barb Hrubes lit a candle in memory of Kenneth Randy Starnes*



**Barb Hrubes** - July 10, 2024 at 12:57 PM



“ *Archie And Kay Amerson lit a candle in memory of Kenneth Randy Starnes*



**Archie and Kay Amerson** - July 09, 2024 at 12:52 PM



“ *Lena McCutchen lit a candle in memory of Kenneth Randy Starnes*



**Lena McCutchen** - July 09, 2024 at 01:02 AM

DS

“ I didn't have the honor to know you personally, buddy, but everlasting thanks for the many lives you touched and for serving our nation in a turbulent war. Eternal Taps for you, my friend in spirit.

Derek Smith - July 08, 2024 at 10:14 PM

HB

Many years ago, I saw Ken compete in the highland games event at a plantation in the Charleston area. Ken and his wife made us welcome at the tent they had set up for the event. Good friend from high school, although he was younger. He will be missed by all who new him...

Henry r. Baker - July 16, 2024 at 08:40 PM

CA

“ So very sorry for this loss. Praying for his family



Cherlyn Arrants - July 08, 2024 at 07:09 PM

BW

“ Barbara H. Wehmeyer lit a candle in memory of Kenneth Randy Starnes



Barbara H. Wehmeyer - July 08, 2024 at 06:49 PM

CM

“ *Clara McElveen lit a candle in memory of Kenneth Randy Starnes*



Clara McElveen - July 08, 2024 at 05:44 PM

CM

*Susan so sorry to hear of the death of Ken, May God continue to give you peace and strength as you face the days without him. Did not know him but he had a very sweet Mother and also knew his sweet sister. May God continue to comfort you!*

Clara McElveen - July 10, 2024 at 03:29 PM

BS

“ *Bill Stokes sent a virtual gift in memory of Kenneth Randy Starnes*



Bill Stokes - July 08, 2024 at 05:27 PM

BS

*Fly high big guy RIP*

Bill Stokes - July 08, 2024 at 05:28 PM

AW

“ *Ann Winfrey lit a candle in memory of Kenneth Randy Starnes*



Ann Winfrey - July 08, 2024 at 05:24 PM

KW

“ Kathryn Welch lit a candle in memory of  
Kenneth Randy Starnes



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**Kathryn Welch** - July 08, 2024 at 05:13 PM

MB

“ Matt And Betsy Bramlett lit a candle in  
memory of Kenneth Randy Starnes



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**Matt and Betsy Bramlett** - July 08, 2024 at 04:37 PM

BF

“ Birt Fraser lit a candle in memory of Kenneth  
Randy Starnes



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**Birt Fraser** - July 08, 2024 at 04:33 PM

AJ

“ Alan & Kathy Jackson lit a candle in memory  
of Kenneth Randy Starnes



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**Alan & Kathy Jackson** - July 08, 2024 at 04:28 PM

JS

“ *Judy Scurry lit a candle in memory of Kenneth Randy Starnes*



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**Judy Scurry** - July 08, 2024 at 03:57 PM

CB

“ *Cathy/Heyward Brown lit a candle in memory of Kenneth Randy Starnes*



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**Cathy/Heyward Brown** - July 08, 2024 at 03:34 PM

CB

*Ken was a legend to all that knew him but he will always hold a special place in my heart as he was a pallbearer for our parents funeral... RIP RED HILL LEGEND*

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**Cathy Brown** - July 08, 2024 at 03:37 PM