



Kenneth Claborn

June 30, 1924 - December 24, 2013

Obituary of Kenneth Claborn

Kenneth Dale Claborn, age 89, passed away peacefully at his home in The Villages, Florida on Christmas Eve, December 24th, after a long battle with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD). He was surrounded by his three oldest children as he entered his "sleep in heavenly peace."

Ken was pre-deceased by his wife of 45 years, Lorraine. He is survived by six children; David W. Claborn (Elizabeth) of Marion, OH; George Claborn (Judy) of Amherst, NH; Janis Umetin (Ron) of Havre de Grace, MD; David B. Claborn of Bel Air, MD; James Claborn (Meredith) of Stevenson, MD; and Doug Claborn (Marlene) of Glen Rock, PA. Also surviving are 12 grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Ken was born June 30, 1924 in Texline, Texas to Leonard and Oleta (Stauffer) Claborn. He spent his youth in Sterley, Texas often working with his father on the steam engines of the Fort Worth and Denver Railroad, developing a life-long love of railroading. He served in the U.S. Army Medical Corps from 1943 to 1946, landing on Omaha Beach during the U.S. invasion of France.

Following his service in World War II, Ken returned home to pursue a degree in electrical engineering at the University of Colorado where he met his first

wife, Margaret Warren of Maplewood, NJ. The couple moved to Dallas, TX where Ken worked at Chance Vought Aircraft. Shortly after the birth of his first son, David, the family moved to Towson, Maryland, where Ken began his life's work designing antennas with Bendix Radio. Among his accomplishments were antennas used on Patriot missiles and Gemini and other NASA spacecraft.

After his retirement from Bendix, Ken and Lorraine enjoyed the country life and bluegrass music on their gentleman's farm in Parkton, Maryland. In 1992, they moved to a waterfront home in Perryville, Maryland, and in 2002, to their home in The Villages, Florida. Ken and Lorraine were Sunday Chapel Service volunteers at the VA hospital in Perry Point, MD and volunteered at the Cecil County Domestic Violence Center in Elkton, MD. Utilizing his many mechanical talents, Ken became the shelter's volunteer handyman. He loved working with wood and over the years made hundreds of toys for disadvantaged children.

A memorial service will be held at 11:00 a.m. on Saturday, January 11th at the Lee A. Patterson and Son Funeral Home, 1493 Clayton St., Perryville, MD., Rev. John Richardson officiating. In lieu of flowers, Ken requested donations be made to the Cecil County Domestic Violence Shelter in care of Lee A. Patterson Funeral Home, P.A., P.O. Box 766, Perryville, MD 21903-0766. Arrangements by Beyers Funeral Home and Crematory, Lady Lake, FL www.eyesfuneralhome.com and Lee A. Patterson & Son Funeral Home, P.A. Perryville, MD www.pattesonfuneralhomemd.com.

Services

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Lee A. Patterson and Son Funeral Home, 1493 Clayton St., Perryville, MD.,
Rev. John Richardson officiating.

Memorial Donations

In lieu of flowers, Ken requested donations be made to the Cecil County
Domestic Violence Shelter in care of Lee A. Patterson Funeral Home, P.A.,
P.O. Box 766, Perryville, MD 21903-0766.

Tribute Wall



“ *Kenneth Claborn*

October 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM



“ *So sorry to here of your Dads passing I know its a Blessing that he had such a rich and full life with Loving Family around him. God Bless*

John Gregory - October 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM



“ *Wish we could have met him. It sounds like he lived life fully! We are both thinking of you and hoping that all the special times you shared will give you peace.*

Bill & Bev Swihart - October 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM



“ *Our deepest sympathy to Dave & Elizabeth and all of the family. The blessings of a wonderful life were very apparent.*

Lois & Nick Fisher - October 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM



“ *Dave and George, so sorry to hear of your loss. I have fond memories of those early days on the farm. Please pass on my sincere condolences to the rest of your family.*

John Canedy - October 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM

KW

“ Sorry for your loss, George and family - and though you have many wonderful memories to cherish I'm sure, none of us can ever get enough time with those we love

Kathy and Jed Wile - October 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM

KM

“ Dave, I'm so sorry to learn of your loss. He sounds like a very great man who will live on in his children and grandchildren.

Kathy Masters - October 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM

CH

“ Clearly a life of giving and purpose. Blessings to all the family. God's love and ours.

Chuck and Pam Hall - October 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM

DC

“ I am so sorry for your loss.

Dawn Naylor Cox - October 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM

MP

“ Janice! My prayers are with you and the family. He is now at peace and comfort with Lorraine in Heaven Playing Golf.

Mildred McBride Porter - October 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM

JC

“ Janice ~ My deepest sympathy to you and your family at this difficult time. You are in my thoughts and prayers ~

June Covington - October 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM

CM

“ We are praying for you all at this difficult time. May the Lord comfort you with that peace that passes all understanding.

Craig and Lisa McLaughlin - October 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM

SM

“ i was so sorry to hear of your fathers passing he was a very nice man and always leaned a helping hand to my dad and mike jacobson when even they needed it and he was a good brother-in law to aunt elva you can be very proud of him my prayers are with the family

sue baker mcquay - October 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM

VA

“ We are saddened for the passing of our beloved cousin, Kenneth. I know he was a wonderful person because I grew-up having fun times with Kenneth and his family when they lived in Sterley, Texas. When he was going to college in Boulder, Co., he would stop by when he could and visit me in Amarillo, TX., sometimes spending the night. He visited in the summer too, when out of school. On one of his visits, New Years 65 years ago, Bill Allen(my husband), Kenneth and I went to a Night Club(The Nat) for a New Years Eve party with several of our friends. Kenneth was to catch a bus on to Boulder at 1am New Years Day. Kenneth needed a cash loan of \$20.00, so we gave it to him and took him to the bus station in Amarillo. Last March (2013) we received a letter from Kenneth saying he was paying us back the \$20.00 plus 6% interest for 65 years. I was shocked, I called and told him, Thank You but just could not cash his check. Kenneth said, "Oh yes you can because I want you to". I told him I would deposit it in the bank and if he or we needed it in our old age, it would be there. Kenneth was in control, Bill says it must run in the family. By the way, Bill is 87 and I am nearly 85. We will all miss Kenneth, but will remember him as a very caring, loving person, leader and a man with a "Get it done" attitude. He is the oldest of our 47 cousins in the Claborn family. We are grateful for all of Kenneth's accomplishments in life, where would our Space Program be if he had not designed the antennas for our spacecraft and other systems. God Bless you Kenneth. Our fathers were very close and worked with the railroad as young men. Our families visited many times at our farm by Texline, Tx and in their home in Sterley, Tx. Kenneth, Margaret, Jessie(my older sister) and I would play board games, sing, eat popcorn and drink hot chocalate, we had many Great Times back then.

Verna Faye (Claborn) Allen - October 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM

TL

“ My prayers are with you and your family

Twila Laing - October 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM

TC

“ *we will miss your dad. he was one of my favorite cousins. we send our love.* ”

thomas w claborn - October 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM

“ My dear friend Mr. Ken was an amazing person as was his wife Lorraine. I had the pleasure working with both as they volunteered at the Domestic Violence Program in Elkton, MD. This is a safety shelter for women and children. Ken and his wife donated many hours taking Hotline calls from rape victims, mentor to teenage boys, providing transportation to doctor appointments or to the Greyhound Bus in Wilmington, DE. Mr. Ken and I hit it off right away working at the shelter. He thought of unique ways to help in any way he could. For example he noticed that the children's counselor had dolls for the children to work with in therapy. Mr. Ken went home and within a week came back to the shelter with a homemade (from scratch-no plans) dollhouse for the counselor to use with the children. Then he felt the playroom was missing something so he made a chalkboard from a piece of plywood and we hung it in the room. These items are still being used today. Mr. Ken came by the shelter 1 or 2 times a week and I always helped him with his projects. I learned a lot from working by his side. He would call me his "Left Hand". I ask why I was the left hand and he would say because I need the right one to work with! We had several adventures together. One time the four of us (my husband, Jack, Ken, Lorraine and me) saw an advertisement for a reasonable trip to Bahamas so we all flew there for a week on vacation. Lorraine would say "So how is Big Jack doing?" every time I seen her. We went on shark feeding frenzy and I and Loraine could not wait for that to end! We were all very sad when The Claborn's decided to move to Florida but were very happy for them. But, Mr. Ken did not stop volunteering just because he moved out of state. He made some trains out of wood and sent them up for the children in the shelter at Christmas. He said he was working on chain links for me that he was carving. Then one day he called me and said "you know. I have been thinking about that dollhouse that I made and have come up with something better. Sure enough! He made another and mailed the dollhouse and when I looked at it I was amazed! He made 3 floors, one side open for the children and the back side with plexaglass so the therapist could see what the children were acting out with the dolls, handmade furniture, a

grandfather clock that actually worked, he carved out people and then taped all of the staff faces at DV to the people including him and Lorraine. Both dollhouses are still being used. He would make short calls to me every month just to see what we were up to or to tell me something he was thinking about. For example the week before Christmas he called to ask me, did I eat poached eggs? I said yes, he said have you ever put vinegar in the water as you cooking them? I said no. He said you have to try it, it really makes a difference. Then he said alright then, I will let you go. He will be missed! Renise McCraw

Renise McCraw - October 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM

AS

“*Dear Family, I met Ken many years ago when I began working at Bendix Radio located in Towson, Maryland. He was A Microwave design Engineer and helped develop many devices that are still in use today. He was always a gentleman and contributed to the education of our junior Engineers. We had many interesting discussions about antennas, even in his later years. He will be missed by his many friends and past coworkers.*

AL Sinsky - October 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM

BW

“*George, our condolences to you and to your entire extended family. May you all have peace and closure as you celebrate Ken's life. We look forward to hearing the happy stories upon your return to work. From your 'Oracle family' back in Nashua, NH.*

Bill Wright - October 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM

EM

“ So sorry to hear of Kenneth's passing. I am a long lost cousin that lives in Oregon now. I remember Kenneth well. All us kids were always so excited when Kenneth would come to visit the Ed Claborn family in Texline, TX. My condolences to all of Kenneth's family. I know he will truly be missed! I last saw Kenneth and met 2 of his sons at the reunion at Dalhart, Tx. (not sure what year that was!) What a wonderful man! I know my mother and father(Ed & Lula Claborn) thought the world of Kenneth! The world is a lesser place without Kenneth!

Elaine Claborn McKenzie - October 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM