



Kenneth Frederick Fehling

January 9, 1921 - April 28, 2019

KENNETH FREDERICK FEHLING, January 9, 1921 - April 28, 2019

Ninety-eight years were well-lived in the dash between 1921 and 2019. Ken was born in Juneau, Wisconsin, the oldest of four sisters and one brother. He enjoyed operating short-wave radios and raising 4-H cows in his youth. Ken enlisted in the U.S. Army Signal Corps on July 10, 1942, and served as Tech Sergeant in Hawaii until 1945. He met and married Gladys Thompson and their daughter, Diane, was born there.

Together, Ken and Gladys raised five children in five states and the Bahamas. Larry (Wisconsin); John and Carl (Texas), and David (New Jersey). They had 12 grandchildren and 19 great-grandchildren. Ken's favorite verse in his later years was Psalm 127 (happy is the man who has a quiver full of them [children]).

In the early years, Ken worked on repairing televisions and worked on the first color TV's at DuMont Laboratories. He went on to join RCA at Cape Canaveral as an electrical engineer and was on the ground for the first man-on-the moon launch and subsequent space exploration launches. When the race for space died down, he joined RCA/AUTEC on Andros Island, Bahamas where they performed underwater weapons testing in the Tongue of the Ocean (TOTO). He was invited on Jacques Cousteau's Calypso when it was

anchored at the Navy base there. He had his own little boat (Andros Lady) and spent numerous hours and days cruising the inlets and bays looking for orchids, glass bottles, and sea shells.

Ken retired from RCA but was always busy. He worked at a marine shop repairing motors for a while and then joined the faculty at VoTech (now Suncoast Technical College), where he taught electrical engineering. He also joined Gladys in her quest for raising and locating orchids and served as President of the Sarasota Orchid Club for several years.

He was active of mind and perpetually young at heart and always ready with a pun or joke. He could fix anything. Ken was a prolific letter writer and loved to speak when called upon. He was a President of Sarasota Toastmasters upon his retirement.

However, of all Ken's accomplishments in life, he will best be remembered as a servant of the Lord. He served as an elder in the Cocoa Beach church of Christ and as deacon of the Food Pantry at South Trail. He served on countless committees in the church and was never afraid to dirty his hands at any job. He loved to discuss biblical questions with anyone. He adored his children and all the grands. He was greatly loved and will be greatly missed.

A visitation will be held on Friday, May 3, 2019, 5pm - 8pm, at Toale Brothers Funeral Home, Colonial Chapel, 40 N. Orange Avenue, Sarasota, FL 34236.

A visitation will be held on Saturday, May 4, 2019, 2pm - 3pm, at South Trail Church of Christ, 5601 S. Tamiami Trail, Sarasota, FL 34231.

A funeral service will be held on Saturday, May 4, 2019, 3pm, at South Trail Church of Christ, 5601 S. Tamiami Trail, Sarasota, FL 34231.

Burial will take place in Tennessee.

Previous Events

Visitation

MAY 3. 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Toale Brothers Funeral Home & Crematory - Colonial Chapel
40 N. Orange Avenue
Sarasota, FL 34236
(941) 955-4171
info@toalebrothers.com
<https://www.toalebrothers.com/>

Visitation

MAY 4. 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM (ET)

South Trail Church of Christ
5601 S. Tamiami Trail
Sarasota, FL 34231

Funeral Service

MAY 4. 3:00 PM (ET)

South Trail Church of Christ
5601 S. Tamiami Trail
Sarasota, FL 34231

Tribute Wall

RP

“ When Ken arrived to work on the AUTECH Project on Andros Island, in September 1972, he was well accepted because of his positive attitude. I did have the pleasure to serve him because I was working in Technical Stockroom, from where he was getting his electronic parts. He and his wife Gladys went frequently around the Island to look for the orchids.

It's with sadness that I just learn of his passing away. But I am glad that he is now with the Lord that he served so well in the local Chapel. Thank you for your good example of a Christian in action. May you rest in peace until we meet again.

Respectfully, Roger Perreault, on AUTECH 29 November 1965 until 23 August 2016.

P.S.: My sincere condolences to Diane, I remember you well from when we were working together in Material Control Supply. I am now retired in Drummondville, Canada.

Roger Perreault - September 02, 2019 at 09:11 PM

DA

*Roger . . . I remember you, too. Good times! Thank you for the lovely comment about our dad. Two sons and five grands later . . . life has been good and hope it has been for you as well. So you stayed on at AUTECH . . . wow. It holds a special place in my heart. Be well, Roger.
Diane Adams*

Diane Adams - October 08, 2019 at 03:59 PM



“ *Loving Lilies and Roses Bouquet was purchased for the family of Kenneth Frederick Fehling.*



May 03, 2019 at 09:38 AM



“ *Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet was purchased for the family of Kenneth Frederick Fehling.*



May 02, 2019 at 05:20 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Kenneth Frederick Fehling.*



May 02, 2019 at 03:56 PM



“ *Fehling Children purchased the Strength and Wisdom Casket Spray for the family of Kenneth Frederick Fehling.*



Fehling Children - May 02, 2019 at 12:49 PM