



## Kenneth Eugene Millsaps

December 19, 1943 - January 26, 2024

Kenneth Eugene Millsaps, a loving husband, father, grandfather, brother, and friend passed away peacefully in his sleep on January 26, 2024 at the age of 80.

The son of Ronald and Jo Millsaps, Ken was born in Evansville, IN then moved to east Tennessee living in Oak Ridge and Clinton, TN. Ken loved living in east Tennessee and would explore and create things with his siblings. A good hearted teenager, Kenny was part of the first high school in Tennessee that was racially integrated. He felt strongly that everyone had equal rights and made sure that students at the school felt safe and able to learn. He graduated Clinton High School in 1961.

The Millsaps boys were well known and would often venture to Oak Ridge. Little did he know that back in 2nd grade, Kenny would meet his future wife, Carolyn Gardner. On one of the trips to Oak Ridge 8 years later, Kenny and Carolyn reunited, dated, and soon fell in love. They were married in Oak Ridge, TN in 1964 and are just shy of celebrating 60 years of marriage together. Mr. and Mrs. Millsaps began their life in Oak Ridge while Ken served in the TN National Guard and worked at Mid-South Pavers/Rogers Group Inc, a road construction company, a career which would last over 4 decades. Millsaps graduated from the University of Tennessee in 1965 with Bachelor degrees in Geology and Economics. While living in Oak Ridge, they had two

daughters, Kim and Christi. They raised their girls to love Tennessee football and enjoy all that east TN had to offer. This was where the family went camping, spent countless weekends on Norris Lake on a friend's houseboat, fishing at Fall Creek Falls state park, cheered on the Volunteers, had parties, and made lasting friendships.

The family moved to Brentwood, TN in 1979. Brentwood was where Ken loved to play golf and could be found almost every weekend- in the sun or snow-golfing with countless country music stars. Ken had a personality that attracted many people and a smile that could light up a room, and a pretty good golf swing! It was always a fun time when Ken Millsaps was there. You could also find Ken videoing the Brentwood High School marching band. He would stand in the middle of the parade route with the band going around him or up in the stands with Carolyn cheering their daughters and the band on to victory.

In 1988, the Millsaps family moved to Bloomington, IN with Ken continuing his job with Rogers Group. Indiana brought new friends and experiences such as his new love for Indiana Hoosiers basketball. In Bloomington, Ken created the Rogers Group go-cart race team. This team traveled around Indiana and Ohio competing and winning many races. Not only was Rogers Racing a fun adventure, they became family. Ken and Carolyn loved to host race parties for Rogers Racing as well as Indy 500 and the Brickyard 400. Racing was a huge part of his life in Indiana and brought many people together for a great time! Ken loved to go to NASCAR races and the Millsaps would travel around the US for races with friends and family. His dog was even named Winston and his grand puppy dog named Rusty. Ken loved showing off the dogs at races throwing the frisbee. However, the time in Indiana was not always happy. In 1989, Ken and Carolyn's oldest daughter Kim was in a car accident and eventually succumbed to her injuries in 1996. At any time, Ken could tell you how many days it had been since Kim's accident which was the hardest time

for the family. Yet, it was this time that Ken, Carolyn, and Christi would become even closer. Family and friends were there with them every moment- good and bad- and for that, they have always been grateful.

The Millsaps family would eventually move to south Florida in 1998 where Ken worked for Ranger Construction and also started a successful career in real estate working with Keyes Real Estate. In all of Ken's jobs, he won many awards and was very successful with an incredible work ethic. In his time in Jupiter, FL, Ken saw his daughter Christi marry Michael Keavy and then gain his most proud title- Granda. His 3 grandkids, Clare, Max, and Mitchell Keavy, were the apples of his eye. He loved those kids more than life itself. He would take them fishing, camping in their RV, but the most favorite for all, were the countless trips to Disney. This was where they would go on golf cart rides looking for deer, explore Disney, watch movies, cook breakfast outside, and have s'mores. In the later years, Ken, Carolyn and the Keavy family (dogs Suzy-Q and Roxy) would live together on 3 acres and have the family compound they always wanted.

Family, friends, a good time, and a good work ethic, were the most important things to Ken.

Ken is survived by his wife, Carolyn Gardner Millsaps of Jupiter, FL, daughter Christi Millsaps Keavy and her husband Michael Keavy of Jupiter, FL, grandchildren, Clare Keavy of Sarasota, FL, Max Keavy and Mitchell Keavy both of Jupiter, FL. Ken is also survived by his brother Frank (Pamela) Millsaps, his sister Dana Millsaps (Todd) Davis, sister-in-law Mitzi Millsaps, beloved nieces, nephews, cousins, aunts and uncles. Ken was predeceased by his daughter, Kimberley Sue Millsaps, and brothers Joe Millsaps and Harry Millsaps.

A Celebration of Life party will be held on March 9, 2024. Check out the following website for more information and to RSVP.

[Kenmillsaps.org](http://Kenmillsaps.org)

The family is grateful for the medical teams at Jupiter Medical Center and Jupiter Rehabilitation and Healthcare Center for their compassionate care.

# Tribute Wall

TC

“ I had the honor of serving with Ken on the board of the West Palm Beach Chapter of the UT Alumni Association. Ken gave generously of his time and talents. He will be missed.

Terry Condon - March 15, 2024 at 12:33 PM

SB

“ Ken was a great guy. A fun and funny friend who you could count on to be there when needed. So many new agents , veterans owe him so much for all the time he dedicated to their success. He will be missed by all who knew him. Carolyn ,Kristy and family we join you in grieving . The University of Tennessee has lost one of their greatest alumni. Rest in Peace my friend. Love You Steve & Mary Ann Barnes

steve barnes - January 30, 2024 at 06:35 PM

JJ

I just learned of Ken's passing. I am so sorry. Kenny and Carolyn were great friends to my late husband, Norm Jackson, and me. We had some great times together in Indiana and some very sad times as well. Although it has been several years since I have seen them, they have always reminded in my thoughts and in my heart. Carolyn and Christy, you have my most sincere condolences. Sending love and hugs,  
Judy

Judy Jackson - February 25, 2024 at 08:43 AM

MS

*I only just found out about Ken's passing - I am so very sorry and upset that I didn't know sooner. When I moved from Illustrated Properties to The Keyes Company in 2010, Ken was one of the first people to greet and welcome me. He always had a smile for everyone and a funny story to tell if you stopped by his office. He was truly the thread that held the office together in so many ways. He helped everyone, especially the new agents! He was always kind and his "hergs" (hugs) were great! He will be missed by many ... God bless you Kenny, you are missed. Love, Marion*

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**Marion Suro** - March 12, 2024 at 12:04 PM

RB

*just found out about Kens passing in January and we will miss the times spent with The Millsaps on the WPB UT Alumni board and meeting at Vol football parties at Duffy's. He will be missed by all.*  
*Rodney and Sandra Blair*

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**Rodney And Sandra Blair** - March 15, 2024 at 03:10 PM

CM

*Thank you for all of the kind words.ken was a fine and happy soul*

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**Carolyn Millsaps** - June 07, 2025 at 09:17 AM