

CELEBRATION OF LIFE

KEN NESS

February 5th 1945 - August 13th 2016



Freeborn Church's Old Chapel, Stanwood August 22th 2017

Biography

February 5th 1945 to August 13th 2016

Ken graduated from Ballard High School in 1962 and from the University of Washington in 1967 with a BS in Aeronautics & Astronautics. From 1967 to 1973 he worked up and down the West Coast as an aeronautical, structural, and field construction engineer.

Ken loved traveling and that brought him to Paris (France) in 1973. He had taken a job as an offshore engineer for pipeline construction projects in the North Sea oil fields based in Oslo & Stavanger (Norway), Aberdeen (Scotland) and Paris. It was while in Paris that he met his wife Beatrice (who still currently teaches high school French Literature in a Paris suburb). Ken and Beatrice met at her father's bookstore where Ken had come to purchase a pen. They were married in 1975 at the Paris City Hall. (Ken had converted to Catholicism earlier in Vermont.) From 1973 to 1979 his work enabled Beatrice and he to experience living in Norway, Scotland and then back to Paris where their oldest son Gregory was born. In 1979 after Beatrice had finished her PhD, they moved to Seattle where their second son Dylan was born. From 1979 to 1991 Ken worked as an aeronautical stress & fatigue engineer for Boeing in Seattle, then Vermont, and then designed structures in Milwaukee. Ken and Beatrice moved back to Paris in 1992 where Ken worked as an aircraft maintenance/repair and research engineer for Composite Industries until retiring in 2013.

Ken was very much appreciated in his job and in the communities where he lived, as well as deeply loved by all his relatives, especially for assisting Beatrice with her only sister who is handicapped. He enjoyed running (he ran the Paris marathon) and especially enjoyed golfing with his sons. His unexpected death shocked everyone! He had been in good health when he and Beatrice took the English Channel ferry to Jersey Island where their son Dylan's family lives. The next day (August 7, 2016) Ken felt like he was coming down with the flu and went to a doctor. The following day, despite his objections, the family took him to the hospital. The doctors there discovered that he had pneumococcus bacteria strain that is extremely rare; it quickly destroyed his vital organs in a matter of a few hours. Without realizing or understanding fully what was happening to him, Ken was put under sedation and ventilation. He died on the day of his grand-son's birthday August 13, 2016.

Ken loved to travel: China (for son Dylan's wedding); Russia; Africa; and most of Europe, but his heart had always stayed in the Pacific Northwest. That is why his family knew he would want to travel back "home" for his last stay, to be put to rest today. Ken is survived by his wife Beatrice; their sons Gregory and Dylan; his sibling Sandra Berg; and four grandchildren. Everyone who knew him greatly misses him. Rest in peace Ken.



Service

Opening Song **“Ode to joy, Symphony No 9, Beethoven, final Chorus”**

Greeting

P: The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

Opening Prayer

Lord of grace and glory, we remember before you today our husband, father, grandfather, friend and brother, Ken Ness. We are thankful to have known and loved him as a companion in our pilgrimage on earth. Deal graciously with those who mourn and make us aware of the shortness and uncertainty of human life. Let your Spirit lead us all the days of our lives, so that we too may die in peace with all people. Amen.

Pastor Kelly Nesheim’s welcome

Hymn: **“Gather Us In”** **page 4**

Scripture Reading: **Ecclesiastes 3:1-8** **read by Sandra (Ness) Berg**

Pastor’s message and Reflections from Family & Friends

Hymn: **“We are Called”** **page 5**

The Lord’s Prayer

(Maori Version, South Pacific)

Earth-maker, Life-giver, Pain-bearer, Source of all that is and all that shall be, Father and Mother of us all, Loving God, in whom is heaven;

May the hallowing of your name echo through the universe! May your heavenly will be done by all creatures great and small! And may your commonwealth of peace and freedom sustain our hope and come on earth!

With the bread we need this day, feed us. For the hurt we inflict on one another, forgive us. Through times of temptation, strengthen us. From trials too great to endure, spare us. From the grip of all that is evil, free us.

For you reign in the glory of the power that is love. Amen.

Closing Prayers

Lord, you have called us to follow to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet un-trodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go, but only that your hand is leading us and your love supporting us.

AMEN

“Summer In The City”

Ken's Favorite Song - by The Lovin' Spoonful

Hot town, summer in the city
Back of my neck getting dirty and gritty
Been down, isn't it a pity?
Doesn't seem to be a shadow in the city

All around, people looking half dead
Walking on the sidewalk, hotter than a match
head

But at night it's a different world
Go out and find a girl
Come on, come on and dance all night
Despite the heat it'll be alright

And babe, don't you know it's a pity
That the days can't be like the nights
In the summer, in the city
In the summer, in the city

Cool town, evening in the city
Dressing so fine and looking so pretty
Cool cat, looking for a kitty
Gonna look in every corner of the city
Till I'm wheezing like a bus stop
Running up the stairs, gonna meet you on the
rooftop



Ken Ness in front of the Syracuse boat bays,

left to right: [redacted], Ken Ness,

Tyee Photo.

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1964 National Championships



Reception & Scattering of Ashes

Bagpipes by Bill Collins
Ceremonial Scattering by Ron Ranheim

Following the Service a reception area (weather permitting) will be found in Bonhoeffer Botanical Gardens - a short walk or drive down the hill from Freeborn's Old Chapel. 20 minutes after the Service ends, our bagpiper will see that a few ceremonial ashes are placed at the:

Ashes Scattering Platform (that already contains the dust of Dietrich Bonhoeffer and so many others from Flossenburg) with his playing of:

“Mist Covered Mountains”

and as he walks down the hill by **Peter's Cross** you will hear

“Highland Cathedral”

and at the bottom, we will watch a ceremonial (or real) spreading of the ashes with the piping of:

“Amazing Grace”

PLEASE JOIN US
HONORING
THE NESS FAMILY!



