



Kenneth Benzie

March 6, 1928 - July 19, 2023

HAMILTON LAKES- Kenneth Dominic Benzie age 95 of Hamilton Lakes passed peacefully from this world on July 19, 2023 at Marshfield Medical Center - Dickinson in Iron Mountain, MI.

Ken was born in Norway, MI on March 6, 1928, the son of the late Frank and Mary (Bianchi) Benzie.

He was the baby of the family and the apple of his mother's eye. "Chick" as he was known to many, attended Norway schools until his graduation in 1946. After graduation, he joined the Army and served in the occupation of Okinawa Japan immediately after WWII.

Ken returned from serving our country and attended Michigan Tech and then Michigan State, earning an engineering degree. While attending MSU, he married Lois LaFreniere on August 11, 1951 in Norway. She preceded him in death on September 30, 2008. Ken has spent the last 15 years talking about how much he missed his beloved wife of 57 years. It gives us peace to know that they are together again.

After graduation, Ken and Lois eventually made their home in Escanaba, where he worked for Harnischfeger manufacturing cranes and heavy construction equipment until the plant closed. He wasn't quite ready for

retirement, so he took multiple jobs including self-employment.

“Retirement” was never really Ken’s style. He continued up until his death managing his rental property, logging wood, and milling lumber at his sawmill at camp. Over the course of his adult life, Ken built multiple homes for himself and his family.

Ken is survived by son, Richard Benzie of DeWitt; daughters Julie Poquette of Wells, Mary Beth (Sam) Thoreson of Hamilton Lakes, and Kris (Adam) Coronado of Pflugerville, TX.

He is also survived by grandchildren Craig Nuottila of Calumet, Tim (Wanita) Shaw of Appleton, WI, Megan (Nick) Shaw-Kwiek of Calumet, Cole (Chelsea) Thoreson of Hamilton Lakes, Jill (Justin) Norcross of Grand Rapids, Katie (Ryan) Pollard of Vulcan, Michael (Cassandra) Benzie of Greenville, Justin (Janel) Poquette of Gladstone, Gilbert (Christie) Coronado of Taylor, TX., Amy Coronado of Boston, MA., and Alex Coronado of Denton, TX.; 10 great grandchildren – with a set of twins on the way; and sister-in-law Carol (LaFreniere) Brown; many nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his beloved wife Lois, daughter Susan Shaw, siblings and their spouses, Caroleen (Robert) DeDecker, Warren Benzie, and Wallace (Geraldine) Benzie.

Visitation will be held on Saturday, July 22 from 12-1 p.m. at the Ortman Funeral Home in Norway.

Memorial service will be held on Saturday at 1 p.m. with Rev. Jim Danielson, pastor of Evangelical Covenant Church in Norway, officiating.

Previous Events

Visitation

JUL **22.** 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM (CT)

Ortman Funeral Home
618 Norway Street
P.O. Box 155
Norway, MI 49870
(906) 563-5700
ortmanfh@gmail.com
<https://www.ortmanfuneralhome.com/>

Memorial Service

JUL **22.** 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM (CT)

Ortman Funeral Home
618 Norway Street
P.O. Box 155
Norway, MI 49870
(906) 563-5700
ortmanfh@gmail.com
<https://www.ortmanfuneralhome.com/>

Tribute Wall

WW

“*Mary Beth, Sam, and family--So sorry to hear of your loss. May your memories keep him alive in your heart. Wendy (Zanona) Watson*



Wendy Watson - July 24, 2023 at 03:13 PM

TF

“*We were so fortunate to have met Kenny years ago. Our family has enjoyed renting his Lake Louise cottage all of these years and was always greeted with a smile. He became someone who felt like family over the years. The last few years we enjoyed fish dinners with him and enjoyed getting to know him and all of the things he has done over the years, such as his saw mill. I always enjoyed hearing how Debbie's father, my grandfather, served Ken ice cream when he was younger! I enjoyed hearing that story every year. We just said to him last week "See you next year!" He replied, "I know I'll be getting a call from you in the winter." Now it's, "until we see you again." Rest peacefully Kenny. The Singer family sends our deepest condolences to your family. ❤️*

The Singer Family - July 21, 2023 at 08:22 PM

JE

“*Jeff and Deanna Etter purchased the Strength & Solace Spray for the family of Kenneth Benzie.*



Jeff and Deanna Etter - July 21, 2023 at 01:36 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Kenneth Benzie.*



July 21, 2023 at 10:39 AM



“ *I wanted to express are condolences in addition we will be thinking of you all as you celebrate Uncle Kens life. When I spoke the Drew he was so sad to hear and just had such great memories to share with us about his experience at camp during hunting season. Which included at the age of 12 years old having a shot of whiskey before hunting.*

So sorry that we won't be with you all, will be toasting with beer on Saturday in Uncle Kens memory.

Love Ken and Cathy

Cathy Caudle - July 21, 2023 at 10:23 AM



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



July 20, 2023 at 08:02 PM



“ *Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Kenneth Benzie.*



July 20, 2023 at 04:04 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Kenneth Benzie.*



July 20, 2023 at 02:11 PM



“ *From your Saint Patrick Family! purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Kenneth Benzie.*



From your Saint Patrick Family! - July 20, 2023 at 01:07 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Kenneth Benzie.*



July 20, 2023 at 12:55 PM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Kenneth Benzie.*



July 20, 2023 at 08:55 AM



“ *Lori And Buzz lit a candle in memory of Kenneth Benzie*



Lori and Buzz - July 19, 2023 at 06:24 PM



So sorry for your loss. What a great man Grandpa Ken was! We hope you can find some peace knowing he is with Grandma Lois and the Lord. Heaven gained a wonderful angel! In our thoughts and prayers.



Lori and Buzz - July 19, 2023 at 06:26 PM



I am sorry to hear about the passing of Ken, he did business with us at Moraska Saw in Powers and was such a sweet man! I will miss him as he was always cheerful and smiling. All my sympathy and prayers for his family and friends.

Tiffany - July 24, 2023 at 12:46 PM

ND

“ *Norway Dental purchased the Country Basket Blooms for the family of Kenneth Benzie.*



Norway Dental - July 19, 2023 at 04:38 PM