



Kenneth Andrew Link

August 18, 1946 - December 17, 2017

Dateline: Godfrey

Kenneth A. Link, 71, died at 11:42 a.m. Sunday, December 17, 2017 at his home in Godfrey. Born August 18, 1946 in Belleville, he was the son of George and Grace (Winning) Link. Ken married his high school sweetheart, Glenda Mary on September 24, 1964. Along with his wife of 53 years, he is survived by three children, Karen Walter (Keith) Of Omaha, NE, Denise Pritchard of Alton, and Christopher Link (Jennifer) of Godfrey, five grandchildren, Katelyn Meyer (Andrew) of Omaha, NE, Kelsie Walter of Ankeny, IA, Carley Link, U.S. Navy, Caleb Link of Alton, and Josephine Link of Godfrey, and two great grandchildren, Audrey and Vincent Meyer of Omaha, NE. Ken retired from Boeing (McDonnell Aircraft) after 32 years in January 1999. He joined his wife working at their business Picture This and More in Alton for 23 years. Many of their customers became longtime friends. Ken held several offices in the Professional Picture Framers Association, St. Louis Chapter and was President of the International PPFA for two years. He was a talented musician and drummer for D D REVIVAL, Bud Schulz's Can't Beat Experience JAZZ Band and the LCCC Jazz Band. He shared that interest with his son and grandson. He spent many summer vacations volunteering as percussion instructor with AHS Marching 100. Ken also enjoyed golf and volunteered at Rolling Hills Golf Club during the summers. He enjoyed traveling, especially England and France. Ken was a life long learner, loved

computers and anything technical. He enjoyed developing websites for several businesses and organizations. His latest interest was photography and he was preparing a website to share his photos. He loved his family and especially his grandchildren and great grandchildren, missing very few birthdays, dance recitals and sporting events. Memories of his life will be cherished by his family and many who knew him. A visitation will be from 4:00 p.m. until time of memorial service at 7:00 p.m. Wednesday, December 20, 2017 at the Godfrey First United Methodist Church. Reverend Steven Friese will officiate. Memorials may be made to the Godfrey First United Methodist Church or St. Louis Children's Hospital NICU. Gent Funeral Home in Alton is in charge of arrangements. Online guestbook and information may be found at www.gentfuneralhome.com

Previous Events

Visitation

DEC **20**. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Godfrey First United Methodist Church
Airport Road
Godfrey, IL 62035

Memorial Service

DEC **20**. 7:00 PM (CT)

Godfrey First United Methodist Church
Airport Road
Godfrey, IL 62035

Tribute Wall



“ *Kenneth Andrew Link*

January 28, 2023 at 10:19 AM



“ *Kenneth Andrew Link*

January 28, 2023 at 08:19 AM



“ *Sympathies to the Link family. Ken always remembered me at the annual WCAF and PPFA events. Open, kind and a wonderful smile characterize Ken and I so appreciated our conversations about the picture framing industry.*

May you find peace.

Julia Heinzmann

Julia Heinzmann - January 04, 2018 at 06:21 PM

RH

“ I just today learned of Ken's passing. I am deeply saddened to learn of it so late after his services.

I knew Ken from the PPFA and thought he was a very kind and understand man. I am so sorry to him taken from us.

May the good Lord grant peace and understanding in this time of sorrow.

My heartfelt sympathies toward his family,

Kindest regards,

Roy Hermann, CPF

Roy Hermann - January 04, 2018 at 05:20 PM

GB

“ He was such a patient, kind man. I am so sorry for your loss.

Genifer Brown - December 21, 2017 at 10:04 AM

BM

“ I can still see him over there with the percussion line. Almost made me want to defect and go and join them! Was sad to see the news. Chris and his mom and dad are part of great memories of growing up. Cheers to you, Mr. Link.

Brad Mettler - December 20, 2017 at 05:28 PM

BF

“ Glenda I am so sorry to hear of Ken's passing. I know you are filled with a great sadness. Please know you are not alone in this time of sorrow. Bette Flactiff

Bette Flactiff - December 20, 2017 at 04:59 PM

CV

“ there comes once in a lifetime that person (besides your mother that cares for you unconditionally) even though we are as different as night and day for some unknown reason we just keep supporting each other, you are always there thru good and bad times memories are too many to recount but I hope in the future this will get us thru. You have been that father, brother and best friend words can not express how you will be missed , there will be forever that void in my heart
George

cheryl vambaketes - December 20, 2017 at 01:08 PM

YD

“ Your Friends at KAI Architectural Dept. purchased the Serene Retreat for the family of Kenneth Andrew Link.



Your Friends at KAI Architectural Dept. - December 19, 2017 at 04:27 PM

DP

“ *I met all the Links a long time ago when my folks moved to Brighton. We all went to Church together. Karen and my brother Randy were very good friends and I came to love them as part of my extended family. Randy and I had several wonderful spaghetti dinners at the Links. I have wonderful memories with all of you. My heart is broken for you all. I pray Gods love and grace surrounds and holds you all.*

Dawn Perry - December 19, 2017 at 03:08 PM



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



December 19, 2017 at 02:00 PM

JA

“ It is with sadness and shock to hear of the passing of our friend Ken. It is most shocking because Ken just assumed his usual position on the drum set last weekend and played our Bethalto Spirit Choir & Orchestra Christmas concert with his usual passion; the way we've come to expect over the decades that he's been a part of the orchestra.

Ken was an extremely kind and outgoing individual. He often helped ease the way for new orchestra members, welcoming them into the group and making them feel most comfortable. As a musician, he was exceptionally gifted. He had the ability to play so many different styles; and he played with so many different groups through the years, including his own group. He could rock with the best of em, or he could hypnotize you into tranquility with his soft, shuffling of the brushes on the snare or cymbals. He was most dependable when it came to knowing his music and tempos and we often relied on his leading for our intros. Year's ago, he and I developed a "wink and a nod" agreement. When I didn't know what I was doing, I'd wink, he'd nod, then he'd start playing the correct tempo. It was a wonderful plan that we often joked about later. And I wouldn't hesitate to use it whenever I had to.

Ken will be missed by many; both within our group and those who knew him from other acquaintances. He will not be forgotten. And his outstanding talent, charisma, joy for life and love of music will be very hard to replace.

"wink"

Jeff Allsman
Director, Bethalto Spirit Choir & Orchestra

Jeff Allsman - December 19, 2017 at 12:12 PM



“ *Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Kenneth Andrew Link.*



December 19, 2017 at 11:56 AM



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



December 19, 2017 at 11:35 AM



“ *Glenda & family, our deepest sympathies to you during this most difficult time. Although I only had the pleasure of knowing Ken for a brief time, I really enjoyed our visits when I would make calls on the frame shop. Not enough people in this world have the positivity that Ken possessed and I will always remember him for that quality. Peace be with you all.
Steve Penski & the Larson-Juhl team*

Steve Penski - December 19, 2017 at 11:31 AM



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



December 19, 2017 at 10:54 AM

BK

“ Karen Walter I'm so sorry for the loss of your dad. I know this is going to be hard for everyone but after the first few years will be easier. I'm sad 😞 for your family

becky klindt - December 19, 2017 at 02:06 AM



“ Bromeliad Beauty was purchased for the family of Kenneth Andrew Link.



December 18, 2017 at 11:22 PM

Jason
Hart

“ I had the great privilege of being coached by Kenny as a bass drummer in the Marching 100 drumline in 1990 and 1991. I had never marched or played percussion prior. I actually quit as a violinist in the orchestra because most of my friends were in the 100. Anyway, under Kenny's expert tutelage, our drumline became a multiple award winning group of champions. His son Chris was also a part of that group, and we became friends as well. I'll never forget rehearsing for a halftime show at the stadium, and a stiff breeze sending Papa Link's comb-over flapping in the breeze. I don't think any of us could keep a straight face! He was always kind and polite, but definitely had a way of making us buckle down and do things the right way. Some years later, I also had the privilege of watching Kenny perform with a jazz combo. Papa Link could tear up a kit! I will always treasure my memories of Kenny and offer my sincerest condolences to all who loved him.

Jason Hart - December 18, 2017 at 09:03 PM

SL

I just returned from school and received the shock of a life time! Ken Link passed away. The one thing I can say The Good Lord received a great man, an excellent softball coach, a tremendous family man, a father (no that is not right, anyone can be a father) Ken was a DAD. I met Ken when it was time for Karen to begin her softball career. He came in to our house to sign her on the dotted line. So I asked Ken if he could help coach the team. not knowing what he was getting into he agreed to help out, and help out he did. We were very fortunate we had an excellent team of girls. Karen picked our name: the Gold-diggers. We won several games, remember winning is more fun than losing. We had a lot of rain that first year however, we weathered the storm. We came up with what we thought was a nice saying; we had a beer when we won {which was often}, we had a beer when we lost (which was seldom), and we had a beer when we were rained out.

We moved to Decatur and then it was Ken's team. They did keep winning (this is what Ken helped out with keeping the Gold diggers going.

The main problem with moving is leaving behind friends, unfortunately we still contacted Ken and Glenda just not often enough.

Their friendship was just tremendous. We ended up social friends with Ken and Glenda. Their children were very nice; Karen, Denise, and Christopher..

Again, God is getting a HELL of a nice guy, a excellent softball coach, and an extraordinary Chicago style drummer.

Wish I could be there however, I can't. Ken you and your family are in our prayers. Lord, Bless the Link family, your gain is their loss!

You live with memories; ours of Ken is wonderful.

Stu and Chris Lercher

Benson, AZ.

Stu Lercher - December 20, 2017 at 12:01 AM