



Kenneth R Pannell

October 31, 1942 - July 22, 2023

Kenneth Ray Pannell went to be with his Lord and Savior in the early morning of July 22, 2023. In the days leading up to his death, he had been surrounded by his family, caregivers, friends, and pastor.

Ken was born on October 31, 1942, to Frank James and Mattie Almeda (Sartain) Pannell in Walnut, Mississippi. He was the oldest of nine children and a caring and protective "Bubba" (brother) to them all. His father served in the U.S. Army and the family moved often. When Ken was 10, he traveled by ship with his mother and four younger siblings to Germany where they would live for the next four years on the Army base in Manheim.

Ken attended Fort Knox High School in Fort Knox, Tennessee and in November 1960, just after turning 18, he enlisted in the U.S. Air Force where he would learn electronics and serve his country for the next four years. Upon his discharge from the Air Force, he accompanied his parents and siblings on their move to Fort Wainwright, Alaska where his father had been transferred. He loved Alaska so much that he decided to stay.

It was in Alaska that Ken met Sandra (Sandi) Griffith. She was a switchboard operator for the NASA/RCA satellite tracking station at Gilmore Creek and Ken was a teletype communication systems operator. He fell head over heels for her and they were married nine months later, on December 9, 1966, in the

Fairbanks Church of the Nazarene, where Sandi's dad, Reverend Raymond F. Griffith was pastor.

In 1969 they moved to Wenatchee where Ken attended Wenatchee Valley Community College on his GI Bill. He graduated at the top of his class, often taking more than 20 credits a quarter. Upon his graduation, he was offered a job at WVCC where he was responsible for the installation and maintenance of all the telephone and electronic networking on campus. He was the IT guy before there was ever such a thing and was able to access the internet, which connected university campuses around the country before the internet was available to consumers. He loved gadgets and electronics and was always keen to get his hands on the latest device or gizmo.

In 1975 Ken and Sandi welcomed their first daughter, Lisa and in 1978, Angela was born. Ken was a devoted father. He was the dad that could always be found at every dance performance, piano recital, choir concert, sports practice, and game. It didn't matter if they were home or away, he'd be in the stands yelling louder than anyone else.

In the last 15 years after his IBM (Inclusion Body Myositis muscle disease) diagnosis, he became less able to leave the house and relied on Sandi and his amazing caregivers, Anna, Amelia, and Elaina to care for him full-time. On July 20, 2023, after a brief stay in the hospital he was baptized, surrounded by his family.

He was preceded in death by his parents, two sisters, Gloria Bowen and Patsy Bowen, his mother-in-law Hazel Griffith, and his father-in-law, Raymond Griffith. He is survived by his wife of 56 years, Sandi, his daughters and sons-in-law, Lisa (Jared) Plesha, and Angela (Christopher) Swindle, his precious granddaughter, Klare Plesha, his siblings, Richard (Judy) Pannell, Pam (Steve) McNatt, Daniel (Caryn) Pannell, David (Trish) Pannell, Jamie Pannell,

and Mary Ann Neidl. His brothers- and sisters-in-law, many nieces and nephews and great nieces and nephews, numerous friends, and extended family.

In lieu of flowers please consider making a monetary donation to Home Care & Hospice Services through Confluence Health or to the Wenatchee Valley Humane Society.

Tribute Wall

JS

“ I will miss my brother in Christ and those great hugs he gave!
I am thankful you are with Jesus now Ken. No more pain. 😞
I am sure you are running in heaven with your new body! ❤️
I will see you soon Ken!
Love you ❤️
Janet Shaw

Janet Shaw - August 14, 2023 at 01:25 PM

WS

“ My wife Hope and I were neighbors of Ken and Sandy for 20 years before moving to E. Wen. 2 years ago.

While Sandi liked me right away, not so soon with Ken. Seemed like we were very different in a lot of ways like: we were from opposite ends of the political spectrum; he was a loyal Cougar fan and I was a Vandal fan; he was big into soccer - me not so much; Ken's career was jr. college - mine, elementary school; his roots were Mississippi - I couldn't even spell it.

Over time we learned that we really had common interests, enjoyed each other's company, and enjoyed our visits- probably helped that I would occasionally drop by with his drink of choice- a double tall latte. I knew I had reached the inside of his friendship circle when we were invited to their 50th wedding celebration and they made a special trip to visit our new home.

Some things I learned about Ken over the years:

- Never drop by if you want to watch the FOX channel
- Anything to do with technology - he was highly knowledgeable and intelligent
- Under that rough exterior he did have a caring heart and a love for his family and God.
- While patience was not one of Ken's greatest attributes, I thought often how frustrating it was for him to have lost his physical mobility and independence.
- He was a very sharing person - letting my grandkids swim in his pool; even let me borrow his pick-up & snowblower.
- He had a sense of humor and we laughed about a lot of things

As they say, behind every successful man is a great woman. Sandy deserves the Nobel prize for her love, caring, perseverance, patience, and hard work providing those accommodations that made it possible for Ken to remain in the home he loved during his final years.

Wes and Hope Snow

Wes & Hope Snow - August 13, 2023 at 12:12 AM

SM

“ From: Steve McNatt

Ken was a very respected brother-in-law by me. He always had an encouraging word. He was always kind to me and always had a compliment.

We didn't get to visit much because of the great number of miles between Hernando, Mississippi and Wenatchee, Washington; but I have wonderful memories of the times we did spend together.

Some of the best memories were made when we visited when we visited Ken and Sandy at their home in Wenatchee. Pam and I enjoyed so much visiting with y'all and some of the other siblings. It was a fun time together. Ken and Sandy were such good host. I'll never forget those HUGE crab legs that Sandy negotiated (haha) and prepared for the family. They were the biggest we had every seen! And delicious! The speed boat tour of the lake and river was beautiful and enjoyable, thanks to Ken and Sandy. The golf outing that Ken set up (and paid for) for all the men, was fun. Although I finished in dead last place, Ken presented me with the biggest trophy of all! He should have given me a fishing pole! Ken presented the first place winner with a tiny little trophy. Only Ken could think up something like that. We loved the tours you gave us of the beautiful state y'all live in. Thanks for your wonderful hospitality.

I have to mention the family vacation, the land and sea Alaskan cruise. This was all Ken's idea too. And what about that lost Luggage!!! On the day before we were to board the ship, Ken forgot to set the bags outside the door in time for pick up! Thank goodness their luggage finally showed up on the last day of the cruise. This could only happen to Ken!

Pam talks so many times of what a good, older brother Ken was. She has shared many stories with me about how Ken helped out the family and how he always seemed to have a gift of some kind for his younger siblings.

What a great help Ken was to his Mom as she traveled to Germany by ship, in the early 1950's, to live there with y'all's military Dad. She traveled with five children Ken, Patsy, Gloria, Ricky, and Pam who

was only two years old. Being the oldest Ken was a big help to his Mom on this long journey.

Thank you Ken for the wonderful memories. Rest in peace my dear brother-in-love.

My deepest sympathy to Sandy and all the Family, friends, and loved ones. I am praying for peace and comfort for you all. Much love to all.

"The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you. The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace."

(Numbers 6:24-26 NKJV)

*In Christian love,
Steve McNatt*

Steve McNatt - August 10, 2023 at 01:29 PM

SM

“ *I remember Ken leaving work to go home to rescue his daughters from a spider in the bath tub.* ”

Sharon Martin - August 08, 2023 at 06:50 PM

BM

“ I was in my 2nd year at the audio visual coordinator at Wenatchee Valley College. Ken was a student in the college's electronics program when the instructor introduced him to me. Ken was the top student in the program. I really need a person to maintain the huge collection of projectors, tvs, tape recorders and sound equipment and the librarian and dean signed off on it. Ken was perfect for the job. He could fix anything. His skills became well known and school districts up to Pateros contracted for his work in the summer. When we moved into computer use (Apple II) in the early 80's Ken and I went to Apple's campus in Cupertino for training on their repair. He followed with printer repair, IBM PC repair, networking and telephone systems. He crawled through all of the tunnels of the old college buildings to wire up classes rooms and offices. He was critical in the design of the wiring of the John Brown Library. Outside of the college he helped with the sound system upgrade for Music Theater's plays first at the old Liberty Theater and then the Wenatchee High's auditorium. (oh the night at Frank Kuntz's after The Music Man)

On a personal note: I would not have been able survive at WVC without Ken. He supported all my proposals for new services for faculty and students. I will miss him so much.

Bill Martin

Bill Martin - August 08, 2023 at 06:43 PM