



## Mr. Ken Kaufman

February 9, 1939 - February 6, 2024

Kenneth (Ken) Roger Kaufman, 85, went peacefully to his heavenly home on February 6, 2024, in Lumberton, surrounded by family. He was born on February 9, 1939, in Hazen, Arkansas, to Dorothy Kaufman.

Ken had a very difficult childhood, which led him to develop a tough exterior to hide his wounded heart. Fortunately, he was blessed with intelligence, a good work ethic, a mother who did the best she could, and movie star good looks.

So, he persevered and became a talented high school baseball player and a hard worker. After joining the Army, Ken moved to Abilene, where he met his future wife, Pat Bedford. They married in 1959 and later moved to Beaumont, where he worked in sales for several years. Seeking a change, Ken became the owner and operator of an 18-wheeler. Being color-blind, his first big rig was purple (he was the only one who thought it was gorgeous)! He loved the freedom and independence of being his own boss and seeing the beauty of the nation. He spent years hauling goods coast to coast, collecting many stories from his adventures on the road.

One of Ken's greatest joys was reconnecting with his long-lost cousins, Glee Ann and Bo Bo. They were separated in the 1940s due to a tragic family event that orphaned them, leading to their adoption and having their names legally changed. Ken spent years searching for them and finally reunited with Bette

and Bob Carnes in 1999, with the help of a private investigator. This marked the first time he felt like he had extended family members.

After retiring, Ken thoroughly enjoyed living in his dream home in Lumberton. He spent his days maintaining a beautiful lawn, keeping his many bird feeders full, watching the news, doing chores for Pat, and caring for his beloved Peekapoo, Honey. Ken loved listening to his favorite music, dining at the Chinese buffet, and watching baseball. Despite his claims of hating the Cowboys, it was suspected that deep down he loved them—just not Jerry Jones!

Ken had a quick wit, often used colorful language, and loved making people laugh. He cared deeply for his family and felt profound sorrow when he thought he had hurt someone. Moreover, he held a heart full of gratitude—for a wife who loved him unconditionally, for his children and grandchildren, for his home, and for the kindness of those who assisted him and Pat. During the last two years, as he and Pat received dinners from Meals on Wheels, Ken would marvel every time they made a delivery and be so grateful.

We will miss our big ol' bear with the heart of gold underneath all the gruff. We will miss his jokes and colorful commentary during Monday Night Football. We will miss him taking out the trash every five minutes. We will miss him making food for the hummingbirds twice a day and pulling weeds in the heat of the day. We will miss his sass. We will miss our daddy.

Later in life, he embraced the grace and forgiveness offered by Jesus Christ, and because of this, we are grateful that we will see him again in heaven.

Ken was preceded in death by his mother, Dorothy Kaufman. Ken's wife, Pat, passed away June 25, 2024.

Ken is survived by his children: Merf (Barbara) Kaufman, Margo (Steve)

Drake, and Jo (Mark) Markham; his grandchildren: Matthew Kaufman (Jennifer), Curtiss Kaufman (Maria), Jennifer Gilder (Larry), Matt Drake (Megan), Katie Drake (Patrick), Madeline Francis (Sam), and Jake Markham; and his great-grandchildren: Matthew Kaufman II, Elizabeth Kaufman, John Kaufman, Lacey Kaufman, Tyler Gilder, Tayler Gilder, Ellie Todd, and Max Drake. He is also survived by his cousins, Bette Burgess and Bob Carnes.

The family extends their heartfelt gratitude to Best Hospice for their compassionate and attentive care of Ken during his final months. Their kindness and professionalism were a true blessing to the family during this difficult time.

There will be a graveside service in Winters, Texas, at a later date.