



Marion Kenneth Branton

February 13, 1932 - June 17, 2021

Ken's Beginning:

Marion Kenneth Branton was born in 1932 in White Bluff, Mississippi.

With his humble beginnings, he had to leave home and move in with his aunt to attend Columbia HS, the better of the two high schools. Little did he know that 22 years later, Walter Peyton would graduate from his high School in Columbia, MS.

Ken graduated just in time to enlist in the Marines and to ship off to the Korean War. When he got home from Korea, great things awaited Ken as he was the first in his family to attend college, LSU.

With a degree in Electrical Engineering, Ken's passion turned to Radio Transmitters. Working for a large engineering firm, he was sent to Vietnam to help the armed services fix their radio transmission hardware. It was in Buon Ma Thuot where he met his wife of 50 years, Trang.

A good friend to all who knew him, both enlisted men and officers, when it came time in 1975 to escape Vietnam, he had a little help from his friends. On a crowded tarmac with thousands of people trying to get onto a transport plane, North VC on their heels, Ken, Trang, their 4 children Von (9), Thuy (7), Steven (3) and 2 day old Mark, neared the plane, unable to make their way through the chaotic crowd. The Co-pilot saw Ken with his family, unbuckled himself from the cockpit, reached out to Ken and pulled him and his family aboard. The plane's payload was way over the "recommended" weight and when they took off, they barely cleared the buildings at the end of the runway. They were safe.

Good Deeds Moving his family from Mississippi to the Dallas area, he put his children in a school district that taught them English and helped integrate them into an American way of life. Trang and Ken worked hard to raise their new family, in a time when America was conflicted with the Vietnam War.

His passion of cars, of fixing things, of helping others, led Ken to create BRANTLO in 1986. Ken sold part of his land in Mississippi and he incubated Northhaven Oil and Lube. He bought the little plot of land from a Mr. Weinstein. Years later, when Mr. Weinstein begged Ken to make an additional purchase of property across the street, Ken did it, just to help Mr. Weinstein.

After a successful 20 years, he opened a second auto shop in Richardson.

Little did he know that the adjacent empty land would become a billion dollar property, housing State Farm, apartments, and retail. Chick-fil-A came in and bought out Ken.

Ken was a hardworking, selfless soul who never asked for or wanted recognition. He was a role model to – and survived by - his four children who he put through college, each of them highly successful in their own fields. Von an international project manager, Mark a highly sought after digital animator in the entertainment business, Steven, a financial consultant, and Thuy, a nurse but more importantly, the mother of two, Ken's granddaughters Macy and Bailey Sherman.

Later:

At the pinnacle of his engineering career, radio stations would fly him all over the world to fix their towers. Whether helicoptering up to a snow capped mountain in Colorado, or on top of the Empire

State Building, Ken loved to travel. An expert in his field, people would call him at all hours of the day to troubleshoot their radio stations.

Retirement:

In his retirement, Ken would sit on his front yard bench, waiting for Macy and Bailey, his granddaughters. He loved ice cream so much, he'd encourage them to eat dessert first, then dinner!

Ken's success came not from his business savvy, but from his honesty, his willingness to contribute, and his love of people. Ken's life has always been guided by how he can help others. With no fanfare, no need to be noticed, never wanting to be thanked for his years of good deeds, Ken is the true "unsung hero".

His love of home, of Mississippi, of family, of helping, is what made Marion Kenneth Branton a god send. The world is a better place because of him.

Marion Kenneth Branton is survived by his wife Trang, his four children Von, Thuy and Mark Sherman, Steven and Eric Jones, Mark and Robin Branton, his brother Jehugh and sister-in-law Billie, and grandchildren Macy and Bailey Sherman and his dog Biscuit.

A visitation will be held at Restland Funeral Home on Monday, June 21 from 3:00pm-5:00pm, 13005 Greenville Ave., Dallas, TX 75243. A funeral service will be held at Restland on Tuesday, June 22, 12:00pm.

<http://webcast.funeralvue.com/events/viewer/56019/hash:DEF8C6E016664E49>

Cemetery

Restland Memorial Park
13005 Greenville Avenue
Dallas, TX, 75243

Events

JUN 21 Visitation 03:00PM - 05:00PM

Restland Funeral Home
13005 Greenville Avenue, Dallas, TX, US, 75243

JUN 22 Celebration of Life 12:00PM - 01:00PM

Restland Funeral Home
13005 Greenville Avenue, Dallas, TX, US, 75243

Comments



“ An external video has been added.



Restland Funeral Home and Cemetery - June 22 at 01:58 PM



“ A webcast video has been added.



Restland Funeral Home and Cemetery - June 22 at 08:55 AM



“ Ken and I met in 1979 at Collins Radio. He was brilliant, kind and dedicated. Thru the years, he helped and taught hundreds of radio station engineers who will always be grateful for his wisdom and calming manner. Forever will I cherish his friendship.

Best wishes to Ken's family.

John Abdnour

John Abdnour - June 28 at 07:16 AM



“ Thank you so much for your kind words. It means a lot to us to know how great a man he is. He will forever be missed.

Thuy - July 11 at 05:35 PM



“ I have often said and written that Ken was responsible for help and training a whole generation of radio engineers. That calm, kindly voice at 3AM immediately put anxiety in the background as he helped us fix that "radio" we were working on. He was quoted as saying “Now look, someone built this radio and we can fix it.” We were so happy to elect him to the Radio Guide Hall of Achievement as someone who really "gave" to others in a way few did or do. I am glad that I got to meet Ken, not just vocally, but in person, as well as benefitting from his knowledge and helpfulness.

- Barry Mishkind

Barry Mishkind - June 25 at 01:30 PM



“ Thank you so much for your kind words and the article in broadcast news. It’s very touching. He was a great man and will be miss greatly. I can still remember all the late night “duty”. He would be on the phone all night long. And my brother and I thought the word “dummy load” was the funniest term. We will miss him and his intelligence dearly.

Thuy - July 11 at 05:39 PM



“ I didn't get to work directly with Ken, but I remember him as a humble, delightful person.

Family, be of Good Courage...

Deborah Lewis,

Continental Electronics

Deborah Lewis - June 25 at 11:40 AM



“ Thank you so much Deborah. He is a humble and gentile soul and will be miss.

Thuy - July 11 at 05:40 PM



“ So sorry to hear about Ken. I have spent many hours over the years working with him on transmitters
Ken would say after we do this “The radio will play”
He was truly one of a kind and I learned a lot from him

norman philips - June 25 at 11:37 AM



“ Thank you Norman for your kind words. Yes he is truly one of a kind. He will be miss.
Thuy - July 11 at 05:41 PM



“ It was a privilege to know your father. I'll always remember how happy he was on the front porch in Mississippi!

Anne (Branton) Harberts - June 25 at 09:42 AM



“ He was an honest kind soul. He loved sitting on that front porch. It was his favorite pastime.
Thuy - July 11 at 05:42 PM



“ I am very sorry to hear of Ken's passing. He was a great person and friend as well as a mentor to me for all those years we worked together in field service. Rest in peace Ken.
Richard Garrett

Richard Garrett - June 24 at 12:03 PM



“ Thank you Richard. He live a good life.. did what he wanted and was happy about it. He is a wonderful man with lots of knowledge.
Thuy - July 11 at 05:44 PM



“ Mr. Branton was a beautiful soul with a kind heart! I met him in his later years but always felt a peace and comfort about him! You could just tell by looking at him that he was a knowledgeable and good man! He will be dearly missed but I am sure he is dancing in the heavens with many loved ones!!

Paula Trapp-Duke - June 22 at 12:04 PM



“ Thank you Paula for your kind word. He is one of the best man I know. Not because he is my father but because he is a good human being.

Thuy - June 23 at 11:32 PM



“ One day Ken and I were discussing a car problem with his Northstar engine which was losing water, but had no water leaks. A week or so later we were talking and I asked about the water leak. He shared with me the structural engineer error in its designed and that it cost 5K to fix. When asked if he was going to sell it, he said the guy who fixed it has a business replacing this engines because of the structural error.

Dave Mohn - June 21 at 05:10 PM



“ Delightful Dieffenbachia was purchased for the family of Marion Kenneth Branton.



June 21 at 04:42 PM