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RICHARD DECAMP OBITUARY

Wasilla resident Richard Kenneth "Ken" DeCamp Sr., 66, died Dec. 9, 2007, at home after a 10-year battle with liposarcoma, a rare form of cancer. Ken was born July 18, 1941, in Grants Pass, Ore., to Richard E. and Eleanor (Sherman) DeCamp. He grew up in Salem, Ore., and graduated from South Salem High School in 1959. Ken attended Oregon State University and earned an associate's degree in land surveying from the Oregon Institute of Technology in the early '70s. He worked as a

professional land surveyor for the remainder of his adult life.

Ken came to Alaska in 1967 with the Bureau of Land Management. He worked for Dowl engineers for a decade before opening his own business in Wasilla with partners Floyd Dollerhide and Bill Brown. Ken lived in the Wasilla area for the last 30 years, where he owned and operated Ken DeCamp Land Surveying.

He served two terms on the Wasilla City Council and was mayor of Wasilla when the city transitioned from second to first class status. Ken also served terms on the platting board for the Mat-Su Borough. He taught surveying courses at Anchorage Community College in the '80s and spent his life mentoring young surveyors and promoting his profession. He was a licensed surveyor in Alaska, Washington, Idaho, California, Colorado and Nevada. Ken served terms as president and board member of the Alaska land surveyors' society (ASPLS) and also served as a national surveyor's test reviewer.

His family wrote: "Ken was passionate about his profession, but in his private life, his equally great passion was family and pets. He raised six children and a dozen or more cats and dogs in Wasilla over the years. When Ken was 9, his father died suddenly and Ken became the 'man of the family,' assuming responsibility from that young age for his mother and two sisters."

Ken was preceded in death by his mother; special uncle, Clyde Sherman; and brothers-in-law, Rick Boudreau and Bill Leeper.

Survivors are his sisters, Carol Boudreau (Mike Burt) and Jeanne Leeper and their children and grandchildren of Washington state; aunts, Norma Sherman and Margene Ryan and special cousins Mary, Jerry, Linda and Irene (Sherman); his wife of the last 22 years, Ruth; and his children and their families: Susan Guerri of Huntington, Ore., Kiska Cureton (Wesley) of Long Beach, Calif., Karen DeCamp of Boise, Idaho, Ken DeCamp Jr. (Karla) of Wasilla, Kelly Thaler (Eric) of Wasilla and Patrick DeCamp of Palmer; grandchildren, Mandy, Cierra, Kaela, Kyle and Nolan; and his former wife, Olga Swetzof. "Ken succumbed after a long and progressively debilitating illness that spanned 10 years, but he lived through his illness as he lived the rest of his life: with spirit, loyalty, gusto, honesty, integrity and unwavering character," his family wrote. "Ken's wife, Ruth, devoted the last 18 months to caring for him at home. Mat-Su hospice served him during his last three months, allowing him to die with dignity in his own home as he wished. He had the privilege of spending his last week joyfully participating in the celebration of his own life with his aforementioned children: Susan, Kiska, Kelly, Kenny, Karen, Karla, Eric, friend Sandy McGill and wife Ruth."

In accordance with his wishes, no funeral is planned. Ken will be buried in a private

service at Wasilla's Aurora cemetery arranged through Alaskan Heritage Memorial Chapel. Pallbearers will include son Ken DeCamp, Jr., son-in-law, Eric Thaler, and friends, John Howe, Paul Minnick, John Riggs, Ken Gittlein, Greg Berg and Vic Kohring.

"Ken had long-term friends too numerous to list, but he would want his family to thank them all for their friendship and loyalty through the years," his family also wrote. In that spirit, the family invites Ken's friends to join them for a reception and celebration of friendship and life at Evangelo's Restaurant in Wasilla from 2 to 5 p.m. Dec. 23.

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Published by Anchorage Daily News on Dec. 12, 2007.



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Ruth....

I was very sorry to hear of Ken's illness and passing. Linda dropped me a note letting me know.

I hope that your life gets simpler now (being a caretaker is a hard job) and that you remain the tough survivor that you have always been!

Now, if you ever get to Minneapolis, Sally & I would love to see you.

Dunc

Duncan & Sally Fowler

December 28, 2007

Ruth and Family I am very sorry for your loss.

Julie Galindo

December 17, 2007

Dear Ruth and Family;

I was stunned and saddened to learn of Ken's passing. I hadn't seen you at any Mat-Su Miners games in a long time but had no idea of Ken's illness.

I met Ken when we were both working the "old" District 16 elections for the State

in the early 1980s.

We shared a sense of humor and became friends - just didn't see each other very often. And now I regret we can't renew our visits and I will miss him.

My deepest sympathies are with you all. Please don't hesitate to contact me if I may be of any assistance to you.

Sincerely,
Chuck

Chuck Griffin

December 16, 2007

Dear Ruth and Family,

We feel honored to have met such a great man and we are thinking of all you during this time of sadness.

Missy and Randy Nichols

December 14, 2007

Dear Ruth,

All of us here at MatSu Regional Hospice want to thank you and Ken for allowing us to share a most special time with you. Ken was a very special person to many of us. He continued to teach to the end. His lessons in strength, independence, spirituality and acceptance were unique to him. Thank you Ruth, for allowing and helping him die as he lived,his way.

Mat-Su Regional Hospice Staff

December 13, 2007

Dear Ruth & Children, The love your family shares inspires all who have known you and Ken!

Our love and respect,
Barnel & Becky

Barnel & Becky Bragg

December 12, 2007

Dear Ruth

Our thoughts and prayers are with you. Please do not hesitate to call us for anything.

Sandy Bohling

Sandy Bohling

December 12, 2007

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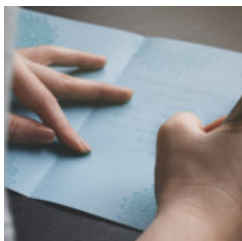
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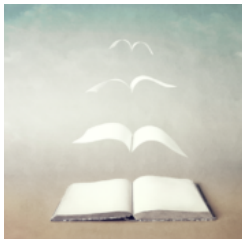
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They're not a map to follow, but simply a description of what people commonly feel.



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Information and advice to help you cope with the death of someone important to you.

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It's Never Too Late for a Memorial Service

Grief researchers say holding that missing funeral service, even a year or more later, can still help us heal.

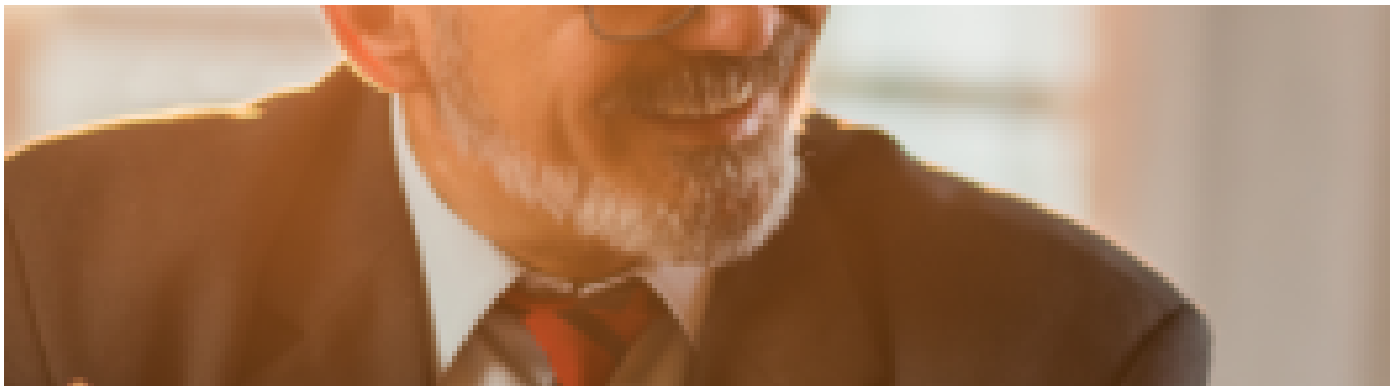
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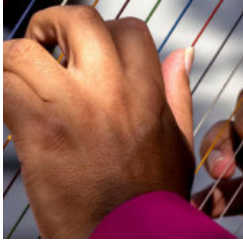
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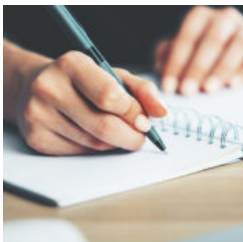
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