



Kenneth Lybolt

November 5, 1945 - October 17, 2025

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Kenneth Craig Lybolt, 79, passed away unexpectedly on October 17, 2025 at Corewell Beaumont Hospital in Royal Oak, Michigan with his loved ones close by.

Ken was a strong, free-spirited man who defied the odds and cheated death several times before, a somewhat complicated, risk-taking man with seemingly nine-lives, an upbeat, enthusiastic man we thought would out-live us all.

He leaves behind a huge hole in the hearts of all his family and friends who knew him and loved him dearly. We find great peace believing we'll be reunited again someday, thankful for the recent good times spent together and comforted knowing he left us quickly without prolonged illness, pain or suffering.

Ken Lybolt was born on November 5, 1945 in Midland, Michigan to Kenneth W. Lybolt and Berneice (Rearick) Lybolt. While attending Midland Senior High School (Class of 1964) he excelled on the varsity swim team and really enjoyed his summer job as a lifeguard. He owned a cool blue 1959 Austin

Healey 100 and drove it year-round.

Ken met the love of his life, Susan, aka Susie Q, in 1967 at Ferris State College. Susan says she fell in love with his car and then the driver. We think Ken was smitten at first sight. Opposites attract and they complimented each other beautifully.

In 1969, he graduated from Ferris State College with a Bachelor of Science degree in Business and Advertising. Ken & Susie were also happily married in 1969 and moved to Oakland County, Mi. They enjoyed many fun years traveling together; tropical and ski destinations, music concerts, sailing trips and brave cross-county adventures in their VW bus.

Ken worked at WWJ Television in the early 70's in the Traffic Department scheduling commercials. Later he was a successful Senior Account Executive in the insurance industry, until his retirement.

If you knew him, you understood how much he loved and adored his sweet and beautiful wife, Susie, of 55 years. He was also very proud of his two children, Ashley and Tyler. Ken's only grandchild, Emry, brought him so much happiness and joy! They loved spending time together; shared a likeness and a very special bond.

His second love was undoubtedly their 1964 Austin Healey 3000. It was technically Susan's car, but Ken was obsessed with working on it, taking it to car shows, and driving it everywhere and whenever possible. He would often tell people that Susan still had her first car AND her first husband.

Ken always drove with the convertible top down, even in frigid 30 degree weather; wearing a hat and gloves, of course. Driving with Ken was an adventure, to say the least.

The Woodward Dream Cruise was a HUGE deal in the Lybolt household. Ken was so proud having the "Healey" on front row display in the same location (Rockingham/13 Mile & Woodward) for the past 30 years. Oh, and don't forget the old Mattel Barbie car and antique picnic basket on the back! They were true event staples, a local legend of sorts.

Ken's one-of-a-kind personality was BIG and he easily filled a room with his presence. It's safe to say he left a lasting impression on everyone he met. Ken enjoyed making people smile but his true gift was making them laugh. And he was really good at it! Always prepared with a new joke to tell, his clever quick-witted humor was unmatched and his favorite "heard it a million times" stories actually seemed to get better every time.

It didn't matter where you were with Ken; he knew somebody, or somebody knew him. The "Joke-Man" was forever trying out his new funny material on random people; waitresses, doctors, grocery store clerks, neighbors, mail-carriers, strangers; you name it, he was not bashful and everyone he met offered a new opportunity for a laugh.

In fact, it was literally impossible for Ken to be embarrassed, by ANY situation. This rare talent had been scientifically tested and proven over the years. However, those closest to him were not equally blessed with this bold ability; and could often be found silently cringing, holding their breath or hiding under a nearby table. Susan always joked that Ken needed a mute button!

Ken was not a person you put on speaker phone and he wasn't known for being "politically correct"; but he was humble, kind and thoughtful, and was always lending a helpful hand to others. When duty called, he was always there. Whether you needed to borrow tools, a ride to the airport, help moving,

or shoveling snow; he was your guy.

He played a huge role in the daily care for his elderly in-laws and was the best son-in-law. Ken was their loyal companion, personal shopper, doctor appointment chauffeur, grass mower, and a constant source of smiles for many years.

As many can attest to; he was also a supreme garage sale guru! Old vacuum cleaners and bicycles were his all-time favorite salvaged prizes. Trying to pass off random junk he picked (and repaired) to friends and family was his main objective, and it was difficult to say no to Ken. But we often did.

Ken was a sharp dresser; he would wear the coolest British "sports car" caps, classic plaid shirts and Sperry Top-Sider shoes or penny loafers. His collection of unique hats and neckties was impressive.

He was a record setting competitive swimmer in high school and college. He loved playing golf, sailing, skiing and doing crossword puzzles. He had a favorite chair, wallet, watch, coffee mug, and spoon. Ken spent a lot of time soaking up the sun; working in the yard, fixing things and reading. He had a sweet twinkle in his eyes when he was having fun and he gave the very best hugs.

Some of our most favorite family memories were made "up-north" at the Lake Arrowhead cottage in Gaylord and at Boyne Mountain. We also had a lot of fun on Cass Lake, at Cedar Point and attending lots of sporting events.

Ken enjoyed eating a big bowl of ice cream every night and was a huge fan of banana bread. Meatloaf, Chili-mac, pulled pork and pancakes were his specialty in the kitchen. BBQ ribs, cheeseburgers and fries were his restaurant favorites. Every time he went to the grocery store (Costco!), he

picked up bananas, baked beans and cookies.

He disliked T-shirts, shaving, long lines, traffic and waiting for literally anything. And Barry Manilow, he was not a fan. Sorry, Barry. Oh, and seatbelts, "newer" gasoline cans and instruction labels. Safety precautions were not really his thing.

Some might not know this, but Ken was also an excellent dancer, and so fun to dance with too! He loved getting out on the dance floor whenever the right songs came on. We all have fond memories watching him "cut a rug" to Bob Segar's "Old Time Rock & Roll" or "Shout" by the Isley Brothers.

Ken would often get into "trouble" as we'd like to say. Always coming up with some sort of non-conventional, off-the-wall idea or solution that typically led to the predictable, headshaking "Why in the heck did he do that?!?" results. Being an accident prone wild man definitely had its issues. The family would tease him that if his own 'Reality Show' ever took off, it should appropriately be named, "Oh, Ken!!

He had a spiritual side too. Ken knew the bible well and enjoyed attending meetings at the Kingdom Hall. His faith and beliefs provided much strength and hope when he needed it most.

Ken was preceded in death by his cherished parents, Kenneth W. Lybolt and Berneice (Rearick) Lybolt; beloved in-laws, Russell and Joanna (DelliColli) Follick; and dear brother-in law, Peter Gray. He is survived by his wife, Susan Lybolt; sister, Sondra Gray; children, Ashley (Steve) Wrobel and Tyler (Amy) Lybolt; his treasured grandson, Emry Zane; and many wonderful cousins, niece and nephew.

We miss you so much Ken Lybolt aka, Kenny, Dad, Poppa Frog, Big Poppa!

We know you'll be sending us special signs and messages from above to make us smile and laugh. With all our love...always and forever, until we met again.

Please honor Ken by reading some jokes by his favorite comedians, Steven Wright and George Carlin. Watch some silly Mel Brooks movies, wash down some warm chocolate chip cookies with a root beer float, and build the biggest (smokiest) bonfire possible!

The family is planning a celebration of his life for a later date. Ken wants us to cherish all the good times and happy memories shared together. He hated stuffy funerals and wanted a party versus a sad event with tears. Duggan's Irish Pub on Woodward was his favorite hang-out spot and his Austin Healey Club meeting location. Details will be shared at a later date.

Tribute Wall

LF

“ Ken with his favorite person, eating his favorite food, at his favorite restaurant, wearing his favorite shirt...and seated outdoors with his favorite car in view. It was the perfect day and he was a happy man



Lybolt Family - December 30, 2025 at 11:23 AM

SL



Susan Lybolt - February 05 at 09:10 AM

LF

“ Dad was so proud of this super cool & fun feature by Hagerty. Don't miss the additional 8 photos at the end of the article. Enjoy!
<https://www.hagerty.com/media/car-profiles/barbie-ken-big-love-and-a-big-healey/>

Lybolt Family - November 26, 2025 at 11:35 AM

LF

“ Shared from the Midland Daily News: November 8, 2025

Friend and acquaintance since high school. My sincerest condolences.

Steve Aloff

Lybolt Family - November 25, 2025 at 10:45 AM

SL

Thank you for your message ❤️

Susan Lybolt - February 05 at 09:09 AM

LF

“ Shared from the Midland Daily News: November 9, 2025

I knew Ken in high school a million years ago and he was a great guy. Very fun to be around with a great sense of humor. My best memory of Ken was always seeing him hitchhiking. Took him home a few times. My deepest sympathy to his wife and family. May God wrap you in his arms and give you comfort. Sincerely, Diane Grimason, née Vandenberg.

Lybolt Family - November 25, 2025 at 10:43 AM

SL

Thank you for sharing your sweet memories of Ken ❤️

Susan Lybolt - January 20 at 01:04 PM

LF

“ Shared from the Midland Daily News: November 9, 2025

Ken was a fun friend in high school. I'm so glad he attended our class reunions so we could catch up with him every five years! It is very sad that he has passed on. Condolences and love to his family. May God bring you all comfort. Sandy Caldecourt Dunlap

Lybolt Family - November 25, 2025 at 10:42 AM

SL

Thank you for sharing your memories of Ken ❤️

Susan Lybolt - January 20 at 01:02 PM

HB

“ *Bob and Pat Halleck: We purchased the Arrowhead cabin from the Follicks in 1995, along with the Yott family. We have lived there for the last 15 years. I knew Ken well from our Paint Creek days, where we shared a lot of golf. Sorry to hear of Ken's passing.*

Halleck Bob/Pat - November 11, 2025 at 12:06 PM

SL

Thank you Bob and Pat, so nice to hear from you. We celebrated our 50th Anniversary at Lake Arrowhead with family. It was so nice of you to let us see how you updated the inside & outside of the cabin and love it like we did. ❤️

Susan Lybolt - November 12, 2025 at 11:27 AM

PK

“ *I was sorry to hear of Ken's passing. We went to high school together and swam together for a year. In later years we would see each other at the Half Way House at Boyne Mountain. We always attended our high school reunions and I am very glad I saw him at the last one. Suzie I am sorry for your loss. Paul Kuehl*

Paul Kuehl - November 09, 2025 at 03:41 PM

SL

Thank you Paul. It was always fun seeing you at Boyne Mountain and Ken loved going to your high school reunions. He was so happy to see you at that last one ❤️

Susan Lybolt - November 10, 2025 at 07:32 PM

TR

Susie, Trevor and I are so sorry to hear of Kenny's passing. We so enjoyed reading his wonderful obit. Trevor has many fond memories of when they were young and crazy. lol. It sounds like you both had a great life together. We love you. ❤️

Trevor & Julia Reyher - November 19, 2025 at 10:05 AM

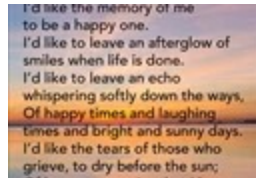
SL

Thank you Trevor & Julie, we have great photos of the family gatherings at the lake house. So many wonderful memories ❤️

Susan Lybolt - November 26, 2025 at 08:39 PM

TF

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



The Lybolt Family - November 08, 2025 at 11:53 AM

AM



Amy - November 08, 2025 at 12:57 PM

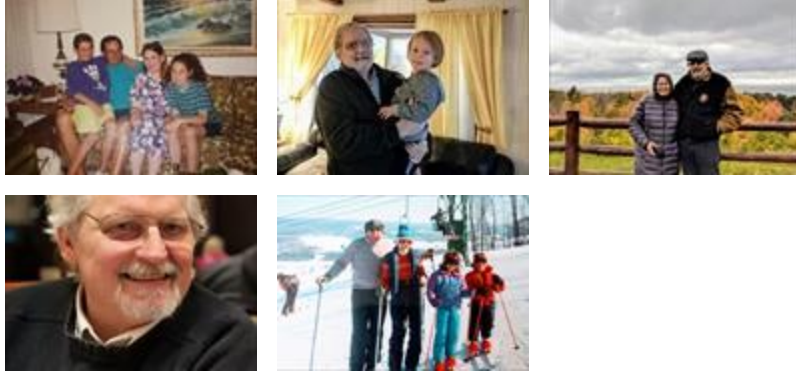
AS

We all think Dad would have loved this poem by Helen Lowrie Marshall.

Ashley - November 09, 2025 at 07:01 AM

AS

“ *“Sometimes memories sneak out of my eyes and roll down my cheeks”....
Missing you my dear sweet and wonderful Poppa Frog. Love you, always. XO*



Ashley - November 08, 2025 at 11:19 AM

AS

Smiles for miles in these photos! I'll cherish all the happy times we shared forever in my heart.

Ashley - November 09, 2025 at 07:30 AM

SL



Susan Lybolt - February 05 at 08:59 AM

SW

“ *1 file added to the tribute wall*



Steve Wrobel - November 08, 2025 at 09:40 AM

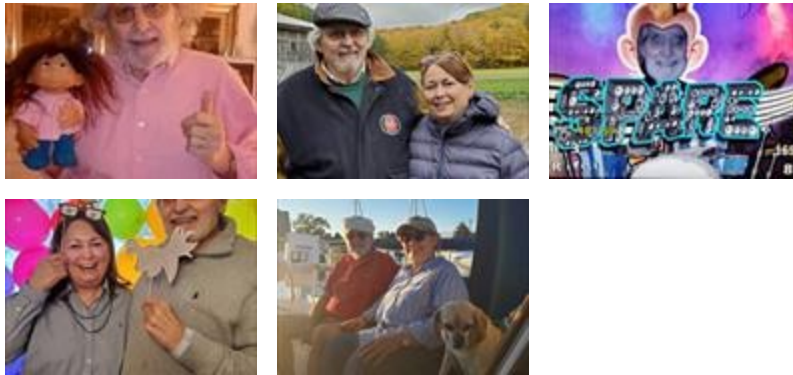
SW

So many good times... ❤️

Steve Wrobel - November 08, 2025 at 09:44 AM

AL

“ *we love and miss you so much, big papa* 💖



Amy Lybolt - November 07, 2025 at 09:46 PM



“ *1 file added to the tribute wall*



. - October 30, 2025 at 03:42 PM

JS

Ken had one of the most generous hearts of anyone I have ever met. He was kind, funny, unique, and the world lost a special man when he left us. Thanks for helping me Ken. I love you.—Jackie ☐💔

Jackie Sheridan - October 31, 2025 at 07:09 AM

DP

What a beautifully written tribute to this wonderful man. He will be dearly missed and I'm sure he's smiling with those who went before him. May he rest in peace.

Denise and Dan Polasky - November 03, 2025 at 08:50 AM

SL

Thank you Denise, Dan and Jackie for your sweet comments ❤️

Susan Lybolt - February 05 at 09:15 AM