



Kent B. Henze

April 18, 1939 - January 4, 2011

HENZE, Kent B. age 71, died January 4, 2011. He was born April 18, 1939 in Detroit, Michigan. He worked over 40 years in the steel business. He was also an accomplished Jazz Pianist. He began taking classical piano when he was just 5 years old. He was an avid sailor and loved sailing. He spent much of his leisure time sailing his Wayfarer sailboat on Lake St. Clair, Stoney Creek, and Lake Missaukee in Lake City, Michigan. He is survived by his beloved wife, Carol, his children: Kelli Gerry Zelenak, Scott Karen Melissa Dale Wakulat. Proud grandfather of Ashley Jean Zelenak and Ashley Ann Wakulat. Preceded in death by his parents: Bill and Nona; and his brother Curtis B. Henze. Visitation will be Sunday 2:00 pm - 9:00 pm and his funeral service Monday at 11:00 am at Wm. Sullivan & Son Funeral Home, 8459 Hall Road 3 blks east of Van Dyke. In lieu of flowers memorial contributions appreciated to the Huntington's Disease Society of America HDSA 505 Eighth Avenue, Suite 902, New York, New York 10018 for Research. Please share a memory with the family at: www.sullivanfuneraldirectors.com

Tribute Wall

JS

“ Dear Carol: We were so saddened to hear about the passing of Kent. I know he is in a better place today as he was such a wonderful and loving Husband, Father, Grandfather, & Friend to so many people. Our hearts are with you even though we could not be there. We have so many good memories of the times we spent together. The nightly visits on your front porch, Dancing at Nashville North, Going to the Fellowship Sing A Longs, Skiing at Shanty Creek, and so many other events. He was so talented with his music, sailing, landscaping, computer skills, and so many other things. His dedication to playing the piano for Fellowship Church. I know he will be greatly missed, but his love will live on forever. Our Love and Gods Blessings Jim and Sharon

Jin & Sharon Storms - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

SB

“ So sorry to hear about Kent. I had a crush on him in high school and thought he was very cool. I liked the way he dressed and the way he talked to people. I was so glad to see him at the 50th reunion of Denby High, even though he looked very thin. He stood in the food line with me a while. I could tell it was hard for him but he was pleasant to be with. Bless Carol and his children and the rest of his family.

Sandra Brinker - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

WS

“ One of my fondest memories is attending a dance at Denby High School where Kent's small Jazz band played.

William J Schaefer - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

CT

“ Good Night sweet Prince, we shall miss you!!!

Claudia Koury Thomas - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

ME

“ One of my fondest memories is up north in Lake City canoeing with the family. I will never forget the song "There is a hole in the bottom of the sea". Sadly as the youngest of the clan you had me as your guidesorry about that, but I learned the whole song. Thank you for your talents as a musician, I was truly blessed to have your inspiration in my life. Thank you for your love, guidance and support, always! I love and miss you and I know you are now at peace. I Love you Dad

Melissa - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

JT

“ For Kent, who played the music, here are the lyrics to one of his favorite tunes, "My Shining Hour" This moment, this minute And each second in it Will leave a glow upon the sky And as time goes by, it will never die This will be my shining hour Calm and happy and bright In my dreams, your face will flower Through the darkness of the night Like the lights of home before me Or an angel, watching o'er me This will be my shining hour 'Til I'm with you again Rest in peace, my friend. For a copy of John's eulogy given at Kent's memorial service, email zoolion@aol.com

John Townsend - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

CK

“ Oh, Carol & family: Our dear Kent can now rest in peace. We have lost a wonderful friend & musician. To this day I talk about his fabulous talent. Kent leaves a space that can never be filled.

Carol KrugColling - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

BC

“ Kent was a special person. I remember how he tried to help me with college algebra when I went back to school, and how he converted our family Super 8 movies to VCR tapes as a surprise Christmas gift for Harry. Kent could easily make me laugh. Once I had talked him into dropping me off at a friend's house up north on his way to see some of his business clients. It was early in the morning, and he missed the exit. He proceeded to back up on the freeway, and we continued on our journey. That's when I laughed! I also remember the fun that we had on our church Road Rallies with Carol and Kent. We tried so hard to win, and I think we really did once. But, the laughs I remember the most! Kent is gone but the memories will always be with us!

Beverly Collins - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

HC

“ I enjoy remembering all the great times with Kent. From hearing him play the organ at Fellowship, paddling as fast as we could with no wind and a thunderstorm coming up north or going skiing and too much ouzo on New Years Eve. Kent was special.

Harry Collins - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

ML

“ To the Henze Family i remember growing up with Melissa and coming over and listening to all the funny jokes Mr.Henze would tell us...he was a good man... may he rest in peace

Melissa Leon - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

KZ

“ To my DAD, I have always loved and respected you!! We may have butt heads a few times, but that's because we were a lot alike! You taught me morals, which I have held on to my whole life, among other things! I will miss and love you forever!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

kelli zelenak - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

BC

“ Carol, Know that Kent, you and your children are in our hearts. Much love to you- Paula and Bill

Bill and Paula Casey - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

BW

“ We have several fond memories of Uncle Kent, including his rearranging the "NOEL" block letters above their fireplace on Christmas. Sometimes it might read "LEON" and other times it might be missing a letter and simply read "OEL". When we'd ask what happened, he'd slyly reply "There's no L..." Our thoughts & prayers are with you Auntie, and with the entire family.

Bob & Tanya Wingate - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

KC

“ Mrs. Henze, I am so deeply sorry for your loss. My thoughts and prayers go out to you and your family. Karyn Read Courtis

Karyn Read Courtis - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

JW

“ I remember visiting him as a child and hearing his sailing stories and seeing his boat models in the basement. His pool table was the first one I had ever played. I'm so sorry to hear of his passing.

Joshua Wingate - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

DP

“ Some fond and lasting memories of my Uncle Kent include: Christmas Eve's around the piano as he played and we sang, the exchange of money and handshake every Christmas between him and his brother Curt my father, him and my father doing rain dances around the firepit in Lake City where we vacationed every summer, his love for sweets, especially cookies, and when asked at birthday parties what he would like and his reply well a little bit of everything. And last of all his smile and his laugh. These are just a few of the many. He will be missed but live on with the memories we all have.

Dawn Parkin - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

CW

“ Carol, I was very sorry to hear of Kent's passing. Memories of Kent include when we had the same piano teacher around the 6th grade. His lesson followed mine and she asked me to stay and play a classical piece for him. Apparently, Kent didn't like to practice what she assigned. I was embarrassed because I knew what a terrific pianist he was already. I needed music in front of me, Kent could play by-ear and improvise. I also can picture him entertaining us at a grade school graduation party at my house. I'm sure all of us have many fond grade school, high school and reunion memories of our good friend. May God comfort you and your family.

Charlotte Whitelock - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

CV

“ My heartfelt sympathy goes out to you and your family, Carol. Kent and I shared our love for music in that department at Denby just a few years ago, or so it seems. May God bless you. Carol

Carol Osborn Vandenameele - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

JS

“ Carol & family, my heart aches for your loss, but Kent is through suffering now. I'll always remember his teasing me with fondness although I reminded him of it in recent years. The world has lost a fine and talented man.

Judy Miesel Smith - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

DH

“ Seems like yesterday we sat together in Mr Meyers house 101 at Denby. He was a very classy guy and a Good Friend. So very sorry for your loss.

Don Hamlin - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

LS

“ Deepest sympathy to Carol and family. Kent was a good friend and a great jazz pianist. I am fortunate to have his CD recording so I can continue to listen to his music. The classes of Goodale 53 and Denby 57 have lost a treasure. He fought a long battle and now his suffering is over. May he rest in peace. God bless all of you.

Larry Stone - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

LP

“ Hi everybody, my second family, On behalf of all of the Pioch's, I would like to say a fond goodbye to Mr. Henze. He did fight a long and strong battle. He was so very proud of all of you and loved you very much. Be assured of that! He will be missed but deserves peace now. Please think of something humorous when you think of him, he would want that. Peace and Love to all!! Laura

Laura Pioch-Bulak - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

JP

“ I have many fond memories of Kent from Goodale Grade School. We used to walk home from school everyday, with his brother Curtis. He would talk about his music and I was surprised to find out he took tap dancing lessons. May your sorrow be replace by happy memories of the happy times you shared together

Jackie Kenney Powell - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

RT

“ Sad loss of a wonderful and talented Denby classmate.

Rosann Gobetti Toshich - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

MD

“ My heart goes out to you, Carol, and your family. Altho' far from Michigan I have thought often of you and Kent. I pray you are comforted by the many friends there who also loved him. As for me, my fond memory will be catching up with him after high school when he would be playing at some local place on the east side of Detroit. We felt cool to know the pianist who was awesome. I'm also glad to have had a little time to hear him at the reunions.

Marion Dries - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

SS

“ Ashley, I am so sorry to hear about your Grandfather. Please know that he is in our Prayers. Always remember his love and encouragement. Sharon Skupski

Sharon Skupski - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

MR

“ My deep felt sympathy and prayers for Carol and her children. Kent need not struggle anymore.He has been taken home to the Father.

Mary E. Renaud - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

BE

“ Kent will be missed so very much. A fellow classmate from Goodale Grade School and Denby High School, you will always be remembered. Your wonderful jazz piano music and more, was a true gift to others. You fought long and hard, but now you rest in peace. Amen.

BettyStickleKordas - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

CG

“ I am saddened. At Denby, Kent was "cool" before the rest of us knew what that meant. And he was a gentleman. At the 50th Reunion I took some photos of him and Jackie Kenney together and later sent them to Kent. He phoned me to say how much he appreciated it especially because he and Jackie used to walk home together from Goodale school and the pictures brought back such good memories. He was still cool and a gentleman. And I was so touched. May God bless him and console his family. Clive Gemmill, Denby '57

clive gemmill - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

RG

“ We send our thoughts to your family and wish you many fond memories.

Robert and lisa Gustafson - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM