



Kent Cooper Rathbun

January 7, 1942 - April 7, 2026

Kent Cooper Rathbun, age 84, a longtime resident of Royal Oak, passed away on April 7, 2026. He was born on January 7, 1942 in Mt. Pleasant to Laurence Rathbun and Helen Cooper Rathbun.

Kent was a graduate of Seaholm High School in Birmingham. He went on to earn his bachelor's degree from Albion College and later his MBA from Michigan State University. During his college years, he was a proud member of the Sigma Chi fraternity.

He built his career working as a sales representative in his family's business. Outside of work, Kent led an active and engaged life. He was a member of the Wolverine Sports Club, the Royal Oak Historical Society, and the Royal Oak Friends of the Library. An accomplished sailor, he participated in sailboat races and found great joy on the water. In his youth, he achieved the rank of Eagle Scout, reflecting a lifelong commitment to leadership and service.

Kent maintained a wide circle of friends throughout his life, many of whom shared his passions for running, cycling, and sailing. He will be remembered for his active spirit, friendships, and dedication to the community.

He was the dear brother of the late Diane (Dick, still living) Munt.

Visitation will be held Monday from 11:30 a.m. until the time of the funeral service at 1:30 p.m. at Wm. Sullivan & Son Funeral Home, 705 W. 11 Mile Rd. (4 blocks east of Woodward), Royal Oak.

Interment will take place at Crystal Lake Township Cemetery North in Frankfort, Michigan.

Memorial contributions in Kent's memory may be made to No One Dies Alone (NODA) c/o Royal Oak Spiritual Care, No One Dies Alone Program, 26901 Beaumont Blvd., Southfield 48033 (corewellhealth.org/foundation/se/donate) or American Cancer Society.

To share a memory or offer condolences, please visit www.sullivanfuneraldirectors.com.

Cemetery Details

Crystal Lake township Cemetery North

Frankfort, MI

Previous Events

Visitation

APR 13. 11:00 AM - 2:00 PM (ET)

Wm. Sullivan and Son Funeral Directors-Royal Oak
705 W. Eleven Mile Road
Royal Oak, MI 48067

Funeral Service

APR 13. 1:30 PM (ET)

Wm. Sullivan and Son Funeral Directors-Royal Oak
705 W. Eleven Mile Road
Royal Oak, MI 48067

Tribute Wall



“ Kent was a "member" if you will, of a group of runners who ran together, hung out together, dated, sometimes even married one another in the early 80s to early 90s. We were affectionately known as the "Butts & Nuts". I came to know him through that group. Kent was a special person, always had a kind word for everyone, and, as others have said, had a bunch of stories he was always willing to share. He was a good man who is at peace now.

Claudia Piepenburg - May 05 at 12:59 PM



“ Kent lived down the street from us. So sorry to hear of this; a very nice man, and interesting to talk to. He knew everything that was going on!

Tim Baughman

Timothy Baughman - April 17 at 10:47 AM



“ Kamilo and I use to ride with Kent. He was such an amazing man. He even would stop over at our place with blueberries. He will be forever missed.

Dawn - April 13 at 09:36 AM



“ Kent was such a kind and thoughtful man. Whenever I saw him around town, he always took the time to say hello and ask me how I was doing. I truly enjoyed our conversations, especially hearing about his love of cycling and his trips to Holland, Michigan. He will be deeply missed.

Sarah - April 10 at 12:50 PM

SL

Kent couldn't ride by our house without stopping to say hello, chat and share fascinating stories about his life adventures. Our garage door was always open as our car was always undergoing repairs of one sort or another and he would brighten our day. We will always miss his kind ways and thoughtfulness.

Susan Lybolt - May 05 at 02:40 PM