



Kenneth Meeks Dunn

October 20, 1923 - April 2, 2016

Kenneth Meeks Dunn died on April 2, 2016 in hospice. He was 92 years old and a resident of Edgewood Summit in Charleston.

Ken was a proud native of the rural community of Pliny, WV, one of the state's most devoted Mountaineers and a talented civil engineer. Born October 20, 1923, in Pliny, he graduated from Point Pleasant High School, where he met his future wife, Mary Stanley. Following three years as a B-17 navigator during World War II, he attended Marshall University and received his BSCE from WVU in 1950. A Registered Professional Engineer since 1951, Ken had a 34-year career improving the water distribution, storm and sanitary sewer systems across the state. After working with private firms and the Road Commission as a District Engineer, Director of Prison Labor Division and State Equipment Engineer, he formed the Kenneth M. Dunn Company in 1959 and built it into one of the leading utility contracting firms in West Virginia. He was inducted as a charter member of the Civil Engineering Academy of Distinguished Alumni of WVU in 2005. His passion was farming in Mason County where he enjoyed spending time at his home place.

Ken served as president of the WV Contractors Association and on the board of directors of the American Road Builders Association, the Associated General Contractors of America and Kanawha Banking and Trust. He was the treasurer for John D. Rockefeller's two gubernatorial campaigns. Governor Rockefeller appointed him to the Board of Regents and Governor Gaston Caperton appointed him the first Secretary of the Department of Transportation.

He was a long-standing member of Highlawn Presbyterian Church in St. Albans.

Ken was predeceased by his beloved wife, Mary, and his son Randall Keith Dunn.

He is survived by four children: Virginia Ellen Dunn of San Diego, Kendra Lee Dunn of Philadelphia, Charles Stanley Dunn (Jill) of South Charleston and Martha Louise Dunn of Philadelphia; a daughter-in-law Patti Dunn Childs of Athens, GA; three grandchildren;

Kenneth Carter Dunn of Athens, GA, Emily Dove Dunn of Gahanna, OH and Mary Rose Dunn of South Charleston; companion Carolyn Smithers of St. Albans; and caregiver Shirley Stone of South Charleston.

Funeral service will be held at 11:00am Thursday April 7, 2016 at Chapman Funeral Home, Hurricane with the Rev. Nancy Didway officiating. Burial will follow in the Bowcott Cemetery at Mt. Union United Methodist Church, Pliny.

Visitation will be from 6-8pm Wednesday at the funeral home.

Donations may be made in Ken's memory to the Statler College of Engineering and Mineral Resources at WVU or Highlawn Presbyterian Church in St. Albans.

Friends and family are encouraged to leave memories of Ken on his tribute page at www.chapmanfuneralhomes.com

Chapman Funeral Home, family-owned and located at 3941 Teays Valley Road, Hurricane is honored to serve the Dunn family.

Cemetery Details

Bowcott Cemetery

19268 Jerry's Run Road
Located at Mount Union Church
Fraziers Bottom, WV 25082

Previous Events

Visitation

APR 6. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Chapman Funeral Home Hurricane
3941 Teays Valley Road
Hurricane, WV 25526
(304) 757-7531
info@chapmanfuneralhomes.com
<https://www.chapmanfuneralhomes.com>

Funeral Service

APR 7. 11:00 AM (ET)

Chapman Funeral Home Hurricane
3941 Teays Valley Road
Hurricane, WV 25526
(304) 757-7531
info@chapmanfuneralhomes.com
<https://www.chapmanfuneralhomes.com>

Tribute Wall



“ *Kenneth Meeks Dunn*

October 06, 2023 at 08:41 AM



“ *My husband Danny White started work for Mr. Dunn right out of college and even though my husband died at age 49 Mr. Dunn kept in touch with us right up until the last few months. I was honored to be a part of his Christmas luncheon at Berry Hills . My family loved Mr. and Mrs. Dunn. I actually live in the house he and Mary had in Charleston. Will miss this fine gentleman*

Judy White

judith white - April 13, 2016 at 07:04 AM



“ *We are so sorry to learn of the passing of Mr. Dunn and express our deep condolences to the Dunn family. He was a great man, and we know he was a positive influence in so many ways to his family.*



Marlette and Helen Carter - April 07, 2016 at 08:10 AM



Thank you for your kind words.

Ginny Dunn - April 10, 2016 at 03:20 PM



“ *Tom and I enjoyed knowing all the family of Ken and Mary Dunn, Ken made ever one who worked with and for him family, he was a good and kind man, will always remember him who we did admire and with the most respect, he will be sadly missed. Mary E Staples and Family.*

Mary E Staple - April 06, 2016 at 04:59 PM



Thank you, Mary. So nice to hear from you.

Ginny Dunn - April 10, 2016 at 03:22 PM

RN

“ I can't describe how much admiration and respect I have for Kenneth Dunn. He was always kind and gracious and more importantly a role model for me when I needed one the most. Kenneth Dunn provided me with the opportunity to work for his company for several years which allowed me to get through college. Working for the Kenneth M. Dunn Co. was one of the best experiences of my life, laying the foundation for my career. From day one I witnessed the love and unquestionable dedication the employees had for Mr. Dunn. I am so grateful for everything Kenneth Dunn did for me and my family, and I was so fortunate that my friend Randy and the entire Dunn family let me be apart of their lives.

Our thoughts and prayers are with the Dunn family.
Randy Noble

Randy Noble - April 06, 2016 at 08:00 AM

GD

Thank you for the beautiful tribute, Randy. The Dunns have known the Nobles for a long time. I was sorry to hear of Skip's passing. My belated condolences to you and your family.

Ginny Dunn - April 10, 2016 at 03:24 PM

BC

“ Who can forget Ken, one frosty morning in 1950 swinging that old , long-barreled Model 97 Winchester pump on a speeding rabbit and bowling it over at 90 yards range!!! Fondest memories and deepest sympathy and condolences to Ken's family from his cousin Bertram, also a Dunn from the Pliny/Dunlavey Ridge tribe all descended from William Dunn born in Bond's Glen Northern Ireland and buried with his wife Martha (Adams) on the old family farm.

Bertram Dunn cousin - April 05, 2016 at 01:34 PM

GD

Thank you for sharing that memory, Bertram, and your sympathy.

Ginny Dunn - April 10, 2016 at 03:25 PM

YP

“ Your friends at M Partners purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Kenneth Meeks Dunn.



Your friends at M Partners - April 05, 2016 at 01:21 PM

MW

“ *Mr. Dunn and his wife were good friends of my ex-in-laws, Mr and Mrs Lewis and Carletta Wears. We proud to know him and his wife and proud for Pliny to be called the "old home place". Mr Dunn will be missed.*

Mr and Mrs Craig Miles, Pliny, WV - April 05, 2016 at 12:35 PM

GD

Thank you for your kind words. Pliny will always be the home place to the Dunns.

Ginny Dunn - April 10, 2016 at 03:28 PM

CD

“ *On behalf of Bertram Foglesong Dunn and his family we send our deepest condolences. Dad has always spoken highly of Ken, and enjoyed reconnecting during family reunions and a few other times in more recent years.*

I personally enjoyed meeting Ken at the family reunions in the 1990's and learning and discussing his service to our country and enjoying Clifford, Joe, Ken and other cousins of the same generation sharing family stories and providing us an understanding of the history of our family.

Please know you are in our thoughts and prayers.

*Christopher Dunn
Pittsburgh, PA*

Christopher Dunn - April 05, 2016 at 10:56 AM

GD

Thank you so much for your kind words and prayers. -- Ginny Dunn

Ginny Dunn - April 10, 2016 at 03:33 PM

CR

“ *Sympathy to Ginny Dunn and family members. Loving thoughts to all.*

Carolyn Roche - April 04, 2016 at 10:27 PM

KC

“ *I have been blessed to know Ken mostly in his later years. I remember his family growing up in Highlawn Presbyterian Church. He was a wonderful leader of people. He is with God now; heaven's gain : 1: Kathy Smithers Crist*

Kathy Smithers Crist - April 04, 2016 at 07:49 PM

GD

Thank you, Kathy. We all love your mother and are so glad our families met.

Ginny Dunn - April 10, 2016 at 03:31 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Kenneth Meeks Dunn.*



April 04, 2016 at 02:45 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Kenneth Meeks Dunn.*



April 04, 2016 at 11:41 AM

LT

“ *Worked for this man for 13 1/2 years and found him to be one of the finest and most honorable man I have ever met. Our prayers are with the family.*

Larry Totten

Larry Totten - April 04, 2016 at 11:25 AM

DM

“ *Debbie Morton lit a candle in memory of Kenneth Meeks Dunn*



Debbie Morton - April 04, 2016 at 06:10 AM

SF

“ *Back to Pliny - back home...*

*With love,
Sarah Dunn Fisher*

Sarah Dunn Fisher - April 03, 2016 at 08:59 PM



Indeed

Ginny Dunn - April 10, 2016 at 03:32 PM



“ 1 file added to the album *Memories Album*



Chapman Funeral Homes - April 03, 2016 at 02:10 PM