



Kenneth Ray Higginbotham

June 27, 1937 - May 11, 2025

Kenneth R. Higginbotham passed away peacefully on Sunday May 11, 2025. He is the son of the late George Luther and Hannah Bell Barnett Higginbotham of Red House, WV. In addition to his parents, Ken was preceded in death by his siblings: Clarence O. "Lefty", James L "Preacher", Carl W., and E. Carrolene Rollins.

Ken is survived by his loving wife of 65 years, Janice L. Woodrum Higginbotham; children: Jennifer Fleming and Kevin Higginbotham (Teresa) of Culloden, WV; siblings: Robert L. (Deak) of Eleanor, WV, Marvin E. (Betty) of Red House, WV, Clayton E. (Pete) of Cross Lanes, WV, and Naomi R. Lanier (Chuck) of Pt. Pleasant, WV. Kenneth was blessed to have 3 grandchildren, 6 great-grandchildren; as well as many nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.

Kenneth was born one of nine children at home on June 27, 1937, in Red House, WV. He graduated from Poca High School in 1955 and attended Morris Harvey College on a four-year football scholarship and graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in 1959. Kenneth earned a Master's Degree in Guidance and Counseling at the University of South Florida and a Master's Degree in School Administration and Supervision at Stetson University in Florida.

Spanning 26 years in Florida and West Virginia, Ken ended his work in

education as the Superintendent of Putnam County Schools in West Virginia in 1985. For his final 34 years Ken was involved in various businesses in the Kanawha Valley. He was most proud of forming Aluminum Metalworks where he worked for over 30 years as an Owner and Operator.

Growing up on a farm, Ken enjoyed the outdoors. He loved hunting and fishing with family and friends. He cheered on all West Virginia sports his favorite love, football.

Family was always very important, it came first. Ken loved meeting people and was a wonderful storyteller. In all aspects of his life he was a true leader, firm but compassionate, always willing to listen. Ken's characteristics and moral beliefs were greatly influenced by becoming a 32 Degree Mason and 56-year member of the Scottish Rite Orient. He will be greatly missed by all who had the privilege to know him.

Funeral Service for Ken will be 1:00 pm Monday May 19, 2025 at Chapman Funeral Home Hurricane, WV with Pastor Kent Estep officiating. Entombment will follow at Haven of Rest Memory Gardens Red House, WV.

Friends may visit with the family from 11:00 am until time of service.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests memorial donations be made in Ken's name to: Emogene Dolin Jones Hospice House 3100 Staunton Road Huntington, WV 25702 or to a charity of your choice.

Anyone wishing to leave an online memory may do so by visiting Ken's tribute page at: www.chapmanfuneralhomes.com.

Chapman Funeral Home 3941 Teays Valley Road Hurricane, WV 25526 is honored to serve the Higginbotham family.

Cemetery Details

Haven of Rest Memory Gardens

Rt 62
Red House, WV

Previous Events

Visitation

MAY 19. 11:00 AM - 1:00 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

MAY 19. 1:00 PM (ET)

Chapman Funeral Home
3941 Teays Valley Road
Hurricane, WV 25526

Tribute Wall



“ Chapman Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Kenneth Ray Higginbotham



Chapman Funeral Homes - May 21, 2025 at 08:29 AM

KR

“ I was deeply saddened to hear of the passing of Mr. Higginbotham. He was a remarkable leader, and someone I held in the highest regard—not just for his professional excellence, but for the kind of person he was. His steady guidance, integrity, and genuine care for others left a lasting impression on me, and I still find myself sharing stories and lessons I learned from him all these years later to my training of teachers and future administrators.

More than just a respected superintendent, he was a model parent and human being—someone who led with both wisdom and heart. His influence reached far beyond his role, and his legacy continues in the lives he touched, including mine.

My heartfelt condolences to his family and all who loved him. He will be truly missed, but never forgotten.

Kent Runyan

Kent Runyan - May 21, 2025 at 11:35 AM

MP

“ My love, thoughts and prayers are with Mr. Higginbotham family and friends. I only had the privilege to meet him once while attending his great granddaughter’s Wllow’s birthday party. I was very fortunate to have a seat by him and his wife. We exchanged stories about our lives. It was a wonderful and very interesting conversation about our lives. I left there knowing I had made a new friends and felt very honored he shared his life stories with me. I know he will be greatly missed. I pray that God grants his friends and family comfort during this time of loss.

Mary Peer - May 19, 2025 at 01:07 PM

GM

Rest in peace my dear friend

Guy Meeks - May 21, 2025 at 02:09 PM

NA

“ Jan, Jennifer and Kevin,
I'm so sorry for your loss of your Husband and Father. He was a great, kind, good man. Your family and my family have a long, long, time friendship for many, many years. My condolences and my thoughts and prayers are with you all always and especially tomorrow. I will be thinking of you all!❤️ Love, Nancy Anderson-Hanshaw and family

Nancy Anderson-Hanshaw - May 18, 2025 at 06:20 PM

JS

“ I knew Ken as a student and as a business associate and I found that he always wanted to do things the right way. No shortcuts or bending the rules he went by the rules. Honesty and integrity are what comes to mind when I remember Ken. Rest in peace.

Joseph sowers - May 18, 2025 at 09:24 AM

GG

“ Dear Higginbotham Family,
I'm wanting to say I was so sad to hear of Mr. Higginbotham passing. I have fond memories of Mr & Mrs. Higginbotham Jennifer and Kevin. When Jennifer and I dated while in high school. Please know that your all in our thoughts and prayers ❤️ Roberta and Glenn aka Bob Garrison 🙏.

Glenn (Bob) Garrison - May 17, 2025 at 04:42 PM

MP

My thoughts and prayers are with his family. I only met him once at his Great Granddaughter's Willow's birthday party. I got the honor and privilege to set and talk to him. We shared stories and I left there feeling I had a new friend. He and his family are wonderful and I just can't imagine the loss they're feeling today! May God continue to bless your beautiful family and send comfort during this time.

Mary Peet - May 19, 2025 at 12:46 PM

GA

“ I am so sorry to hear of Ken's passing. I was proud to be able to call him my cousin. Prayers for all of the family.

Glen Allison - May 17, 2025 at 04:09 AM

JC

“ Dear Higginbotham Family, I have known and worked alongside Ken for years to enhance young lives thru our foreign exchange program. He truly believed in our mutual vision to promote a peaceful world by cultural awareness and understanding. Some people leave a legacy of goodness behind them, and Ken did exactly just that. He will be truly missed. A donation will be sent per your request in his name and honor.

With our deepest sympathies, John Crist and the ICES Family



John Crist - May 16, 2025 at 06:53 PM

VR

“ *Worked with Kenny for many years , couldn't ask for a better friend! He was always there if you needed help or advice! May he rest in peace !!*

Virgil Rice - May 16, 2025 at 05:56 PM

JM

“ *Jan, Jennifer and Kevin: Please know that I am so very sad, losing another dear friend. Your Ken was a special one in my life and my family's. Joy McGehee*

Joy McGehee - May 16, 2025 at 12:07 PM

RT

“ *Mr. Higginbotham was the principal of Hurricane High when I was a student there. He was a wonderful man. A man who would listen to and support you if you had a problem or just needed to talk. He will be missed.*

My condolences to the family. I'll be keeping the family in my thoughts and prayers during this difficult time. RIP Mr. Higginbotham. 🙏💔

Robin Turley - May 15, 2025 at 10:38 PM

LH

“ *I went to Hurricane High when he was the Principal. I had an opportunity to talk with him one day and found him to be the most likable, compassionate and professional person. After all these years I still occasionally think about that day. He made such a positive impression on me. I can only imagine the loss his family must feel. May he rest in peace.*

Linda Harshbarger - May 15, 2025 at 10:43 AM



“ *Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Kenneth Ray Higginbotham.*



May 14, 2025 at 11:54 AM



“ *Pretty Please was purchased for the family of Kenneth Ray Higginbotham.*



May 13, 2025 at 09:57 PM



“ *What a sad day for everyone that knew this special gentleman. He was one the finest man I have had the honor to know. He was a teach, a coach and friend a person could have. Since my years at Nitro High School, I have had a special friendship with Kenny. He had the respect and admiration of myself and many of classmates from my from the school. He will be great missed by many of people and others he has touched. My NHS Class of 1964 had the honor of he and his wife attending our 60th class reunion this past fall. I will miss him and occasionally talking to him. Thank you Kenny for all the special memories.*

Michael Beller - May 13, 2025 at 03:15 PM



I am so sorry for your Loss. He was a leader in our community

Joyce Purdy - May 14, 2025 at 05:06 PM

SR

It was a privilege to know Uncle Kenny... as I knew him through Andrea ,.....He was a wonderful mentor to many and will be missed by family and friends...My condolences to Jan, Jennifer and Kevin...

Sonya Roush - May 17, 2025 at 10:29 AM

BL

Jan, Jennifer, Kevin, Teresa and family, Mom and I are so sorry for your loss. We got to know Ken and Jan when they moved next door as our neighbors. Ken was a wonderful man and was always offering to help in any way. We always enjoyed talking with him. It was a privilege knowing your dad. Our thoughts and prayers are with you.

Berta Bratton and Imogene Lackey - May 19, 2025 at 03:03 AM

MF

“ I am so sorry to lose another life long friend. Kenny and I are distant cousins through our mother’s’ family we knew each other in childhood and attended high school together at Poca High School. We went our separate ways after that and had our families and our careers that led us in different directions but our friendship continued through the years . Kenneth was a wonderful man who was a kind, generous person with everyone who came into his life. His family was very important to him and the thousands of young people who entered his classrooms or who participated on his sports teams surely benefitted from his example of a life well lived. I will miss the occasional phone calls or the shared moments at high school class gatherings. He will be missed by many and his memory will live on in the lives he touched and changed. Goodbye dear friend. You were well loved. Melva Garrison Fisher

melva Fisher - May 12, 2025 at 09:28 PM