



Ken Thurman Larison

January 25, 1953 - March 29, 2025

Ken was born January 25, 1953, in Alva, Oklahoma, to Margaret Mae (Lohmann) and Paul Wesley Larison. From a young age, he was a curious little guy, often taking things apart to see how they worked and typically putting them back together. Growing up in Alva as the second oldest of five children, Ken was known for his sweet, kind, thoughtful, and quiet nature, a loving presence who often took the blame for his siblings' youthful adventures. He also possessed an adventurous and occasionally ornery spirit, a trait that some say led to an unscheduled barn burning and possibly a car being pushed off a mountain in Colorado. The family later moved to Bartlesville where Ken attended Col-Hi with the Class of 1971. He skipped his senior year of high school and enlisted in the Navy at 17, receiving an honorable discharge before returning home to pursue his passion for cars. Eventually earning his GED, Ken went on to attend Tri-County Technology Center, where he completed training in automotive mechanics.

Driven by his passion, Ken embarked on his career in mechanics at Russ Rogers' Chevy City. Demonstrating a commitment to excellence, he became a lifelong learner, attaining multiple Automotive Service Excellence certifications. This dedication established him as a master diagnostic technician who relished the challenge of tackling "unsolvable cases." His entrepreneurial spirit led him and a friend to later open L&S Automotive in Tulsa, where they not only repaired vehicles but also sponsored and operated

the L&S Special #29 dirt track race car. Ken's skill at creatively interpreting racing regulations earned him several track championships and "local legend" status at the Tulsa and Caney Speedways. His career also included a period as a truck driver before being hired at Phillips 66 Transportation Center where he traveled the country welding inside the large fuel tanks of airplane refueling rigs. Returning to his enduring love of mechanics, Ken partnered with his brother Greg in 1989 to open A. C. & E. Service. There, he applied his expertise to a diverse range of machinery, from mowers to Mercedes, and backhoes to Broncos. He busted a few knuckles, and shed more than a little blood, sweat and tears to bring the fastidious service that each customer had come to expect. In his later years, he returned to the source of his passion, focusing on the classic cars that had first captivated him.

Ken's creativity extended beyond the garage; he was also a gifted singer-songwriter with a lifelong passion for music that began in his childhood, singing in the church choir. He honed his talents playing in various dinner clubs and bars around town and proudly recorded two songs that received airplay on local radio, fueling his dreams of making it big. With that ambition, he ventured to Nashville to pursue his musical aspirations. While the Nashville music industry didn't fully embrace him, the music Ken created brought immense joy and celebration to his family and friends, making him a star in their hearts. He shared this gift intimately, singing his children to sleep at night, and brought joy to family gatherings by leading enthusiastic family singalongs featuring his renditions of favorites like "Blue Eyes Crying in the Rain," "Folsom Prison Blues," and the more lighthearted "Dead Skunk in the Middle of the Road."

From a young age, Ken was captivated by golf, a passion that grew during his teenage years working at the Hillcrest Country Club pro shop. He envisioned a life where golf played a central role. However, the responsibilities of a young family meant he had to postpone fully embracing this dream. His love for the

game persisted, and in later years, as time allowed, he celebrated several achievements, including a cherished couples tournament win with Kathy, thanks to a long, decisive putt by Ken. Sunset Golf Club was a frequent destination, conveniently near his work. His retirement found him living on Adam's Golf Course, close to the spot on the third hole where he scored his memorable 171-yard hole-in-one.

Shortly after turning 18, Ken married Jeanece Hall. They had two sons, Bryan, born roughly a year and a half later, and Jon-Paul, who arrived nearly eight years after his brother. His family also grew to include a stepson, Curtis. Although he was often separated by distance and the busyness of life, he always kept up with and was so happy to tell about the many activities and accomplishments of his children and grandchildren. A father that always made sure Christmases were memorable, he continued that tradition with his grandchildren. The annual lunch of hot cheeseburgers with gravy overall and envelopes full of cash made Grandpa Ken's house a favorite at Christmas time.

Ken would eventually meet the love of his life Kathy Link. Their commitment to each other needed no formal certification, as their love and devotion defined over two decades of their lives together, a partnership that continued until the early morning hours of that fateful Saturday when Ken peacefully earned his heavenly reward, with Kathy close by.

Ken is survived by the "Love of His Life," Kathy Link; his children, Bryan Larison and wife Angie, and Jon-Paul Larison; his stepson, Curtis Evans; his siblings, Anita Harris and husband David, Greg Larison and wife Michelle, Janet Griggs and husband David, and Susan Larison; and his five grandchildren, Keely Faith Larison, Hanna Michelle Larison, Adrian Grace Larison, Dylan Paul Larison, and Madilyn Mae Larison. He was preceded in

death by his parents, Paul and Margaret Larison.

A memorial service will be held at 2 p.m. Friday, April 18, 2025, at Davis Family Funeral Home & Crematory – Walker Brown Chapel, 4201 Nowata Road, Bartlesville, OK 74006, 918-333-7665, with Ryan Baker officiating. Arrangements are under the direction of Davis Family Funeral Home & Crematory. Online condolences and remembrances may be shared at www.DavisFamilyFuneralHome.com.

Previous Events

Memorial Service

APR 18. 2:00 PM (CT)

Davis Family Funeral Home & Crematory - Walker Brown Chapel
4201 Nowata Rd
Bartlesville, OK 74006
(918) 333-7665
davisfamilyfuneralhome@gmail.com

Tribute Wall



“ *Davis Family Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Ken Thurman Larison*



Davis Family Funeral Home - April 15, 2025 at 10:11 AM

CG

Ken will be missed. RIP

Clyde Gage - April 17, 2025 at 11:31 PM

EC

“ *To the family, I am so sorry for your loss. Kenny has worked on my vehicles for many years and I found him to be a man of honor and integrity and I trusted him in all our dealings. He always went out of his way to help me when I was having automobile or motorhome issues. I will miss him dearly and I know that you will to. May God's grace, comfort, love and mercy grant each of you peace in this time of sorrow. Regretfully, I will be out of town the day of his memorial service and that in itself causes sadness. Please know that you are in my thoughts and prayers. My heart is heavy!*

Eddie Collins - April 17, 2025 at 10:37 AM

OF

“ OICA ABC friends purchased the *Blue Caribbean Bouquet* for the family of Ken Thurman Larison.



OICA ABC friends - April 16, 2025 at 03:53 PM

OF

“ OICA ABC friends purchased the *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum* for the family of Ken Thurman Larison.



OICA ABC friends - April 16, 2025 at 03:49 PM

MB

“ Margie Brown purchased the *Crystal Cross Bouquet* for the family of Ken Thurman Larison.



Margie Brown - April 15, 2025 at 09:36 PM

MB

“ Margie Brown planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Ken Thurman Larison.

Margie Brown - April 15, 2025 at 09:36 PM

JG

“ It was nice working with Ken. Always appreciative of him keeping our vehicles running. Our deepest sympathy

John & Sharon Gilkey - April 15, 2025 at 09:04 PM

DL

“ Prayers for his family and friends. I am so sorry for your loss! He restored my Mustang from not running to highway safe. This is when I met him and he was the nicest man, a good and fair man who did excellent work. I'm glad I knew him even for a short time. RIP Ken 🙏

Diane Melton Langley - April 14, 2025 at 08:56 PM

JM

“ Jeff Murray lit a candle in memory of Ken Thurman Larison



Jeff Murray - April 13, 2025 at 11:55 PM

KS

“ Sending hugs and prayers of comfort Bryan and Jon Paul



Kim Scherman - April 02, 2025 at 05:53 PM

DB

“ *Condolences to your family. Growing up in Oak Park was the good life.*

Deniece Bush

Deniece Bush - April 01, 2025 at 01:15 AM

JB

“ *Kenny was a good friend and he will be missed. Had many of good times on the golf course We always thought we were playing good as it turned out it was the alcohol playing Jim B*



Jim Boatman - March 31, 2025 at 06:29 PM