



## Kenneth R. Ahern

March 29, 2020

Kenneth Richard Ahern Sr., 82, of Dale City, VA, passed away on March 29, 2020, surrounded by his loving family. Kenneth is survived by the love of his life of 59 years, Joanne (Conway) Ahern. His beloved children, Kenneth Jr. (Brenda), Douglas (Roxanne), Scott (Kathy), and Kelly Ann, and was “Papa” to his cherished grandchildren Nicholas, Patrick, Natalie, Joseph, Elizabeth, Joshua, and Connor.

Ken was predeceased by his parents Roberta and Walter Ahern and his sister Donna. He is survived by his siblings, Judith, Walter, David, Mary, Denise, and Jimmy and many nieces, nephews, and an abundance of friends.

Born in South Boston, Massachusetts, May 18, 1937, Ken attended South Boston High School and served in the United States Navy. Following his service to our country, Ken worked for United Airlines and then dedicated 30 years of his life to the members of the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers (IAMAW) as an Assistant General Chairman/Union Representative in the airline industry. In his retirement address, Ken wrote, “My love for and belief in unionism comes from the sheer joy of helping people.” A firm believer in the democratic process, Ken was a strong advocate in encouraging everyone to vote in elections.

Ken retired in 1998, enjoying time with family, cruising on the Potomac River

on his boat “Southie” with his Southie girl (Joni), and playing golf with his friends.

A devoted family man, Ken never forgot his Southie roots and was always Boston Proud and Strong. Go Red Sox and Patriots!

Ken’s last days were spent with the loving and compassionate nurses, specialists, and techs at Sentara Northern Virginia Hospital in Woodbridge, Virginia.

A Celebration of Life will be held and announced at a later date.

The family requests that in place of flowers donations be made to:

The Autism Society <https://www.autism-society.org/>

Guide Dogs of America <https://www.guidedogsofamerica.org/>

or the American Cancer Society <https://www.cancer.org/>

# Tribute Wall



“ Kenneth R. Ahern

January 12, 2023 at 12:00 PM



“ Ken joined the Navy to see the “world” was assigned to the USS Yosemite, which was in Dry Dock known as Bldg #77 at Rhode Island Naval Station. Next assignment was N.Y. Harbor assigned to a tug boat, finally a boat in the water, according to Ken longest trip was 132 miles out and 132 miles back, so much for “Join the Navy, See the World”.

Then there was a time he raided my cash stash (left an ‘IOU’), he and Gigi H., and Bill Geary, Tom Audette went on a weekend trip to N.Y. Did repay the debt. Was very patient when I ran his 56 Plymouth over a curb severely damaging the front end. We were returning from the Beachcomber, needless to say one too many 7&7’s. Next morning I shipped out to Washington State, not sure if I covered Ken & Joni’s losses on that one.

Just a few of the many stories that could go on forever. ~Brother Dave

Dave Ahern - April 01, 2020 at 08:30 PM



ken gave Bernie and I His and Joni’ brand. New Volks wagon to use for a week on our honey moon well they used our junk box Very kind and generous Ken and Joni were very good to all of Ken’s siblings sharing there home and showing us a wonderful time with there family and all of ours. Thank you for all your love and concern

Judy Macauley - April 02, 2020 at 10:47 PM

TB

*In forty-three years of union work, I never worked with a union representative who was more dedicated to democratic unionism, or cared more and worked harder for those he represented. After over thirty years as an active union representative, Kenny was still serving the union well into the retirement he earned. I recall the exemplary job he did heading up a committee of retirees that worked to lessen the impact of the airline bankruptcies on our retired members. We often imposed on him to do "volunteer" work in retirement on organizing campaigns and other projects at IAM Headquarters. He'd feint being upset about the work; once saying to me, "Thomas, I used to get paid pretty well for doing this, now you have me working for sandwiches." I always knew him to be of good humor. Well, maybe not that night in 1986 that we, a kid from Queens and kid from Southie, watched the ball dribble through Bill Buckner's legs while waiting to catch redeye flights home in an airport lounge at LAX. He reminded me of that when we New Yorkers returned the favor in 2004.*

*I learned early on that the very best union representatives possessed an uncommon amount of common sense, and an empathy with people that they wore on their sleeves; Kenny embodied those qualities. His keen insight, integrity, decency, and ability to see the other guy's side made him a good and respected negotiator.*

*Everyone can point to people in their lives that guided them and influenced them the most, and Kenny had a profound impact on my union career and my life. No one was more generously self-sacrificing, or encouraged me more, or offered more moral support to me than did Brother Ahern. His legacy to our union is the stellar example he set for those who followed, through his work ethic, his humility and his honesty.*

*Kenny always had my admiration and respect, and I could never thank him enough for his unrelenting practical and moral support. I grieve losing him, and the fact that I didn't get one last chance to express these thoughts to him again before he passed into a better life.*

*My deepest sympathy and condolences to Joni and the family he loved and cherished, and which gave him so much love and support in return. You are in my thoughts and prayers at this difficult time.*

*I have lost my big brother, and our union has lost a giant. May he rest in peace.*

*Tom Brickner*

*Retired IAMAW Airline Coordinator.*

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**Thomas F. Brickner** - April 03, 2020 at 10:57 AM

WA

*My big brother Ken, He and I worked a lot of jobs together to help support the family. We would shovel snow, deliver paper delivery selling ice to neighbors and worked at the Camry hospital together. He was always helpful to get my car started when I had a problem getting it started. He is my brother for life!! I will miss his phone calls. Ken, I will see you on the otherside. Walter Ahern*

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**Walter Ahern** - April 03, 2020 at 01:51 PM