



Kenneth Alan Cornelius

May 25, 2026

Kenneth Alan Cornelius, 80, of Lake Ridge, Virginia passed away peacefully May 25, 2026, Memorial Day, surrounded by much love from his wife Judy and the loving care provided at Aspen Hill Assisted Living after many months of hospitalizations.

Kenny was born March 30, 1946, in Washington, Indiana to Clyde and June (Bratton) Cornelius. After graduating high school he spent the next 29 years serving proudly for the U.S. Air Force receiving his Bachelor's degree from Oklahoma State University and a Masters of Science in Environmental Engineering at Colorado University. After his Air Force career, he worked for Argonne National Lab in the D.C. area as an Environmental consultant. Following both rewarding careers he and his wife Judy enjoyed many years traveling across the country visiting many friends and family. He was a member of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church. One of his nightlights was attending many different Catholic Churches during his retirement traveling years and studying about the saints. He was an avid reader of U.S. history, U.S. Presidents, and Church history. He remained humble after beginning his education from a one room country grammar school in southern Indiana.

Kenny is survived by his loving wife of almost 62 years, Judy (Armes) Cornelius, his son Douglas, grandchildren Justin and Ashlyn, and two brothers, Bob and Leon Cornelius. He is preceded in death by his daughter

Laura Lynn Cornelius, sister Kay (Cornelius) Miller, and younger brother Larry Dean Cornelius. He will be dearly missed by all who had the privilege of getting to know him and especially those who cared for him and understood his serious poorly understood illness for over 9 years.

Visitation and funeral will be held on Tuesday June 9, 2026 from 10am and 11am respectfully at Miller Funeral Home, (3200 Golansky Blvd., Woodbridge, VA. 22192). Interment will follow the funeral at Fairfax Memorial Cemetery (9900 Braddock Rd., Fairfax, VA 22032) where his final resting place will be near his beloved daughter Laura.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be given in memory of Colonel Kenneth A. Cornelius, to the Association for Frontotemporal Degeneration: AFTD.org or AFTD, 2700 Horizon Dr., Suite 120, King of Prussia, PA. 19406.

Previous Events

Visitation

JUN 9. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Miller Funeral Home & Crematory, Inc.
3200 Golansky Blvd.
Woodbridge, VA 22192
703-878-CARE (2273)
<https://millerfuneralhome.net/>

Service

JUN 9. 11:00 AM (ET)

Miller Funeral Home & Crematory, Inc.
3200 Golansky Blvd.
Woodbridge, VA 22192
703-878-CARE (2273)
<https://millerfuneralhome.net/>

Tribute Wall



“ Please accept my heartfelt condolences. My heart goes out to you and your family. Kenny was a special person and a great friend to Lonnie, I hope they are reminiscing old times and enjoying some good old country music together again. You are in my prayers,
Susan McCullough”



Susan McCullough - June 09 at 09:24 PM

FF

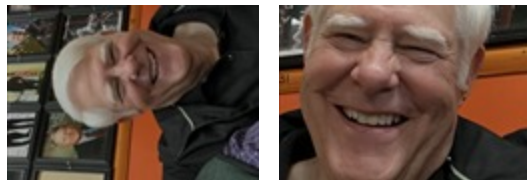
“ From Eddie and Jeannie & the family. purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Kenneth Alan Cornelius.



From Eddie and Jeannie & the family. - June 07 at 04:01 PM

JC

“ Ken with Jim and Claudette Cranston Sep 2023

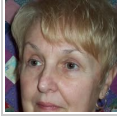


James & Claudette Cranston - June 05 at 02:04 PM

SD

“ Thank you for your service. You were a great neighbor and friend for all those years on Mulberry Court. Rest in peace Kenny.

Shap and Cecelia Drisko - June 05 at 01:30 PM



Rest in peace. Wish we could have seen you & Judy at our last class reunion 🙏🥹🥺🥳

We missed you at our class reunions

Thank you for your serving God bless your remaing family

Judy Hedrick - June 11 at 05:01 PM

JO

“ A better picture with Judy



Jim Owendoff - June 04 at 08:19 AM

RM

Best brother-in-law ever. Always laughing and telling jokes. You will be missed

RonandDiana Martin - June 05 at 11:42 PM

JO

“ For his Air Force buddies, Ken was the modest one amongst all of our triple type A personalities! You could always count on that laidback smile when you could read his face: “you think I’m going to believe that!!”.

I was fortunate to have served with Ken at U-Tapao, Thailand and Clark, Philippines as well as the Pentagon. And I know each of his buddies have their own stories.

We had great fellowship at our annual Super Bowl parties and I always looked forward to Judy’s deviled eggs. Here is a photo of the 2017 crew.

*Great and cherished memories!
Jim Owendoff*



Jim Owendoff - June 04 at 08:11 AM

DC

“ 2 files added to the tribute wall



Douglas Cornelius - June 04 at 07:24 AM

DC

“Dad was leader and taught me how to live. He rarely verbally taught but showed by example. He dealt with hardship the majority of his life but always kept faithful and followed through with his belief. Which I might add was rarely wrong. Just ask him and he would say I thought I was wrong once but come to find out I wasn't.

He was dedicated to his work and always kept his nose in his papers and books. He was always busy. He would put in long hours at the office and back home he would keep plugging along all night long. But he would always stop and listen if you had a question or concern.

As a husband, father and grandfather he juggled his time for all us. He tried his best to please everyone but not himself. I don't ever recall him wanting anything but to please everyone. Well, I take that back. He loved his back scratched.

As I mentioned, dad lead by example. He helped me with projects. He bought me a broken lawnmower engine and told me to fix it. He didn't instruct me how to repair it, he just let me do my own thing. It ran for a few minutes before it blew up.

He did the same thing in my high school years. He assisted me financially with a 54 Chevy pickup. He just said fix it up. It stayed in his garage for 30 plus years. I believe he loved looking at it and was proud his son rebuilt it. He actually told me he teared up when he sold it to downsize.

Dad was passionate with sports. He played softball and golf. He helped me with a golf swing by getting some golf clubs shortened. But his real passion was watching the Celtics. His native Hoosier Larry Bird was his excitement. He would yell and cheer at the television set. It was a sight to see. He also got wrapped up with Bronco mania while stationed in Colorado. He turned me into a sports fanatic as well. He took me to football games, hockey games and baseball games. Then he took me to auto races in Prattville

Alabama. He discovered my interest and would continue that for years. I think he became passionate about racing because I was. We would always talk about sports. Later on, he rekindled his love of baseball because he had a grandson that was passionate about baseball. He would talk ball with his grandson every time he could.

But most of all he loved his family and was so proud of them. He once told me he converted to Catholicism because his grandkids were. He didn't take it lightly and did tons of research before he did. He wanted to stay near to them. Just another example of him pleasing others.

His brothers and sister were always a consistent part of his life. He was so proud and loved them dearly. Dad spoke of them often and tried to tell me how he lived as a youngster but had to show me. He would drop me off at his brothers house just about every summer. It might have been to get rid of me but I believe he wanted to teach me how to work and show me how he lived and to stay grounded. His love for his family bled down to his son.

As dad's memory and hearing worsened over the last few years he always had a smile and would laugh and try not to worry his son. He certainly was pleasant to be around. He always said nice things about folks and genuinely cared for everyone he knew. He was always fun to be around. Just a great all round guy. I wish I could be half the man he was.

I love you dad



Douglas Cornelius - June 03 at 07:02 PM



“ *Sacred Duty Spray was purchased for the family of Kenneth Alan Cornelius.*



June 03 at 01:52 PM



“ *1 file added to the tribute wall*



Julie Crask - June 03 at 12:15 PM



Uncle Kenny and his siblings

Julie Crask - June 03 at 12:16 PM



"...life is good; Remember, everyday is a gift!" -_email from Uncle Kenny

Julie Crask - June 03 at 01:32 PM

JC

*3/9/23 email about an old family photo we found on Ancestry:
"I can remember Judy and I and Laura (maybe 2-3 yrs old) going with Mom and Dad to see Oscar and Gladys because Oscar was failing and it might be the last time I'd get to see him...the next morning I left for Colorado to learn surveying...I'd been there 5-6 weeks when I learned Dad had died. So Dad got me to visit Uncle Oscar, but it turned out it was the last time I saw Dad".*

Julie Crask - June 03 at 01:39 PM

JC

I was one of those type a personalities mentioned by Jim Owendoff who I met in 1978 while I was at Aviano and he was in Brindisi in Italy. We were all AF Civil Engineers. I first met Ken when I was at 13th AF Hq in the Philippines in the early 70' and he was stationed in Thailand (I think in Red Horse). My wife Claudette and I have been friends with Judy and Ken forever 50 years visiting each other in California and DC. I loved Ken. he was like a younger brother to me. The last time we were together was in Anapolis in 2023 having crab cakes at "Chick & Ruth's. I tried each Fall to contact him but never got through. He was always in my prayers. May he rest in peace

James & Claudette Cranston - June 05 at 01:05 PM

HG

I'll miss Ken's silly and all-consuming giggle/laugh. The giggle was especially effective when he had a cigar and kind of squinted when he was launching into some sort of opinion/universal truth/parable soliloquy. I knew a number of memorable people during my 30 yrs in the AF and he was among the most colorful simply because he was one of a kind. First time I met him at Clark in 1976 I wondered where this guy came from; he soon let me know that he was from Indiana. He was the only person I knew that did not bother to use a Jeep's clutch to shift gears. He was also the one that talked me into going to grad school at Oklahoma State (his alma mater) by pulling out an 8.5x11 map of the US and pointing out that OSU was only one inch away from my parent's house in Missouri (it was my 2nd tour in 554 RED HORSE). Years later, I was afraid he was going to have a stroke from laughing when I told him a true story about a Saturday OSU make-up graduate soils class and the professor's 4 yr old boy who was enamored with an attractive female secretary and, no, I'm not posting the story.

I can't tell you how much I appreciate Doug and Terri bringing Ken to visit in 2025. That was a great time including visits with Don and Julie Kane and MGen and Mrs Alkire and I wouldn't trade it for anything.

*Thanks Doug,
Homer Guy*

Homer Guy - June 21 at 06:35 PM