



Kenneth Carrick Howden

May 6, 2026

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Kenneth Carrick Howden, a devoted son, husband, father, brother, and uncle, on May 6, 2026 at Johns Hopkins Hospital, Baltimore, Maryland.

Ken was born on April 19, 1953 at Walter Reed Army Medical Center, Washington, DC to his loving parents, David and Frieda Howden. He was raised in a military family and spent his youth living in and travelling to different places in the world. Ken developed a passion for automobiles, was a talented saxophone player, gifted student, member of the Lutheran church, and a steady presence in his family's lives. He honorably served in the Army and graduated from Virginia Tech with a degree in Mechanical Engineering and later a Master's degree in Systems Engineering from GW University.

He went on to develop a distinguished career as a mechanical engineer at the U.S Army Engineer R&D Center and U.S. Department of Energy. His work brought him to all corners of the world. His expertise and knowledge made a lasting impact on his work and the people around him.

At home, Ken poured his heart into everything he touched, He had a natural talent for doing everything easily and well, from repairing anything mechanical, maintaining his home and yard with a meticulous flair, to presiding over neighborhood meetings as the President of his homeowners

association. He had a gift for order and care and everyone knew they could always count on him.

Ken will be deeply missed by all who had the privilege of knowing him – a brave, intelligent, generous, and kind man who showed love through his unwavering commitment to his family and community.

Ken is preceded in death by his father, David and is survived by his beloved mother, Frieda, loving wife Mychau, daughter Eileen, her husband Tomas and grandson Arthur, sisters Sandra and Pamela, nephew David, nieces Jessica and Emilia, and countless extended family and friends.

The family will receive friends on Friday, June 5, 2026 at 11:30 AM at Miller Funeral Home, Interment will follow at the National Memorial Cemetery at Quantico at 1:30 PM.

Previous Events

The family will receive friends

JUN 5. 11:30 AM (ET)

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

Interment

JUN 5. 1:30 PM (ET)

National Memorial Cemetery at Quantico
18424 Joplin Road
Triangle, VA 22172

Tribute Wall

TG

“ Ken was a valued member of our Office of Transportation Technologies team at the Department of Energy. He was a talented engineer, who was easy to work with, always pleasant and smiling. Our condolences and prayers are with Ken and his family.

Tom Gross

Thomas Gross - Yesterday at 09:14 AM

FC

“ Former Energy Dept colleague Steve Chalk purchased the Enchanted Cottage for the family of Kenneth Carrick Howden.



Former Energy Dept colleague Steve Chalk - June 04 at 02:22 PM

GS

“ Ken and I worked together for over twenty years at DOE on automotive technology. Ken was highly respected for his technical knowledge while also developing long lasting relationships with his colleagues in and outside the office. I will remember him for being helpful, thoughtful and for his great sense of humor. May he rest in peace.

Gurpreet Singh

Gurpreet Singh - June 04 at 01:57 PM

FT

“ *From Office of Vehiche Technologies purchased the Sentiments of Serenity Spray for the family of Kenneth Carrick Howden.*



From Office of Vehiche Technologies - June 01 at 07:25 AM

SH

“ *Scott and Heather Heckert purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Kenneth Carrick Howden.*



Scott and Heather Heckert - May 31 at 09:02 AM

“ *Emotional Tribute to Uncle Ken*

We honor my Uncle Ken, who passed away after months of fighting through pain and stress from cancer.

These weeks without him have felt long and heavy. Every time I think of him, I'm reminded of how deeply he shaped my life and how much his presence meant to me.

When my life was falling apart, Uncle Ken was the one who stood by me.

He didn't just offer help — he carried me through a time when my heart felt tired and I didn't have the strength to keep going.

He was my adviser in the truest way. He would gently tell me to step back, take a deep breath, and look at things calmly.

He'd ask me to think about why something didn't work, then remind me to try again.

And he always said, "I'm here whenever you need me."

In the moments when everything felt overwhelming, he gave me something steady to hold on to.

That kind of support loved stays with a person forever, and it will stay with me for the rest of my life.

Uncle Ken was a strict man, but his strictness was love in disguise.

Behind it was wisdom, discipline, and a heart that cared fiercely for his wife and his family.

He lived with responsibility, loyalty, and a quiet kind of courage.

He protected the people he loved without hesitation,

Without complaint, and without ever asking for anything in return.

He worked hard his entire life. He provided, he pushed forward, and he never stopped giving.

He had only been retired for three years — finally beginning to enjoy the rest he had earned through decades of sacrifice.

Losing him now makes the pain sharper, but it also reminds me of the man he was:

dedicated, steady, and always giving more than he took.

That is the Uncle Ken I will always remember — strong, wise, loyal, and full of heart. Thank you, Uncle Ken, for carrying me when I was at my lowest, for guiding me, and for showing me what strength really looks like.

May you rest in peace, free from pain.

And may your memory live on in all of us who loved you.

Tuan.

Tuan Bui - May 28 at 07:10 PM

PD

“*Ken, a work friend, was very fun and loved a good joke. I will miss Ken.*”

Pete Devlin - May 19 at 02:24 PM

SC

“ To the Howden family – I am very saddened to learn of Ken’s passing. I am a former colleague of Ken’s at the Department of Energy, where he made lasting contributions to the development of advanced vehicle technologies. When Ken first joined our office over 2 decades ago, he stood out amongst our engineers and scientists because he not only had academic credentials related to automotive technologies but also hands-on experience as skilled mechanic. Thus, Ken’s expertise on combustion engines was immediately respected by industry engineers and DOE national laboratory scientists that DOE partnered with on research projects. Ken helped establish and then manage the very successful 21st Century Truck Partnership between DOE and industry that resulted in engine technology with better fuel efficiency and cleaner emissions. My fond memories of Ken would not be complete without mentioning his “gift of gab.” Ken could talk eloquently to colleagues for hours related to advanced vehicle technologies, especially what was going on in European research and in Germany, in particular. This broad knowledge often made Ken our “go-to” person to represent DOE and United States government on advanced diesel and automotive technologies. Ken will always be remembered for his important accomplishments related to new vehicle technologies.

Steve Chalk, former colleague and DOE deputy assistant secretary

Steve Chalk - May 17 at 08:07 PM

MY

Thank you so much for sharing his work. Mychau

Mychau - June 03 at 05:01 PM

RT

“ Ryan Kenward & 1Aardvark Team purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Kenneth Carrick Howden.



Ryan Kenward & 1Aardvark Team - May 17 at 05:16 PM

RT

“ Ryan Kenward & 1Aardvark Team planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Kenneth Carrick Howden.

Ryan Kenward & 1Aardvark Team - May 17 at 05:16 PM