



Kenneth Franklin Whitmer

December 7, 1950 - April 12, 2026

Kenneth Franklin Whitmer, 75, of Woodbridge, Virginia, passed away on April 12, 2026, at his second home on Chincoteague Island. He was a second-generation sheet metal fabricator, and the proud owner of Southeast Sheet Metal Contractors Inc., a sheet metal fabrication company started by his father in 1963.

Kenneth enlisted in the Marine Corps in 1971 and later completed a four-year sheet metal apprenticeship. He then obtained his Journeyman's license in Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning in the state of Virginia. In addition to his professional accomplishments, Kenneth was a member of the Scottish Rite of Freemasonry, and a member of the Kena Shriner's International Fraternity. Kenneth was actively involved with the American Legion as a Legionnaire. He served as Commander of American Legion Post 28 in Triangle, Virginia and later as Vice-Commander of American Legion Post 162 in Lorton, Virginia. He took great pride in his role in helping the families of veterans of the United States armed forces.

Kenneth loved to hunt, fish, boat, and ride his Harley Davidson motorcycles with his friends. His 1971 Corvette that he bought brand new after coming home from military training was a treasured belonging of which he shared many stories about. He was a well-respected, hardworking father who always provided for his family and enjoyed vacationing with his wife and children.

Kenneth was a strong, brave, fearless, outspoken individual. Those who were familiar with him knew that he was truly one of a kind.

Kenneth was preceded in death by his father; Clark Franklin Whitmer, his mother; Nancy Revere Whitmer, and his son; Daniel Whitmer.

Kenneth is survived by his wife; Juanita Whitmer, his son; Andrew Whitmer, his daughter-in-law; Alexis Whitmer, his daughters; Tammy Kraus and Shari Casper, his sister; Pam Strosnider, and his grandchildren; Zak Casper, Lindsey Kraus, Joshua Kraus, and Jackson Whitmer.

Kenneth will be missed dearly by all who had the pleasure of knowing him. He is loved and will forever be honored in his passing.

Previous Events

Visitation

APR **24**. 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/>

Graveside Service

APR **24**. 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM (ET)

Mount Comfort Cemetery
6600 S. Kings Highway
Alexandria, VA 22306

Reception

APR **24**. 1:30 PM (ET)

American Legion Post 162
8210 Legion Drive
Lorton, VA 22079

Tribute Wall

NH

“ Ken,

I'm just at a loss for words. It was a pleasure to have known you. You always treated me as one of your own and I will never forget that. Thank you for giving me my first real job at SESM, I learned a lot from you and the whole crew there. I will always remember going on vacation with you, Juanita and Andrew to OBX, some of my best memories as a teenager were times with the Whitmers and the sleepovers at your house. I'm glad I got to see you again last year at Andrew's wedding, I never would've thought it would be the last time I'd see you. Thank you for everything. You will be missed, rest easy sir.

Nick Hanna - April 23 at 09:43 PM

SC

“ It’s taken me a little bit to say goodbye publicly daddy. Some of the most precious memories I have, are with you. Walking on your back, being your shadow, taking off your stinky stinky boot, probably a huge pain in the butt. And oh boy, I knew when a switching was coming.

Quinton farting in the corner of the yellow room and all of us laughing....Sparkle. We’ll name here Sparkle! 😊. And let me tell ya...it used to make me feel so special when you’d let me pick out the 8-track to listen too! Top off and me peeking out the cubby. Wind in hair and feeling the sense of freedom for the first time. No wonder a vibration of a motor and Black Water easily take me to a place of sheer joy.

I loved being your little girl.

And then before we knew, time moved faster than a snap of the finger. Your kids got older, left home, got married, had babies, parents grew old, and we lost loved ones. Sometimes life can blow you off your feet leaving you flat on your back 10 feet away. Knock you hard, it leaves you gasping for air, as the hands grip tighter. But how proud you are of your grandchildren and great granddaughter, is undeniable. They will remember your legacy and all that you did to them.

Gotta say....you drilled marine core values in me from the beginning. And those tough lessons served me well. Trust, loyalty, honesty and respectability. Keep your word. No one can take your name or your honor from you, you give them. Don’t fall for falsehoods or weakness. Understand the force/challenger coming before you. Fear is self perceived. Courage is doing the right thing, every time. And a totally cool way of memorizing numbers and dates. Thank you Marine Corp for the man he became.

Yeah. You will be missed and I know you’re looking down and just so proud of your family. Rest easy, for once. Right any wrongs while up there. And know, you are loved.

Shari Casper - April 22 at 03:40 AM



“ *Ocean Breeze Spray was purchased for the family of Kenneth Franklin Whitmer.*



April 21 at 04:06 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Kenneth Franklin Whitmer.

April 21 at 04:06 PM



“ *Love, Mimi and Chris purchased the Lavender Reflections Spray for the family of Kenneth Franklin Whitmer.*



Love, Mimi and Chris - April 19 at 03:32 PM

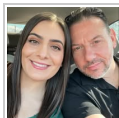


“ Ken,

I can't believe I am sitting here writing this. When I first met you, I had no idea we would create such a strong bond. You have been there for me and supported me in ways, that I will forever cherish and be grateful for. We grew extremely close over these past few years. From running errands, watching movies, going out to eat, and just sitting there talking about all of your adventures life took you on. You were very special to me and my heart will always hold a place for you. There's no one else I would rather aggravate Andrew with, especially when we wanted to stop on the way to CI for a milkshake. Thank you for all the laughs, encouragement, love, and memories. You always told me "it's okay to ask for help". And Im glad I was there to help you when you needed it. I hope you check in once in a while, we will miss you. Until we meet again.

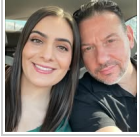


Lexy Whitmer - April 18 at 04:53 PM



My Dad loved you, and he would love these memories of the time you two shared together. You did so much to help him, and he told me how lucky both he, and I were to have you. You did things for him that no one else would. He acknowledged and expressed his deep gratitude towards you for that. Thank you for being there for my Dad, and for all you did for him. ❤️

Andrew Whitmer - April 18 at 06:45 PM



“ Even though I posted this very same message on Facebook two days ago, it felt necessary and appropriate that these words be shared to your tribute wall here as well Dad.

There are things in life you simply can't understand until you gain the required maturity, life experience, and empathy to put yourself in a position that contradicts your own unwavering thought process.

This is a concept that has slowly, but surely made itself more and more apparent to me each and every day of my life as I've gotten older.

I remember the days when I thought my Dad was my biggest antagonist...criticizing the music I listened to or the sports team I cheered for. In my mind, these things were the center of my universe and I couldn't understand how truly diminutive they were in the big scheme of things.

As the years rolled on, and I began to accumulate my own life experiences amounting to a far greater significance than who my favorite band was, or what friends I was going to hang out with any given Friday evening....I began realizing how much my dad cared about me and my well being.

Instead of seeing the things about me that my Dad didn't approve of, or didn't quite understand...I started to see someone who supported me, wanted success for me, and wanted to protect me. I saw a man who advocated for me, who defended me in the face of those who may have opposed me, or had malicious intent toward me beyond my own comprehension.

It finally clicked to me that my Dad was never one to criticize me... he wanted the best for me. He cared about me deeply, and even when I disappointed him, his love for me never faltered because he knew I could do better. He always used to say to me "this is why pencils have erasers". He wanted me to understand that it wasn't

my mistakes that defined me, but how I moved on from them.

My Dad was undoubtedly in my corner 100% of my life, no matter what. He guided me when I was too stubborn to be guided. He gave me opportunities when I probably didn't deserve them. He forgave me when others turned their backs. He loved me in a way that one can only come to understand once they realize their father isn't opposing them, he's being tough because he loves you.

I lost my Dad on Sunday, and I would give anything in the world to hear his voice again. I would pay any cost to hear him give me advice that my younger self shrugged off and didn't understand the meaning of.

My Dad and I had an amazing relationship that only got better as I gained respect and admiration for his love, his teachings, and his support for me.

Dad, in your passing I have talked to so many people who have had nothing but kind things to say about the man you were. People rave about the businessman, and the human being that you were. Out of everyone who knew you though, I'm unique. I had the honor, and the pleasure of being the only man on this planet capable of calling you my father.

You taught me so much about life, and business...and I should have soaked up even more of it than I did because now I have only to live with what you gave me while you were here. I only hope that I learned enough from you to make you proud.

Dad, I love you and I will forever miss you.



Andrew Whitmer - April 18 at 08:49 AM



“ *It is with a heavy heart I share these words about my Dad, Kenneth F. Whitmer, who passed away Sunday.*

Dad was well known throughout the beltway in the DMV area for his impeccable knowledge, integrity, and the strength of his word. In both his work and his life, he was a man people trusted. His reputation was stellar.

Beyond his professional accomplishments, Ken was deeply committed to helping others. He gave freely of his time to those in need and was especially devoted to serving our armed forces and veterans, a cause that remained close to his heart. If I could only describe him in one sentence it would be that he was a tough man with a golden heart.

Ken was a devoted father and grandfather who built strong and lasting bonds with his family. He shared special moments with his grandchildren—from riding his Harley with his granddaughter, Lindsey to creating “special hiding places” with his grandson, Joshua. He enjoyed teaching, guiding, and later cheering them on as they pursued their own paths in life.

He also shared a close and meaningful bond with his son-in-law, Bob Kraus, whose care, respect, and support for Ken and his family over the years was deeply appreciated.

For me, Ken was not only a father, but one who chose to be. He created our family with intention and by love. Through his actions, he showed me what it truly meant to be a father—teaching independence while always being a steady presence in times of need.

In a professional capacity he taught me that the attitude of “good enough” was indeed sub par, that only the “best”-to do, to be, ensured success.

The values Dad lived by—integrity, hard work, honor, resilience—remain a lasting legacy carried forward through both his family and the business he continued to grow in his family’s honor.

He will be remembered not only for what he accomplished, but for how he lived and the lives he touched.

I imagine him now at peace—enjoying a cup of coffee, a chocolate frosted cake donut, and perhaps watching one of his favorite Bigfoot videos. Or, perhaps he’s running a dog or snuggling a cat that have been waiting for him at the Rainbow Bridge.

*Rest in peace Dad.
I love you. ❤️*

Tammy Marie - April 17 at 06:07 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Kenneth Franklin Whitmer.

April 17 at 05:06 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Kenneth Franklin Whitmer.



April 17 at 05:06 PM