



## Kenneth R. "Ken" Jones Sr.

January 18, 1924 - January 27, 2020

On the morning of January 27th with family by his side Kenneth R. Jones, Sr. went to meet his Savior. Ken was born on January 18th, 1924 in Augusta, Maine to William Jones Sr. and Ethel (Raymond) Jones.

Most of his childhood was spent in the Readfield, Wayne, Winthrop and New Sharon area. His father was a farm boss and his mother played piano for silent movies. Ken was born third of four children and was a prankster from his early days on the farms which his father managed. Just after his 19th birthday in January of 1943, Ken would enlist in the armed forces. A few months later after arriving in Nemours, Algiers, North Africa, Ken would volunteer for an elite fighting force known as Darby's Rangers.

Ken's training was grooming him to take part in the European Theatre in the Sicilian and the Italian Campaign where he would fight alongside commanders such as Lt. General Mark Clark and General George Patton.

Ken's weapon was a Browning Automatic Rifle. He was known as a "BAR" man, a specialized sharpshooter trained in mountainous, and amphibious night warfare. He was one of very few Rangers surviving Cisterna which was a grim but proud story of these brave men who gave their lives. He should have been sent home on furlough, but instead was attached to the First Special Service Force. In the early morning hours of May 23rd, 1944 while breaking out from the four month hold on Anzio Beachhead he was mortally wounded. After crossing Mussolini Canal, the bridge blew behind him leaving him stranded on the other side without support. He was hit by shrapnel on his left side and then shot with an 8 mm. rifle through his right shoulder, hitting his right lung. After being discharged in December of 1944, he returned home to Maine. Shortly after, he met and married Sylvia Belden, a young girl from Winthrop. They would raise four sons to adulthood in their home of Temple, Maine. Ken was a hardworking lumberman despite his injuries and experience of war. He was an avid hunter of coon, bear, deer, and cat. He was known for his well-trained hounds and later for his tiny lap dogs. A fisherman at heart, tying his own flies and catching the largest of trout and salmon. Even if the ice was half out you could find him fishing on Quimby Pond or trolling on Varnum with great success. If it could be done outdoors, he was there and later in life camping almost to his 95th birthday. He was predeceased by his wife Sylvia in 2010, an infant son Gerry and a

grandson, Jacob Jones. He is survived by his sons Kenneth Jr., and his wife Kelly of Temple, Lawrence (Lonny) and his wife Starr of Florida, Douglas and his wife Shery of Farmington, and Leon and his wife Janet of California. He is survived by five grandchildren and twelve great grandchildren. He is also survived by his companion Irene Givens who has faithfully loved and cared for him for over nine years. The family is grateful for the kind caring service of the staff at Sandy River Nursing Home where we know he will not be forgotten. We are also grateful for the local veterans who honored Ken and his service in World War II. Memorial Visitation will be held from 1:00 to 2:00PM with a memorial service to follow at 2:00PM on Saturday, February 22, 2020 at the Wiles Remembrance Center: Adams-McFarlane Chapel 137 Farmington Falls Road, Farmington. Interment with military honors will be at a later date in Winthrop next to his wife Sylvia. A kind word may be left on his memorial wall at [www.wilesrc.com](http://www.wilesrc.com)

# Events

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**FEB**   **Memorial Visitation**                      01:00PM - 02:00PM

**22**

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Farmington Location

137 Farmington Falls Rd, Farmington, ME, US, 04938

**FEB**   **Memorial Service**                      02:00PM - 03:00PM

**22**

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Farmington Location

137 Farmington Falls Rd, Farmington, ME, US, 04938

# Comments

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“ A tribute video has been added.



**Wiles Remembrance Center and staff** - Yesterday at 06:46 PM

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“ 59 files added to the album LifeTributes



**Wiles Remembrance Center and staff** - Yesterday at 06:44 PM

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“ I had the pleasure of taking care of Mr. Ken since he was put into Sandy River. I always knew if I was going to have a bad day who to run to for a great laugh and prank. Ken and his family will always hold a very special place on our unit and in my heart.

RIP My loving prankster, much love to you and Irene and family.



**Gayle Pease** - February 01 at 10:30 AM

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“ Such a wonderful, kind man!!! Loved his smile . To his beautiful family I send you deepest condolences and hugs!

**Patti Parker** - January 31 at 05:34 PM

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“ Lonny and Starr  
So sorry for your loss. Praying for you and your family . Pam and Mike Graham Weld  
Maine

**pam smith** - January 31 at 06:12 AM

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“ I spent many years waiting on Ken in the diner. I absolutely adored him. He always had a smile on his face and a joke. My heart is so sad right now. Ken you will be missed!!!

**Jodi Fitch** - January 30 at 08:55 PM

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“ Condolences to the family. Best memories of Ken was every time i worked on his vehicle,,he'd always throw an extra couple buck's and say buy yourself a good cigar . Well my friend till we meet again I'll bring the cigars rest easy my FREIND

**Gary Bryant** - January 30 at 06:20 PM

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“ I will miss his smile and his ability to tell a good joke! Thankful he is living life to its fullest in eternity

**melissa plourde** - January 30 at 05:42 PM

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“ My condolences to the Jones family. Enjoyed seeing your Dad at Zeb's Pond watching the moose.

**Dean Hart** - January 30 at 05:36 PM



“ Some of my favorite memories as well! He loved the outdoors and all the critters!

**melissa plourde** - January 30 at 05:40 PM



“ I am sorry for your loss. Rob Stevens and family.

**Rob Stevens** - January 31 at 09:14 AM



“ Very sorry for your loss Ken and kelly

**Clint and Linda** - January 31 at 06:46 PM

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“ Mary Jane Baker lit a candle in memory of Kenneth R. "Ken" Jones Sr.



**mary jane baker** - January 30 at 05:20 PM



“ What a wonderful man Ken was. I was a very young bride when we met. I was sewing shoes for Bass at home. When we visited I always had my case of shoes. Ken & his lovely wife Sylvia would join right in and help me get them done faster. What a warm and loving home; I remember there. And I wouldn't see them for years and he always knew just who I was. God bless you. And as his obituary said; he always had mischief and a twinkle in his eyes. RIP Dear man.

**mary jane baker** - January 30 at 05:26 PM



“ Uncle Ken was a great guy, always laughing + joking around.

**Donna Grant Garnham** - January 31 at 04:56 PM



“ Gary Bryant lit a candle in memory of Kenneth R. "Ken" Jones Sr.



**Gary Bryant** - January 30 at 05:06 PM