



Kenneth John Mitchell

October 2, 1935 - March 11, 2022

ADRIAN – Kenneth John Mitchell age 86, of Adrian, died Friday March 11, 2022 at Gas Light Village under the care of Hospice of Lenawee with his loving family by his side.

He was born at home on October 2, 1935 in Adrian, Michigan to William John and Gladys (Dawson) Mitchell. Ken lived on the family farm his whole life and took pride in carrying on the farming tradition. He graduated from Blissfield High School with the Class of 1954 and went on to earn his bachelor's and master's degrees from Michigan State with a focus on Agriculture and Education. Ken served his country in the United States Navy from 1957 to 1959, and it was during this time that he learned how to fly planes. Following his discharge from the Navy Ken returned to Adrian, where he became a flight instructor at Jacobs Flight School at the Lenawee County Airport.

On August 26, 1962 Ken married Eileen Fink in Ottawa Lake, MI and they have been blessed with over 59 years together of raising a family, farming and creating many memories.

Ken was the Ag teacher and FFA leader at Sand Creek Community Schools for 10 years, earning the FFA Honorary State Farmer Award in 1970. He worked for Linehan Realty for many years, was a member of the Lenawee County Association of Realtors and a past board president. In 1992 Ken

earned the Lenawee County Realtor of the Year Award. He also gave of his time and was involved with Lenawee County Farm Bureau, where he earned Volunteer of the Year for several years.

Ken had a presence about him and when he opened his mouth, he got everyone's attention; whether it was calling out bids for over 40 years at auctions or just visiting with friends, you listened to what Ken had to say. He made many friends and had stories to share over the years from taking bids at the Lenawee County Fair Jr. Livestock Auction or for the many benefit auctions he participated in. Ken's legacy has continued with Mitchell Auctioneering being run by his son, David, and his grandchildren, making it a third-generation tradition.

In addition to his wife, Eileen, Ken is survived by their children, Patty (Jim) Collins, Russ (Laura) Mitchell and David (Michele) Mitchell; grandchildren, Michaela, Sean, Mandy (Jeffrey), Tim, Tom, Josh, Jobe, Holly, Katie, Dottie and Abbie; great-grandchildren, Vivian, Eleanor, Jonathan, Sophia and Titus; and his sister, Marjorie Fetsko. He was preceded in death by an infant daughter, Ann; and siblings, Don Mitchell, Mildred Oosse, Marie Rathbun and Doris Luce.

Funeral services will be held on Friday, March 18, 2022 at 11 a.m. at Wagley Funeral Home in Adrian with Pastor Joshua Rinas and Ken's nephew, Bill Fink officiating. Burial will be private at Oakwood Cemetery. Visitation will take place on Thursday, March 17, 2022 from 3 to 7 p.m. at the funeral home and again Friday at 10 a.m. until the start of the service.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Hospice of Lenawee, Lenawee County FFA Alumni Association or the Lenawee County 4-H Council.

Online condolences and memories may be shared at www.WagleyFuneralHomes.com.

Cemetery Details

Oakwood Cemetery

East Siena Heights Drive
Adrian, MI 49221

Previous Events

Visitation

MAR 17. 3:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Wagley Funeral Home (Adrian)
1501 W. Maumee St.
Adrian, MI 49221
(517) 263-1400
info@wagleyfuneralhome.com
<https://www.WagleyFuneralHome.com>

Visitation

MAR 18. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Wagley Funeral Home (Adrian)
1501 W. Maumee St.
Adrian, MI 49221
(517) 263-1400
info@wagleyfuneralhome.com
<https://www.WagleyFuneralHome.com>

Funeral Service

MAR 18. 11:00 AM (ET)

Wagley Funeral Home (Adrian)

1501 W. Maumee St.

Adrian, MI 49221

(517) 263-1400

info@wagleyfuneralhome.com

<https://www.WagleyFuneralHome.com>

Tribute Wall



“ *Wagley Funeral Home and Cremation Service created a Webcast in memory of Kenneth John Mitchell*



Wagley Funeral Home - March 16, 2022 at 07:21 PM

RT

Our sincere sympathy to the family of Ken. We worked together for many years in 4-H and will always remember the good times we had.
Ralph & Virginia Tillotson

Ralph Tillotson - March 17, 2022 at 11:03 AM

EK

Our thoughts and prayers go out to all the family of Ken. He always brought a smile with his humor. He'll always be remembered with love.

Ed and Mary Lou Knosel - March 18, 2022 at 11:35 AM

PK

Thank you for allowing me to attend from a distance. I only saw Kenneth Mitchell a couple of times, but he was friendly, telling stories, and making us laugh. I thought Bill Fink and the minister worked well together to share Kenneth's life. His comments about laughter and the importance of telling stories about him for generations to come resonated with me. His son, Russ, and daughter-in-law Laura always make me feel like family, and I can see the caring heart, the love of laughter, and the appreciation of stories in them. Yesterday at visitation his wife Eileen made me feel welcome and a part of the circle of those whose lives were touched in one way or another by Kenneth, who will live on in the stories people tell about him.

Paulette D Kilmer - March 18, 2022 at 12:26 PM



I just heard today of the passing of Ken Mitchell. My deepest sympathy to all the family and Ken's many friends. Prayers lifted!

Lyn Liechty - April 07, 2022 at 05:18 PM



*We are so very saddened to hear of Ken's passing. He was a great friend for so many years. Our prayers go out for Eileen and the family.
Howard & Margie*

Howard & Margie Keller - November 26, 2022 at 02:15 PM



“ *Kenneth John Mitchell*

January 28, 2023 at 12:24 PM



“ *Lidia F McGee lit a candle in memory of
Kenneth John Mitchell*



Lidia F McGee - March 29, 2022 at 05:43 AM



“ *Eileen,*

My deepest condolences to you and your family. You are in my prayers.

Lidia McGee

Lidia F McGee - March 29, 2022 at 05:42 AM

LM

“ Ken was an amazing father-in-law. Always kind, generous, and supportive. His smile and laughter were infectious and he always loved to tell a joke or some sort of funny. One of his greatest inspirations were Kens love for nature and the life he crafted on the family farm. I too love nature and animals and I can say, without hesitation, that he was one of the kinds souls on this earth when it came to animal care and humanity. He also passed this values of animal care onto his children. I feel so grateful and fortunate to have learned from Ken and had the opportunity to be part of the family in which he belongs. His long-lasting impact and positive influence will endure.

Laura Mitchell - March 26, 2022 at 09:00 PM

JL

“ I'm sorry to have heard of Kens passing after the services had already concluded. I worked with "Kenny" at Abraham/Linehan Realty for many years & credit both Ken & Richard Abraham for my most grounded knowledge in the real estate business. It was they who taught me the basics of property & farm valuation & it is they I thank for continually supporting me as a young man entering into the real estate appraisal field of which I have enjoyed & prospered over the past 30 years. Though I have not spoken with Ken in a few years I will truly miss his laugh, his council & friendship. God speed my friend & may God bless the Mitchell family. Jeff Lewin

Jeff Lewin - March 18, 2022 at 03:07 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Kenneth John Mitchell.



March 18, 2022 at 01:14 PM

PK

“ I remember maybe (10 years ago, maybe five) when Laura Mitchell and I ended a lovely day of Christmas shopping in Blissfield with a stop at the wreath makers. Then, we drove to Russ' parents' home to deliver one of the wreaths. It must have been around 8 p.m. when we got there, but Eileen made coffee and Kenneth joined us. As we enjoyed the coffee, the conversation percolated with stories and laughter. We did not stay long, but I left feeling good about life and blessed to know the Mitchells.

Paulette D Kilmer - March 18, 2022 at 12:31 PM



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Kenneth John Mitchell.



March 17, 2022 at 08:43 AM

JB

“ Eileen and family,

On behalf of my family, we are sending prayers and love to all of you in this sad time. God Bless!

The Butler family

Jerry Butler - March 17, 2022 at 07:55 AM

JM

“ Dear Russ, Laura, and Mr. Mitchell's Extended Family:

*Very sorry to hear about Mr. Mitchell's passing. What a beautiful obituary--I never met him, but it is clear your Father was both inspired *and* inspiring. What a unique combination.*

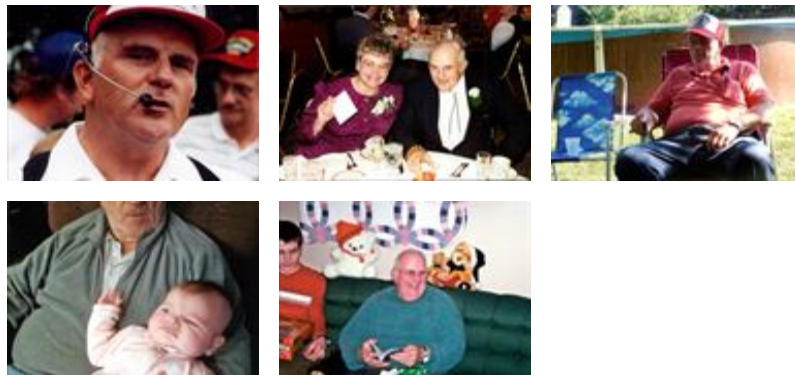
Thoughts with you at this difficult time.

*Best,
Janice Molloy and Twizzle*

janice molloy - March 16, 2022 at 09:48 PM



“ 94 files added to the album Life Tributes



Wagley Funeral Home - March 16, 2022 at 07:24 PM

SP

“ On the night of our graduation in 1966, he stood at the door of the ag room to wish us good luck after we turned in our caps and gowns. I mentioned this memory to him at our reunion 50 years later. Sorry to hear of his passing. He was a very popular teacher and auctioneer.

Steve Phenicie

Steve Phenicie - March 16, 2022 at 12:47 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum* was purchased for the family of Kenneth John Mitchell.



March 16, 2022 at 12:35 PM

BK

“ *I am so sorry to learn of Kens passing. We have been good friends for many years and will miss his good humor. I can speak for all the Sand Creek people that Ken was liked by everyone. He could light up a room with his presence. May God bless.....*

Bruce Knisel

Bruce Knisel - March 15, 2022 at 08:44 PM



“ *Days of Sunshine Bouquet* was purchased for the family of Kenneth John Mitchell.



March 15, 2022 at 08:03 PM

SN

“ Eileen,
I'm so sorry. You and you family will be in my thoughts.
Susan Noethen

Susan Noethen - March 14, 2022 at 03:16 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for
the family of Kenneth John Mitchell.



March 14, 2022 at 12:36 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of
Kenneth John Mitchell.



March 14, 2022 at 12:26 PM



“ Love's Journey was purchased for the family of
Kenneth John Mitchell.



March 14, 2022 at 10:36 AM

NS

“ So very sorry for your loss Russ. Thinking of you during this difficult time!

nicole Swank - March 13, 2022 at 09:16 PM

FR

“ So sorry to learn of Ken's death. He was a great person and someone I always looked forward to talking with and always finished our conversations with a smile and laugh.

Frank Riley - March 13, 2022 at 03:30 PM

WR

“ Too many memories to share but will always be remembered! The longer we sit here thinking, the more fond memories come to mind. Always a gentleman and who always had a good conversation with everyone. RIP our friend!

Wayne & Karen Roback - March 12, 2022 at 07:41 PM

CN

“ Eileen and Ken's Family, We are so very sorry to hear of Ken's passing. I enjoyed working with him through MSUE and 4-H and attending many auctions. He was always a joy to work with even though he was always "terrible". May your beautiful memories of a life well lived always bring you joy. He was a good man and will be missed not only by you but by all who knew him.
Carolyn & David Noel

Carolyn Noel - March 12, 2022 at 06:21 PM

BS

“ DEAR MRS. MITCHELL,
SO SORRY TO SEE ABOUT KEN'S DEATH. HE WAS AN
IMPORTANT PART OF OUR SCHOOL LIVES AT SAND CREEK
AND I ENJOYED ALL YOUR AUCTIONS THESE PAST 2
DECADES. HE WAS OUR COMMENCEMENT SPEAKER IN 1972
AND GAVE US ALL A COIN TO CELEBRATE."DO WHAT YOU DO,
DO WELL" MIGHT HAVE BEEN A SONG TITLE,BUT IT WAS HIS
PERSONAL MOTTO AS WELL. TAKE CARE, STAY SAFE AND
GOD BLESS ALL YOUR FAMILLY.
BARB SELL AND THE SAND CREEK
CLASS OF "1972"

BARBARA SELL - March 12, 2022 at 04:40 PM