



Kenneth Michael Towcimak

October 7, 1942 - October 3, 2021

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Ken Towcimak, 78, passed away on Sunday, October 3, 2021 after a year-long battle with pancreatic cancer. Ken was born in Ambridge, Pennsylvania on October 7, 1942, the son of William R. Towcimak and Leona Sabol Towcimak. Ken graduated from Ambridge High School and then received his Bachelor of Arts degree at The Citadel in Charleston, South Carolina where he was on the football and track teams. He made many lifelong friendships at The Citadel and it always held a very special place in his heart.

After graduating from The Citadel, Ken served his country in the Vietnam War with the 4th Infantry Division of the Army. In addition to being awarded a Bronze Star, he was decorated for his two years of service as an artillery forward observer and specifically for his service at the Battle of Dak To.

In 1968 after returning from Vietnam, Ken married his childhood next door neighbor, Carole Ann Tkatch. After their wedding, Carole and Ken moved to Miami where Ken earned his Masters of Business Administration degree and his law degree from the University of Miami.

In 1974, Ken and Carole relocated to Tallahassee where Ken soon began his

career at the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) as an eminent domain trial attorney, where he tried some of the largest eminent domain trials in the state of Florida. He was promoted to Director of Right of Way where he was responsible for acquisitions of all right of way property for the FDOT for more than 25 years. During his 35-year career at FDOT, he was named the best senior manager and was twice named the Outstanding National Right of Way Manager for the entire United States by the Federal Highway Administration.

Ken also served as the Secretary to the American Association of State Highway Transportation Officials (AASHTO) and National Right of Way Chairman of the State Committee of Right of Way consecutively for almost 15 years. In these positions, he helped develop nationwide transportation policy with the Federal Highway Administration. Ken asked that we thank all of his colleagues at the Federal Highway Administration and FDOT for their help, appreciation and friendships over the years and the many ways that they benefitted his career and transportation policy.

Ken was an adoring Grandfather and loved visiting his grandchildren and watching them at their many musical and sporting events. His most favorite time of the year was the annual family summer 'beach week' where the entire family gathered together.

Ken loved cooking for friends and family and playing music. He taught himself piano and guitar at a very young age and played guitar for hours on end, every day of his life. Upon retirement, he learned to play the violin, which he affectionally called a fiddle because of his love of bluegrass music. Nothing made Ken happier than jamming with his fellow friends and musicians, which he did every week for many years, as well as playing community and charity events around Tallahassee. Ken wanted to thank all his great friends and associates that he's shared such wonderful times with over the years.

Ken also wanted to express his sincere appreciation for the staff at Shands Cancer Hospital, Tallahassee Memorial Hospital, Encompass Home Healthcare and Big Bend Hospice for the excellent care he received there and at home.

Ken was preceded in death by his parents, William Towcimak and Leona Sabol Towcimak. He is survived by his loving wife of 53 years, Carole, who took wonderful care of him until the end. He is also survived by his three children and six grand-children, including his daughter Valerie and her husband Jeremy Hammerton and their two children, Henry and Anna Katherine of Atlanta, GA; his son Bradley Towcimak and his wife Renae and their son Murray of Charleston, SC and his daughter Natalie and her husband, Rob Sirianni and their three sons, Peter, Vincent and Teddy of Winter Park, FL. He is also survived by his brother Bill Towcimak, and his wife Suzanne and their children Bobby and Nicole, as well as his sister-in-law, Barbara Tkatch Zimmerman and her children, Vaughn and D.J. He had many cousins and extended family as well, who he always made a great effort to stay in touch with during the family reunions that he planned each year.

A Celebration of Life will be held in Tallahassee on Sunday, October 10 from 1:00 – 4:00 pm at Bradley's Pond, 9002 Bradley Road, Tallahassee, Florida. A Mass of Christian Burial will be held at a later date at The Citadel Summerall Chapel in Charleston, South Carolina when his ashes are inurned in the Memorial Bell Tower Columbarium.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Ken's memory to the Pancreatic Cancer Network by clicking here:

https://secure.pancan.org/site/TR/DIY/DIYTeamraisers?px=3052204&pg=personal&fr_id=1081

OR to the Multiple Sclerosis Society in honor of his sister-in-law, Patricia Tkatch, by clicking here:

<https://mssociety.donordrive.com/campaign/Ken-Towcimak>

The family is being assisted by Skip Young and Jackie Fulford of Young Fulford Funeral Home and Crematory, Tallahassee, Florida.

850.610.4444 YoungFulford.com

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

OCT **10**. 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM (ET)

Bradley's Pond
9002 Bradley Road
Tallahassee, FL

Tribute Wall



“ *Young Fulford Funeral Home and Crematory created a Tribute Video in memory of Kenneth Michael Towcimak*



Young ~ Fulford Funeral Home and Crematory - October 09, 2021 at 08:16 PM



“ *Kenneth Michael Towcimak*

October 22, 2023 at 10:27 PM



“ *Kenneth Michael Towcimak*

October 09, 2023 at 11:25 AM



“ *Mijo Maletic Family.Anton Plevel Family.Anton Rozman Family.Valentine Trumbetas Family.*



Mary Lamb - September 19, 2023 at 07:16 PM



“ *Pocivaj u miru. Rest In The Name Of Jesus.g.michael.rozman.*

G.michael rozman - October 01, 2022 at 08:33 AM



“ *Kenneth Michael Towcimak*

September 22, 2022 at 01:34 PM



“ *113 files added to the album LifeTributes*



Young ~ Fulford Funeral Home and Crematory - October 10, 2021 at 01:18 AM

WG

“ Ken Towcimak was one of the finest human beings I've ever known. I had the honor and pleasure of working with Ken for many years and knew him to be a principled, honest, fair minded public servant of the highest integrity. No one deserved and enjoyed greater admiration, respect, and loyalty from his friends and colleagues than he did. A better representative of his profession and of hard working state employees in general won't be found.

Forever smiling, quick to laugh, talented musician, honest-to-God war hero and devoted family man, he was just absolutely the best of the best. My heart felt condolences to Carol and the kids and to all who knew and loved the guy as I did. And to Natalie, thank you for posting the wonderful family photos. For those of us who cannot attend the service, the photos are a blessing.

Wallace Giddens

Wallace Giddens - October 08, 2021 at 04:19 PM

NS

Hi Wallace. I would like to read some of your beautiful remarks during my Dad's celebration of life if that is okay with you. Thank you so much for sharing. I am deeply touched and comforted by your words. Thank you! Natalie

Natalie Sirianni - October 09, 2021 at 12:48 PM

WG

Natalie, I just opened Google and apparently had not closed everything out since my last use and found your message. I'm not sure how best to get back to you so I'm trying this.

Of course you may use my words. I would be truly honored. I am in Sarasota looking after my 97 year old mother and simply cannot attend the celebration. The sad irony is that I will be returning just one day too late to attend. Her regular caretaker will be back then. Nothing less important could prevent my attendance.

Please let me know how I can contact you folks directly, especially your mom. I don't use social media but my email address is wgiddens@mchsi.com, telephone (850) 524 2626.

Thank you so much for reaching out...Wallace.

Wallace Giddens - October 09, 2021 at 10:56 PM

EA

“ *To the Towcimak family. As a former 65' classmate and A company mate, I am so sorry for Ken's passing. A wonderful friend and classmate. All of you have endured so much for your dad, and husband. Finally he is at peace and hopefully each of you will be also. God bless the Towcimak family. Sincerely, Ed Almes*

ed almes - October 06, 2021 at 04:53 PM

CS

“ *To the entire Towcimak Family. You are all in our prayers. Your Dad will ne remembered by his kind ways and beautiful smile. Heaven is blessed with his presence. Love you all.
The Spinale Family (Pittsburgh)*

Christina Spinale Scott - October 06, 2021 at 10:36 AM

NA

“ 52 files added to the album *Through the Years...*



Natalie - October 05, 2021 at 11:00 PM

BB

“ Spent hours strumming a guitar with Ken and enjoyed many meals with him in downtown Charleston on weekends. Ken was without a doubt one of the nicest people I have ever known and I am sure he was , and always will be, a wonderful role model for his children and grandchildren. Our sincere condolences to Carole and the entire family.

Ben and Janet Baker

ben baker - October 05, 2021 at 07:29 PM