



Stephen Kenneth "Ken" Nemeth

July 7, 1938 - February 4, 2015

Stephen Kenneth "Ken" Nemeth, age 76, passed away peacefully Wednesday at his daughter and son-in-law's home in Wooster, Ohio.

Ken was born in Akron (Portage Lakes), Ohio on July 7, 1938 to Stephen & June Nemeth. Preceded in his death by wife of 55 years Barbara Ann Nemeth, his high school sweetheart and love of his life. Also preceded in his death is his son Robby Nemeth. Ken is survived by daughter Kendall (Daryl) Pleasant, sister Sharon Stephens, nieces Stephanie Beery and Susan (Matt) Zittle, daughter-in-law Kristine Nemeth and grandchildren Scarlet, Isabella & Trinity Nemeth.

Ken graduated from Coventry High School in 1956. Shortly after high school, he began working part-time at Akron's WAKR where he ran the camera and did some play by play. After leaving WAKR, he worked for a short time at the Akron Beacon Journal.

His amazing radio career began when he was hired at WWST (now WQKT/WKVX) in Wooster in 1960, where he remained for the next 48 years, until his retirement. He began as a DJ and newscaster. He worked his way up to Sports Director in 1962 and later became sales manager. Ken was such an avid sports fan that he began broadcasting the College of Wooster baseball, football and basketball games. He had a natural talent for announcing games

and doing so gave him the most enjoyment and best memories of his professional career. In 1983, he became the General Manager at WWST and immediately changed the station format from elevator music to country and the call letters to WQKT/WKVX. He continued to announce Scots games, even a little past his retirement in 2008. Ken was honored when he was inducted into the Broadcasters Hall of Fame in 1991 and the Wayne County Sports Hall of Fame in 1992.

After 48 years of radio, Ken was ready to relax and spend more time with his wife, his family, friends and his newly acquired '51 Ford, which he loved taking to cruise-ins and car shows. He also enjoyed vacationing with his family at the beach in Emerald Isle, NC annually. Ken continued to be a huge C.O.W. sports fan and Ohio State football fan. It was truly wonderful to see him enjoy OSU winning the national championship this year.

Ken was a loving husband, father, grandfather, brother, uncle and friend. His wonderful sense of humor will be greatly missed. He touched many lives and will forever live on in our hearts.

Calling hours for Ken will be 2:00 – 4:00 pm Saturday, February 7 at Custer-Glenn Funeral Home in Wooster, Ohio.

Words of comfort may be shared with the family at: www.custerglenn.com.

Tribute Wall

RS

“ I always enjoyed hearing him on the radio.
I miss him.

Rita Steiner - February 06, 2015 at 08:12 AM

LC

“ Bless you, Kendall And Daryl! He's at peace now and back with Barb! Rest in Peace my friend!

Larry Chalfant - February 05, 2015 at 06:25 PM

FS

“ So enjoyed listening to Ken's broadcasts of the Scots Baseball games and talking to him in person. We shared the food prepared for the team with both he and Galen however one game in particular the moms got busy feeding the team and forgot. I received a call from a mom that was listening to the game at home- Ken had announced that he was getting pretty hungry and hoped the food wasn't all gone. We of course quickly took food to them and he just laughed. Great sense of humor- great guy! Our Sympathy, Scott and Fran Samson, Walt Class of 2006 and Adam Class of 2008.

Fran Samson - February 05, 2015 at 04:04 PM

 Jeff Detrow

I have worked in radio for 47 years. I've worked with a lot of broadcasters, but none more talented in so many different ways. Ken was great at everything we do in our business; "The Bob and Ken Show", his legendary, Hall of Fame, play-by-play. and his visionary direction as General Manager. He was also a kind, patient mentor ... and most of all, a great guy. My prayers go out to Ken's family. That was a life well lived! Well done, Ken.

Jeff Detrow - February 06, 2015 at 09:29 AM

JW

Ken was a mentor and a friend, and a great talent. We sure had a lot of fun over the years. The industry lost a good one!

Joe Wachtel

Joe Wachtel - February 06, 2015 at 09:58 AM

LJ

I first met Ken long before his broadcasting days. We were very young men who sold women's shoes at Cole's Qualicraft Shoes in downtown Akron. We became very good friends and stayed in touch primarily through the exchange of Christmas cards. I would listen to his broadcasts whenever possible as we drove to Columbus to visit family. My heartfelt sympathy to all the family; he was a good man.

Leo Johnson

Leo Johnson - February 06, 2015 at 12:00 PM

JD

Ken was a very good man -- not only talented on the air, but a kind and patient mentor when my brother and I were teenagers working at the radio station, and a good old friend to share an occasional cup of coffee with in later years. I will always remember how he looked after Alan Lang in his declining years and how he and Barb enjoyed their anniversary dinners at the old Grange Hall at the Wayne County Fair. God bless you, Ken. Glad you're back with Barb.

Jon Detrow - February 09, 2015 at 01:30 PM

JT

Today is Thursday, April 30th, and I just learned of Ken's death. I am very sad. Ken was a wonderful person who was a patient and kind mentor and friend. I had the pleasure of working with him at WWST from 1974-1977. I was blessed to do play-by-play broadcasts with him at many local high school games, plus many College of Wooster contests. He taught me much about radio broadcasting. He and I shared the experience of one of the most creative and unique broadcasts of a local fast-pitch softball game in the station's history; one that can only be appreciated by those who worked in the industry. I will never forget all he did for me. I was also saddened to learn that Barbara passed away barely four months before. God bless the family. Ken and Barb will always live in our hearts.

John Tozer - April 30, 2015 at 05:47 PM