



Kenneth E. Gagnon

July 13, 1933 - August 18, 2019

Kenneth “Ken” E. Gagnon, age 86, of Mattoon, IL passed away at 12:00 PM, Sunday, August 18, 2019 at Life’s Journey Senior Living surrounded by his wife and five children.

A funeral service in his honor will be held at 10:00 AM, Saturday, August 24, 2019 at the First Presbyterian Church, 10 Charleston Avenue, Mattoon, IL; Reverend Matthew Froeschle will officiate. A committal service will immediately follow in Dodge Grove Cemetery in Mattoon. Military Rites will be performed by Mattoon VFW Post 4325. A visitation will be held Friday evening, August 23, 2019 from 4:00 PM-7:00 PM at Mitchell-Jerdan Funeral Home, 1200 Wabash Avenue, Mattoon, IL 61938.

Ken was born on July 13, 1933 in Fargo, ND, the son of Norris and Nellie Joy (Brawders) Gagnon. He married Loretta Fish on March 8, 1957 in Washington, DC. Ken is survived by his wife of 62 years, Loretta Gagnon of Mattoon, IL and five children: Patti (Richard) Lee of Mattoon, IL, Sheri Moberley of Mattoon, IL, Joni (Juan) Montejo of Salt Lake City, UT, Lori (David) Woodyard of Mattoon, IL and Ken Gagnon, JR of Mattoon, IL. He also had seven grandchildren: Jennifer (Matthew) Roth of O’Fallon, MO, Donny (Hanna) Moberley of Cobden, IL, Jolene (Adam) Funk of Mattoon, IL, Anna (Ross) Summerford of Madison, AL, Jeremy Woodyard of St. Louis, MO, Jacob Woodyard of Mattoon, IL, and Hunter Warner of Fort Lejeune, North Carolina. He had five great-grandchildren: Anderson Roth, Samuel Roth, Heinrich Moberley, Friedrich Moberley, and Everly Funk. He was preceded in death by his parents and his two sisters, Carol Travis and Bonnie Schmidt.

Ken served in the U.S. Navy from June 1951 to May 1972. He served his country in many capacities, including the U.S. Naval Ceremonial Guard in Washington, DC, Corpsman in Key West, FL and on the USS Haven, USS Tawasa and USS Yorktown Pacific Fleets. He also served in Quantico, VA, the Great Lakes, San Diego, CA, Guam and Newport, RI.

In 1972 when he retired from the U.S. Navy, he moved his family to Mattoon, IL where he was the Trauma Coordinator for the Illinois Department of Public Health at Memorial Hospital which later grew into Sarah Bush Lincoln Health Center. When that position was

cut due to budget reduction in Public Health, he started up the EMS Training Coordinator at Lake Land College and worked there from 1982 until his retirement in July of 1998. One of his most rewarding experiences while representing the college was when he sat on the board of governors to the National Association of Emergency Medical Trainers and was involved in an exchange program with a team of Soviet EMT's that brought new advances in the medical field in Russia and Germany.

Ken was involved with many organizations. He was a member of the Mattoon Lions Club, a past District Governor and an Ambassador of Goodwill for the Lions of Illinois Foundation. He was on the Mattoon Revolving Loan Fund Committee, a Coles County Election Judge, a manager of the Junior Babe Ruth League, an area scouting coordinator of the Boy Scouts of America, and a member of the Finance Committee of the American Association of Physician Assistants. He belonged to the Mattoon First Presbyterian Church where he previously served as a Deacon, Trustee and Elder.

While in the Navy he enjoyed participating on several bowling leagues and winning numerous trophies. In later years he donated many of his trophies to Camp New Hope. He was an avid Dodgers baseball and Hoosiers basketball fan. He also enjoyed spending time at various ballgames of his children and grandchildren. He never knew a stranger.

Memorials in his honor are to be made to the Mattoon Lion's Club PO Box 242, Mattoon, IL, Alzheimer's Association Illinois Chapter, 8430 W. Bryn Mawr Ave #800, Chicago, IL 60631 or the First Presbyterian Church, Mattoon, IL.

Please visit www.mitchell-jerdan.com or www.facebook.com/mitchelljerdanfuneralhome to light a virtual candle in his honor or share a memory with the family.

Cemetery

Dodge Grove Cemetery

917 North 22nd Street

Mattoon, IL, 61938

Events

AUG **Visitation** 04:00PM - 07:00PM

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Mitchell-Jerdan Funeral Home Ltd.

1200 Wabash Ave, Mattoon, IL, US, 61938

AUG **Service** 10:00AM

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First Presbyterian Church

Mattoon, IL, US, 61938

Comments



“ Spent the year 1980-1981 as a Lions Governor with Ken. Had great memories of his enthusiasm. A donation will be made to the LIONS of Illinois Foundation in his honor. This makes me the last member of the Council. Our thoughts are with the family. Sue and Ed Carter

Edward Carter - August 28 at 06:14 PM



“ Saddened by the news...prayers for Ken and his family. I remember him fondly during his EMT training days. He will be missed !!



Pater Edward Ohm - August 24 at 11:26 AM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Kenneth E. Gagnon.



August 22 at 11:22 PM



“ Serene Retreat was purchased for the family of Kenneth E. Gagnon.



August 22 at 08:52 PM



“ I didn't know Mr. Gagnon, but I do know his granddaughter, Anna. She is my Daughter-in-Law and I couldn't be more proud of her. Thank You Gagnon family for sharing such a sweet lady with our family.
Robert A. Summerford II

Robert A. Summerford II - August 22 at 05:59 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Kenneth E. Gagnon.



August 22 at 03:12 PM



“ Ken was always there with a smile when we saw him. Ready for a friendly, positive conversation. God bless all feeling sorrow as Ken has left our Earth to be in Heaven. He will be missed.

Kathy - August 22 at 08:34 AM



“ Kathy & Bill lit a candle in memory of Kenneth E. Gagnon



Kathy & Bill - August 22 at 08:28 AM



“ January 1995, My father gave me \$100 and a newspaper clipping and said I needed to go to LLC and take this course. It would help me take care of my children and all those I watched. I often had 9 to 13 kids under 10yrs 3-4 times a month, all family. I signed up not really reading the clip. I thought it was an advanced 3 day class for CPR. I walked in one minute before class started. I sat in The first seat I came to. Front row closest to the door. A man I'd never met before walked back and forth slowly making eye contact with all of us. He said "out of the bunch of you, half of you

won't make it to the end. The half that does make it, five or six will not pass the final state test. So look around and see who's sitting next to you, will it be them or you? He told us the rules. No alcohol on your breath, miss 3 times your out etc. I thought he was so confident and full of himself. Who was he to tell me I wasn't going to make it? I find out it's a full semester of 3 hr classes with 38 strangers 3x a week and some weekends to cut up cars and learn water rescues! This man is nuts and so bold and somewhat scary and he is literally staring us down, I don't know what I've gotten into. I felt scammed. This isn't a 3 day class. My dad spent \$100 and we never waste money, I'm toast. The teacher is telling me I'm not going to make it and I think he's mean. Well guess what? Out of 38, 18 made it to the end, 5 didn't pass the state test and 13 of us became certified EMTS. I had the privilege of being taught by one who made a big difference in my life. Mr. Kenneth Gagnon, Ken. He was spot on from the beginning to end. He worked with us and taught us some hard lessons. He was amazing and I could tell he was the real deal. He was a great teacher and I came to respect and admire Ken. If he hadn't said what he said to us the first night, I would of quit. It was hard it was intensely draining, as I had 3 kids and a husband and out of school 19 years. But I made it. I never was employed as an EMT but I made it. Through the years I watched Ken's works in our community, read his name often in the paper and remembered how hard he made me work. Thank You Mr. Kenneth Gagnon, you made a difference in this world, you made a difference in my life! May you Rest In Peace

Wanda Wallace - August 22 at 01:03 AM



“ 2 files added to the album LifeTributes



Jeff Nelson - August 21 at 04:14 PM



“ 70 files added to the album LifeTributes



Mitchell-Jerdan Funeral Home - August 21 at 03:53 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Kenneth E. Gagnon.



August 21 at 10:24 AM



“ Back in the 90's I had the privilege of attending LLC for EMT classes and Ken was in charge. I was one of the older ones in most of his classes and he and I always enjoyed teasing other. He was always a good friend and he knew I would help him in any way that I could. I will miss friendship, his wit, and his good humor. RIP Ken.

Barry Burnett - August 20 at 09:47 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Kenneth E. Gagnon.



August 20 at 08:59 PM



“ Prayers for you Lori and family. Ken was like a second dad to me and he was responsible for getting Dick and I together 40 years ago! I loved working for him and have so many good memories of Ken and Lions Club. Prayers and comfort for you in the coming days.

Sandy Wheeler - August 20 at 08:35 PM



“ Lori and family, it was a real pleasure to know your Dad. From the time our boys started playing sports together, he was always there to support them and their teammates. He always had a smile on his face. He will be missed by many. Prayers for you all during this difficult time. Much love, Amy Utsler and family

Amy Utsler - August 20 at 06:49 PM



“ My thoughts and prayers goes out to the entire family. Ken was an awesome man. While at Lake Land College you could always depend on Ken to give you a good interview on the radio. He will be missed!

Todd Fultz - August 20 at 04:09 PM



“ Sherry and family, I am so sorry for your loss. Mr. Gagnon was an amazing man and I was honored to have learned from him at Lake Land College. He had the most joyful, hilarious, sense of humor and spirit. He will forever be missed!



Becky Castillo - August 20 at 02:48 PM