

William F. Kenney, LCDR, USN, Ret.

September 5, 1929 - January 8, 2017

Hampton Falls – William F. Kenney, Lieutenant Commander, United States Navy, Retired, passed away peacefully on Sunday, January 8, 2017 at the age of 87 following a very brief illness.

Bill was born in Carbondale, PA on September 5, 1929 and raised in Forty Fort, PA. He enlisted in the Navy after high school and in 1950 married Janet M. Mitchell, his high school sweetheart whom he had known since the second grade. The Navy took Bill and Janet to many locations across the country before settling in Hampton Falls in 1965. Following his 1970 Navy retirement, he enjoyed a second career of 25 years as a driver's education instructor at Winnacunnet High School in Hampton. He was active in the local schools and community where he was a volunteer firefighter with the Hampton Falls Fire Department.

He was a proud career Navy veteran, having enlisted at age 17 and retiring after 23 years of service as a Lieutenant Commander. During the course of his naval career, he was stationed on multiple ships and duty stations throughout the US, ending with a tour at Portsmouth Navy Shipyard. He served over a year in-country in Vietnam during the height of the war and was awarded the Bronze Star with Combat "V" the Navy Air Medal (five awards) and the Combat Action Ribbon.

Bill was predeceased by Janet, his loving wife of over 57 years. He leaves behind their seven children: Dr. Janice Jesse and her husband, Dr. Robert Jesse, of Richmond, VA; William F. Kenney Jr. and his wife, Alice Harrill, of Charlotte, NC; Meredith Steele and her husband, Stewart, of Norwell, MA; David B. Kenney and his wife, Barbara, of Seabrook; Stephen C. Kenney and his wife, Gwen, of Exeter; Priscilla Kenney and her husband Dell McCoy, of Aurora, IL and Patricia Jancsy and her husband, Daniel, of Durham. He also leaves behind numerous grandchildren and his dear friend, Jane Lynch of Hampton.

We will miss you. Bravo Zulu.

Visiting hours will be from 4 to 7 PM on Thursday, January 12, 2017 in the Remick and Gendron Funeral Home – Crematory, 811 Lafayette Rd., Hampton. A private burial service is planned with interment at the Oaklawn Cemetery in Hampton Falls beside his beloved Janet. Memorial donations may be mailed to the New Hampshire SPCA, PO Box 196, Hampton, NH 03885, online at <http://www.nhspca.org/honor-giving/> or to the US Navy Memorial at <http://shipsstore.navy memorial.org/donate/donation>.

Cemetery Details

Oak Lawn Cemetery

Nason Road
Hampton Falls, NH 03844

Previous Events

Visitation

JAN 12. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Remick & Gendron Funeral Home - Crematory
811 Lafayette Road ·
Hampton, NH 03842
(603) 926-6500
info@remickgendron.com
<https://www.RemickGendron.com/>

Tribute Wall



“ *William F. Kenney, LCDR, USN, Ret.*

September 18, 2022 at 12:49 AM



“ *My condolences to the family. Mr. Kenney was a very nice man, whom I knew at WHS in the late '80's. RIP*



JoEllen Pike - January 31, 2017 at 09:03 PM



“ *Bill always had a smile, a joke and love for students. I worked with him for 30 yrs. He loved to tease and I admired his strength and service to our nation. He suffered through agent orange with no self-pity and was a dear colleague of whom I will always have great memories. A wonderful man who will be missed. Sorry I could not attend due to surgery yesterday. I am sure he is reunited with his many loved ones. His family should be very proud.*

Patty Stansfield Tarbox - January 12, 2017 at 11:44 PM



“ Wow, I can't believe you are gone. I saw you last week when I was visiting my parents. I swear you never aged, I grew up living next to you. I remember getting your mail and paper for you when you went on vacation when I was little. I may not have had you for driver's education, but you did help me when I did learn to drive. You would come next door and either talk to me or one of my parents..... who ever took me out and gave us pointers. My heart goes out to your family, I wish I could say goodbye in person. You are going to be missed.

Rachel Johnson (Streeter)

Rachel Streeter - January 12, 2017 at 04:04 PM

JG

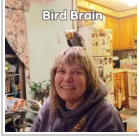
Bill Kenney, you were an honorable and well liked man of Hampton Falls, NH. You helped us all by being on the school board. The students and teachers appreciated all that you did. I had some of your children in my classroom, and they were great kids because of you and your wife, Janet. You will be missed by all who interacted with you and your caring nature. You are now with Janet. REST IN Peace, my friend.

Janice E Galloway - January 12, 2017 at 04:34 PM

GB

Mr. Kenney, you were a very respectful person and I loved you as my drivers Ed teacher. You had a great sense of humor. It was a honor to have known you. Rest in Heaven. Amen

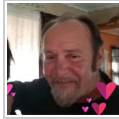
glynne bowley - August 07, 2024 at 09:55 PM



“ Thanks for teaching me how to drive,you will be missed..prayers to the family



Myra Fowler - January 12, 2017 at 04:00 PM



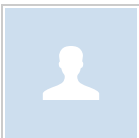
I am sorry for the of Mr. Kenney. He taught me how to drive 32 years ago...it seems so long ago! But, I still remember his kindness and patience. ❤️ Rest in peace, my drivers ed teacher! ❤️

Traci Roy - January 21, 2017 at 07:59 PM



“ When we learn, and live, with the skills of a teacher whose patience far outweighed the challenges before him,that is legacy. Mr. Kenney taught driving, safety, both by the book and on the road. I still think of him when he taught us that a sneeze could close our eyes long enough to distract us. Thanks to his tenacity, even my race car driving Dad felt safe behind the wheel with me. Love and light to the family and blessings of peace to you all.

Laurie Tourtellot - January 12, 2017 at 03:21 PM



“ Love's Journey was purchased for the family of William F. Kenney, LCDR, USN, Ret..



January 12, 2017 at 10:12 AM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of William F. Kenney, LCDR, USN, Ret..*



January 11, 2017 at 06:58 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of William F. Kenney, LCDR, USN, Ret..*



January 11, 2017 at 03:13 PM



“ *RIP Mr. Kenney you taught me how to drive in 1980 your patience was very much appreciated.*

*Melinda Walton Stanley
WHS Class of 1984*

MELINDA STANLEY - January 11, 2017 at 02:17 PM

JM

“ Love and blessings to you, Mr. Kenney, and your family. I often share fond driver's ed stories about you and your classes with my sons. Thank you for being such a wonderful educator and thank you for your service to our country.

Jessica Winn Mullins
WHS Class of 1995

Jessica Winn Mullins - January 11, 2017 at 01:23 PM

DM

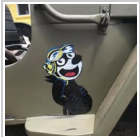
“ God bless you Mr. Kenney!! You were the most kind, patient man with a quick wit and unassuming smile!! Thank you for your years of service and for putting up with us crazy teenagers!!!

deb marcinko - January 11, 2017 at 11:33 AM

DB

“ Rip Mr Kenney from member of the class of 1974

Dianne Belanger_Ringer - January 10, 2017 at 07:33 PM



“ Sorry to hear of his passing. WHS 1985

Sam DiBartolomeo - January 10, 2017 at 06:22 PM



“ *Such a kindhearted, patient man, albeit with nerves of steel. He took me on as a Driver's Ed student despite my lack of depth perception, and modeled direct, straightforward guidance. I think of him often, especially when driving "down the beach." Smooth sailing, Mr. Kenney.*



*Cathy Dodge Brisson
WHS '79*

Cathy Brisson - January 10, 2017 at 06:21 PM

BL

“ *Rest in Peace Sir. WHS Class of '83 , taught me how to drive ! Remember him well.*

Bryan Lewis - January 10, 2017 at 03:32 PM

DM

“ *I am deeply saddened to hear of Mr. Kenney's passing. He was a wonderful, warm man who made learning how to drive in 1975 a fun experience. Semper Fi.*



Debbie Monegan McClelland - January 10, 2017 at 02:48 PM

LA

“ *RIP Mr. Kenney. Thank you for all you did for all of us students at WHS. I remember the first day of Driver's Ed with you. Patty and the rest of the Kenney family my thoughts and prayers are with you all. Your father was a wonderful man and a great representative of our community.*

Loretta Asselin - January 10, 2017 at 02:01 PM

GB

“ He and I haVe He and I hahadthings in common our sense of humor and our fake ears!!

Glynne Bowley - January 10, 2017 at 12:44 PM

ED

“ Ellen Wilbur DeCosta lit a candle in memory of William F. Kenney, LCDR, USN, Ret.



Ellen Wilbur DeCosta - January 10, 2017 at 12:17 PM

Glenn
T. Raitt

“ I was one of his many Driver's Ed. students graduated '78. Always pleasant in and out of class. He will be missed but not forgotten. One of the few teachers who touched so many lives in one career a true teacher. Blessings

Glenn T. Raitt - January 10, 2017 at 11:43 AM

SW

“ I loved Mr Kennedy! He taught me to drive in 1978. He was a great teacher.

Sharon Snyder Walker
WHS class of 1979

Sharon Walker - January 10, 2017 at 10:45 AM



“ *Mr. Kenney was patient and kind. I had him for driver's ED. He taught me to parallel park in downtown Hampton, summer day at noon - but I sure aced my driving test ! My sincere condolences to his family and friends, may he rest in peace.*

*Brenda Schultz
WHS 1982*

Brenda Schultz - January 10, 2017 at 10:11 AM

ST

“ *Mr. Kenney taught me how to drive in 1976. I don't remember the car, but I can sure remember the time spent with him. I remember driving with him along 1A well before summer started up. He was always very kind, patient, and supportive. Thanks for all the lives you touched while you were here – you will be missed.*

Stephen Truchon - January 10, 2017 at 08:06 AM

AD

“ *I had Mr. Kenney back in 85 or 86. I remember watching those Driver Ed films. I always used to fall asleep watching some of them. But he was always trying to help us understand the importance of it. He was a great teacher. Prayers for his family.*

Amy (ahern) dryden - January 10, 2017 at 06:46 AM

VG

“ *Mr. Kenney was such a kind hearted man. And the best Drivers-Ed instructor. I still vividly remember what he taught me especially how to drive in traffic circles beginning in Portsmouth and I still keep my hands on the wheel at 10:00 and 2:00 to this day. My condolences, thoughts and prayers are with the Kenney family at this time. Vicki St. Germain*

Vicki St. Germain - January 10, 2017 at 05:32 AM



“ *Great teacher. He taught me how to drive in 1979. I loved his style!*

Jason D. Oneail - January 10, 2017 at 05:26 AM

CE

“ *He was an awesome teacher at winnacunnet
hs it's so sad to see his passing may he be at
peace and have gained his golden wings I
hope the family finds hope and strength*



corri eaton - January 10, 2017 at 04:03 AM

DK

“ *Mr Kenney was a sweet man who loved his family and really missed
his wife. I'm sure she met him with open arms.
He was my daughters drivers Ed teacher and told me she may
never be the best Parker. He was right it's been 20yrs and she still
can't park.
RIP Sir I'll miss our talks at breakfast
Debbie Kiernan*

Debbie Kiernan - January 09, 2017 at 09:41 PM



“ *Such a wonderful, kind man. He was my drivers education teacher. I
completed my course on my 16th birthday. When finished with my
last driving lesson, he told me what a great girl i was, and reached in
his pocket and gave me \$5 to celebrate the day. I just turned 40, and
this kind gesture is still thought of often.*

Amanda Ruiz - January 09, 2017 at 09:30 PM



“ Wonderful man. For some reason this man, whom I did not know, took to giving my then 10 year-old son \$20 whenever he saw him at breakfast at Fast Eddie's. Wishing him a graceful journey home..

Lenny Willis - January 09, 2017 at 09:07 PM

SA

“ Mr Kenney and I would talk Yankee Red Sox at school. He would come have launch with me at Cafe. He was one of the good guys
RIP Condolences to His family Scott Aversano

Scott Aversano - January 09, 2017 at 08:58 PM

OS

“ He was one of my top 3 teachers at WHS, and I only had him for drivers ed. Similar to my father - they would have gotten along famously. A paragon, a role model. RIP Mr. Kenney.

One of many former students - January 09, 2017 at 08:45 PM

PJ

“ I am not in his circle of friends, but I remember his direct way of speaking and dry wit. I occasionally ran into him over the years since WHS and we'd always have a word or two. Damned fine driver's ed instructor: no moving violations in over 40 years behind the wheel! Thanks for ALL your service, Bill.

Pete Tilton Jr. - January 09, 2017 at 08:39 PM

LC

“ Fair winds and following seas, and BV. RIP.

Lauran Curtis - January 09, 2017 at 08:13 PM

NH

“ Bill Kenney bought my grandfather's house and made my dad Gordon Janvrin very happy to see that it was taken care of. I have fond memories growing up with the "Kenney kids" in Hampton Falls. MJ being in school with me and her siblings. Bill was a wonderful asset to the town and will be greatly missed. Nancy Janvrin Haskell

Nancy Janvrin Haskell - January 09, 2017 at 08:07 PM

SU

“ Bill was a great neighbor, good friend to my dad in their later years, wonderful dad to his kids and their peers (like me!). I was lucky to know him and luckier to be be reacquainted with him the past 10 or so years. He was an awesome man and I send prayers and great thoughts and memories and wishes to his family.

susansweeney - January 09, 2017 at 07:57 PM

BH

“ Kenney Family,

I enjoyed working with Bill at WHS. He was a wonderful man with a kind heart.

Very sorry for your loss.

Bridget Hughes

Bridget Hughes - January 09, 2017 at 07:46 PM

HA

“ Mr. Kenney was a wonderful teacher. I had him for drivers ed and his stories are still in my mind from over 30 years ago. He was one of the good ones. My prayers are with his family.

Heather Spurr Ashton - January 09, 2017 at 07:25 PM

KA

“ He was the kindest man. I graduated 1978. There has never been an unkind word spoken about him. No one can ask for a better legacy. RIP Mr. Kenney.

kathy - January 09, 2017 at 07:12 PM

SR

“ Bill was a kind and gentle man. He hired me as a Driver's Ed Teacher for several years. I loved working for him. His sense of humor always put a smile on my face. He'll be missed.
Sharon Rogers

Sharon Rogers - January 09, 2017 at 06:16 PM



“ Mr. Kenney was my Drivers Ed Teacher, will always remember the fun we had with him as our driving instructor! In the more recent years at my job at Health and Wellness Animal Hospital I got to see Bill with his dogs. Will miss his visits. He was such a nice man and had a great sense of humor. Our Families condolences to yours. He will be missed by many.

Mary Lou Ayers - January 09, 2017 at 05:11 PM

LS

“ *Mr. Kenney was a solid figure in our community for many years. He offered my father support when they were suffering the same medical challenges.*


He also taught many of us how to drive. I will never forget sitting at the intersection of Route 1 and Atlantic Ave. with him in Driver's Ed. The light turned green and I thought it would be a good idea to turn in front of oncoming traffic.

He braked vigorously so we did not get killed and explained the concept of ROW to me.

Bill Kenney was a good, kind man.

Condolences to his family.

Lauren Stone - January 09, 2017 at 05:00 PM

 Joyce
Noël
Gilbert

“ *The one and only time I skipped school, Mr. Kenney saw me. He never told on me. I never skipped school ever again after that. He was such a nice man and such a patient teacher. I will never forget when he took his ear off and asked me to hold it for him in class. What a riot!*

Joyce (Lalley) Gilbert class of '83

Joyce Noël Gilbert - January 09, 2017 at 04:48 PM

DS

OMG! He loved to shock people occasionally. Did that to me too!

Donna Smith - January 10, 2017 at 09:38 AM

BL

I was also CClass of '83 and remember his driving lessons ! - Bryan Lewis (Hampton Falls)

Bryan Lewis - January 10, 2017 at 03:38 PM

DT

I was in Bill Kenney in 1987 and he was a great man and teacher He will be miss

Dennis Theriaultt

Dennis Theriault - January 22, 2017 at 07:24 PM

DT

I was in Bill Kenney's class in 1987 he was a great man and teacher. He will be missed by all.

Dennis Theriault

Dennis Theriault - January 22, 2017 at 07:32 PM

DS

“ Memories spanning more than 50 years come flooding back to me. Thanks for the memories, Mr. Kenney. I love you and your entire family. Your home was a second home to me. Your family part of my own. Say HI to Mrs. Kenney for me!



Donna Smith - January 09, 2017 at 04:29 PM

RM

“ Robert Mawson lit a candle in memory of William F. Kenney, LCDR, USN, Ret.



robert mawson - January 09, 2017 at 02:58 PM



“ *Sacred Duty Spray* was purchased for the family of William F. Kenney, LCDR, USN, Ret..



January 09, 2017 at 11:44 AM