



Kenneth Eugene Seaman

June 8, 1942 - September 24, 2021

Fort Collins lost one of its best on September 23, 2021. Ken Seaman, 79, passed away from an aneurysm, leaving behind a legacy as an educator, bluegrass musician, sports fan, and beloved family member and friend. Ken was born June 8, 1942, in West Plains, Missouri, and spent the first part of his life in Eminence, Missouri. His dad Carl hosted bluegrass bands at the Current River Opry, where Ken began his love of bluegrass. He got his first banjo when he was sixteen. This began a lifetime of playing in bands and promoting bluegrass festivals.

In 1962, Ken met a beautiful city girl from St. Louis at the roller rink near Alley Springs during summer break and married Mary McWay, on August 20, 1966. They had two children while in Missouri, Julie and Brian. After graduating with a degree in political science, Ken began his teaching career in Winona and then took a position as Eminence High School principal, in addition to teaching and coaching basketball. During those early summers, he earned a master's degree at Drury College. He and Mary also owned the Dairy Isle, and Ken continued to play music and began holding festivals along the Jacks Fork River.

In 1974, Ken and Mary packed up and moved to Fort Collins; they both loved the beauty, and Ken loved the thriving bluegrass scene. Ken partnered up with a couple of friends and refurbished and re-opened the old Red Garter Bar in Old Town (the current Lucky Joe's). Ken missed teaching, however, and left the restaurant business to teach in the mountains – the perfect place for a small-town educator who liked to host community pie socials and play softball games with his kids on warm days. He spent the majority of his career teaching grades 4-8 at Gleneyre, Red Feather Lakes and Livermore. Students and parents loved Ken's involvement, good humor, lively wit, and love for people, especially kids.

In 1976, his youngest son Nick was born. Ken, Brian, and Nick had a passion for sports, especially baseball and basketball. They regularly made the drive to Denver to watch his Denver Nuggets, and Ken could be seen at Rockies games sporting his St. Louis Cardinal's baseball cap with his Colorado Rockies t-shirt.

More than his love of music and sports was his adoration of his two granddaughters, Jacque and Stella. Ken was part-time caretaker of each of granddaughters, making up

games, playing catch, acting out dramas, playing board games – the activities were endless. He was proud that his daughter Julie and his granddaughters could sing and never missed a recital, concert, play, or musical. Ken was also proud of grandson Keegan, who could keep up with Ken's quick wit. He loved Keegan's interests in hunting and fishing and his involvement with FFA, the organization that Ken also enjoyed as a teenager. Throughout his life in Colorado, Ken played his banjo with the Bluegrass Patriots in shows, gigs, and festivals too numerous to count. Summers took the band all over the U.S. and Europe. Every year, he loved booking bands and gearing up for his legendary Mid-Winter Bluegrass Festival. Later in life, he began playing in a second band, the Laramie River Band. He also loved keeping up with former students, colleagues, bluegrass fans, friends, and family on Facebook, in addition to posting classic pics and billboards of old bluegrass bands and stars.

Ken will be remembered most for his love of people, his gentle way of making people feel at ease, his wonderful ability to make people laugh, and his amazing abundance of energy. He leaves behind countless students, bluegrass fans, friends, and family: his wife Mary, daughter Julie Milewski(Paul), son Brian Seaman(Paula), late son Nick Seaman(Erin), granddaughters Jacque Rickett and Stella Seaman, and grandson Keegan Milewski.

Funeral arrangements are pending.

Events

SEP **Celebration of Life** 03:00PM

30

Foundations Church

1380 Denver Ave., Loveland, CO, US, 80537

SEP **Reception** 05:00PM

30

Avogadro's Number

605 S. Mason Street, Fort Collins, CO, US, 80524

Comments



“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Milbern Goetz - October 28 at 04:10 PM



“ Dear Seaman family. So sad for your loss. I'll never forget that in 198& we hired Ken and the Bluegrass Patriots to play our wedding at the then Colorado Ranch outside Granby. While we hired Ken to play four hours, the band stayed for six leading 100 guests in a raucously fun evening and at several points left the stage to lead a parade around ...I'm not sure if the wedding guests or the band had more fun. I was a fan of the Bluegrass Patriots from then on...so many festivals, and was always happy to hear Ken remember that day in July. Huge loss, but he left a huge mark on so many. Great man. Warmly, David Kane

David Kane - October 02 at 01:02 PM



“ Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Kenneth Eugene Seaman.



September 30 at 02:31 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Kenneth Eugene Seaman.



September 30 at 07:32 AM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Kenneth Eugene Seaman.



September 29 at 08:18 PM



“ Great memories of Ken's visits to Ireland and playing the Athy Bluegrass Festival. Condolences to Mary and all the Seaman Family. Tony, Joan O Brien and Family. Our thoughts and prayers are with you at this sad time. RIP Ken



Tony O Brien - September 29 at 04:42 PM



“ Dear Mary and the family,
I am so sorry for your loss. Kenny and you were such a huge part and influence during my teenage years! From the many trips to the CRO, working at the bluegrass festivals, getting caught skipping teacher's class in your classroom , last but not least, being featured in the Saint Louis Post Dispatch in the article about Ken's bluegrass music influence at school where we would leave our guitars in his Principal's office and play during lunchtime! My heart has been heavy since hearing the news about Ken. My thoughts and prayers have been with you and your family. They will continue to be and I hope the prayers help your hearts even a little bit.
Much love to you all.
Jennifer Rayfield Campbell

Jennifer Rayfield Campbell - September 29 at 03:00 PM



“ Dear Mary, Joanne, and family. Deepest condolences and love. Cousins share an irreplaceable history of family ties. Thank you for keeping ours going over these many years. Be lifted by all of us remembering Ken and his gifts. Suzanne

Suzanne Rayfield McKenzie - September 29 at 12:51 AM



“ Tim and I are truly in shock. Ken will really be missed. Going to miss the possibility of seeing him with Mary on our walks in the neighborhood and all the good music. He always made sure you were involved. Our prayers are with you!



Tim and Barb Gauthier - September 28 at 07:33 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Kenneth Eugene Seaman.



September 28 at 07:27 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Kenneth Eugene Seaman.



September 28 at 10:27 AM



“ I knew Ken for several years, loved to talk baseball with him, he was a wonderful guy who I am honored to consider a friend. I was saddened to hear of his passing, sincere condolences to his family.... He was a great guy.



Kevin Brown - September 27 at 11:13 PM



“ Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Kenneth Eugene Seaman.



September 27 at 09:03 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Kenneth Eugene Seaman.



September 27 at 05:54 PM