



## Kenneth Scott Buffington

September 30, 1919 - March 1, 2014

### Kenneth Scott Buffington

September 30, 1919 — March 1, 2014 Kenneth Scott Buffington died March 1, 2014 at his home. He was 94. His life was well lived. He was a dedicated and loving husband, father, grandfather and great grandfather. Ken's greatest gifts were his positive attitude and his love of people. Ken was the youngest son of Warren Burton Buffington and Hazel Ruth Scott Buffington. He was born on September 30, 1919 in a rural farm area south of Wauneta, Nebraska. He began his formal schooling in a one room country school house, which he attended through the eighth grade. He and his brother, Bob, batched together in town while attending Wauneta High School. They lived in a used-to-be chicken coop and ate cold pancakes for breakfast. Throughout his four years in high school, Ken lettered in football, basketball, baseball and tennis. He was a naturally talented athlete and baseball was his first love. He graduated from high school in 1938. He later played semi-pro baseball in Nebraska. After graduation Ken worked on the Buffington family farm. His dream was to attend college at the University of Nebraska and play for The Huskers, but a hail storm wiped out the dry land wheat crop that year so there was no money to go to college. In August of 1942 Ken volunteered and joined the United States Navy. A Nebraska farm boy's choice of the Navy made no sense, but he wanted a dry warm place to sleep. He served in World War II aboard a destroyer, the USS Farenholt. He was a radar man for three and a half years. The USS Farenholt DD491 was involved in many battles in the South Pacific

and received thirteen medals of commendation. His ship was hit by a torpedo that did extensive damage which made it necessary to return to San Francisco for repairs. It was at this time that Ken went home on leave and was united in marriage to Nina Horn on April 26, 1944 at the United Methodist Church in Benkelmen, Nebraska. After a short honeymoon in Denver, Colorado at the Argonaut Hotel, Ken returned to overseas duty and served until he safely returned home and received his Honorable Discharge. After the war was over, Ken and Nina built a new home in Benkelmen where they started a plumbing and heating business. They raised two children, a daughter, Gail Maureen and a son, Gary Kenneth. Ken was very active in the community. He served on the Town Council, the American Legion Board and the Volunteer Fire Department. In 1956 Ken moved his family to Fort Collins, Colorado. Both Ken and Nina believed that education was a necessary ingredient for success and wanted their children to have the educational opportunities available to them in northern Colorado. Ken worked in the plumbing and heating business for over 30 years. He had many customers that always asked for him to do their work. Ken retired in July of 1982. Ken was an ardent sports fan all his life. He loved his New York Yankees. Both Ken and Nina were active with the "Poudre Boosters" at Poudre High School, where both Gail and Gary graduated. Ken was also instrumental in helping start youth baseball in Fort Collins in 1961. He recently joined the Fort Collins Baseball Club in celebrating their 50th Anniversary of providing the youth of the Fort Collins community the opportunity to play the game of baseball. Through the years, Ken and Nina supported and attended many of the school activities and sporting events of their children and grandchildren. They were always very proud of their children's accomplishments in education and their chosen professions. After his retirement, golf became his passion sport. He could be outside in the fresh air and he loved the competition. He was really good at it too. He made his first "Hole-in-One" at age 77. Then he went on to score 3 more "Holes-In-One". His last one was when he was 85. Every person he had the pleasure of meeting, he would ask them if they golfed and if they

said no he would tell them," Well you better get out there and learn." Even after his fall, which resulted in a broken hip and then rehab, he was still at the Cattail Course in Loveland at age 93 with his wheels his walker. Golfing kept him moving, gave him something to look forward to and boy was it have fun. Ken was an amazing man and a great role model. He was preceded in death by his parents, all of his four siblings, and his dear, sweet, wife, Nina. He is survived by his daughter, Gail Ward of Longmont and her husband John; his son, Gary Buffington of Fort Collins and his wife Sally; five grandchildren: Jennifer McCabe of Kansas City, Missouri and her husband, Mike, Marc Buffington of Fort Collins and his wife, Kate and his great grandson, Logan Buffington; Kimberly Porter of Cheyenne, Wyoming and her husband, Glen, and by grandsons, Matthew Buffington of Colorado Springs and Kevin Ward of Longmont. Also, he is survived by many nieces and nephews from Nebraska, Colorado and Arizona. Those who desire may view Ken from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. on Thursday at Bohlender Funeral Chapel. A Celebration of Ken's Life will begin at 11:00 a.m. on Friday, March 7, 2014 at Timberline Church, 2908 S. Timberline Road, Fort Collins, Colorado with a reception immediately following. Interment with full Military Honors will be conducted by active Navy personnel and the Fort Collins All Veterans Honor Guard at Grandview Cemetery at 2:30 p.m. Memorial contributions may be made in Ken's name to Pathways Hospice, Fort Collins Youth Baseball or Poudre High School in care of Bohlender Funeral Chapel, 121 W. Olive, Fort Collins, Colorado 80524.

# Tribute Wall

JM

“ Gail sorry to hear about the loss of your father in reading about his life I can see why you turned out to be such a special, caring person. God Bless You and your Family classmate 65

Jerry & Nancine Marsh - March 13, 2014 at 12:00 AM

BW

“ Dear Gary and family. My condolences on the loss of your father. It sounds like he was a very special man. From an old friend, Bob Webb

Bob Webb - March 07, 2014 at 12:00 AM

AI

“ What a beautiful memorial commemorating the life of this wonderful man. Ken was a man like no other, a great friend, very kind soul; We are truly lucky to have known him for 40 years. You are all in our thoughts, he will be missed. Sincerely, Ruby Dodd, Larry Hinrichs, Kerri Hinrichs and Ruby Ann Hinrichs

AAA Enterprises, Inc. - March 07, 2014 at 12:00 AM

BM

“ Sally, Gary, and Ken's kin, What a beautiful tribute to a life well-lived! Your obituary honored your father so that I couldn't help but fall in love with him, too. That my own dearly departed dad was also a Nebraska son makes me feel Ken and Bob Rader are kindred spirits. The extended Poudre family mourns with you all. Love, Brenda and Jim Mross, and their daughters, PHS Alumni Molly, '09 and Erin, '10

Brenda Rader Mross - March 06, 2014 at 12:00 AM

MA

“ We wish to say Thank You to your loved one for his service to our great country. Our sympathies are with your family. Marine Corps League Auxiliary #785 Fort Collins, CO

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**Marine Corps League Auxiliary** - March 06, 2014 at 12:00 AM

ER

“ I have known Ken for about 13 years now, and will certainly miss him. I always got excited when I knew he was coming into our office. His smiles were contagious, with myself and our whole staff. I am proud to have known Ken. What an amazing gentleman!

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**Eric Reisler** - March 06, 2014 at 12:00 AM

RH

“ It has truly been a blessing for our family to get to know Kenneth. He was a wonderful example for us all of a strong, joyful, and positive man who enjoyed life! He will be missed.

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**Robin Hudson** - March 06, 2014 at 12:00 AM

LL

“ When I think of you all that comes to mind is what a happy and positive person you were. You never saw the bad in anything, unless it's whatever me and Gary managed to get into. Will you ever forgive the AZ Diamondbacks for beating your Yankees in the 7th game of the World Series? I'll miss you. Lanny

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**Lanny Lawson** - March 06, 2014 at 12:00 AM

GS

“ Gail and Family, My deepest sympathy as you mourn the loss of your dear Father. What a wonderful and full life he lived. I imagine you all are enjoying the great memories you share.

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**Gwen Sieckmann** - March 06, 2014 at 12:00 AM

PL

“ Uncle Kenny-what an inspiration you've been to me. You taught us from very young ages the importance of loving your God, your family, and your country and that continued as you lived your life to the fullest. I'll miss our Spring Breaks in AZ, our birthday toasts, going over all of your picture albums. but most of all I'll miss you. You've left me with so many memories that I'll cherish forever. Heaven is better off now that you've joined Aunt Nina and my parents where again you'll have that baseball rivalry between the Dodgers & the Yankees. Gail & Gary you haave pretty big shoes to fill and you do an amazing job of doing just that. Love you all  
Pammy

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**Pam Lawson** - March 06, 2014 at 12:00 AM

TP

“ I was lucky enough to have been in Mom & Dad's Room either in October or Decembermy memory is not what it used to be; Sandy says it never was! when Gail brought her Dad for a very nice visit. Ken was in great spirits and Mom & Dad had a good visit with him. We very much appreciate Gail's thoughtfulness in bringing Ken for that visit! Our prayers are with Gail & Gary and their families. I am sure Ken will be making a lot of "Hole-in-Ones" with Nina by his side! Tim & Sandy Phifer Freeman, MO 64746 im.tima54@gmail.com

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**Tim Phifer** - March 05, 2014 at 12:00 AM

MM

“ I am Kim Porter's Uncle. From what Kim has related to me about her Grandfather and from what I read here, it is obvious that Ken was a great father, grandfather and so on, well loved by all. It shows in the way Kim talks about him and in the kind of person she has grown into. A great reflection on his character. I wish I had met him. He clearly enriched the lives of those fortunate enough to have met him.

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**Michael E. Mischo** - March 05, 2014 at 12:00 AM

RS

“ Gail, Gary and family, my condolences on the loss of your father and grandfather. Ken lived a long and full life with a loving family and many caring friends. I will miss sitting with Ken just inside his garage in the heat of summer talking about sports and occasionally sipping bourbon. It was a privilege and honor to have know Ken and to have "scooped" his snow all these years.

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**Ross Shaw** - March 05, 2014 at 12:00 AM

LI

“ Thinking if you Gail. Sorry I never met your father. What a life! Let me know if you need anything.

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**Linda Smith Ingram** - March 05, 2014 at 12:00 AM

SB

“ Gail, I vaguely remember your parents from High School oh so many years ago! and I can remember thinking your family was special. Take care and God Bless.

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**Sharon Bradshaw** - March 05, 2014 at 12:00 AM

JS

“ *What a beautiful life. May God bless him, and everyone who had the privilege of meeting him.* ”

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**Jacob Schroies** - March 04, 2014 at 12:00 AM