



## Kenneth Peter Stromsland

July 9, 1939 - April 30, 2021

Kenneth P. Stromsland

Kenneth Stromsland passed away in the late hours of April 29, 2021, after a courageous struggle with Parkinson's disease, age 81 years old. His wife, Judy, his son Eric with his wife Kim and his son Peter were at his side when he passed at the Riverside Medical Center Emergency Department in Kankakee, Illinois.

Ken was born July 9, 1939 in Chicago, Illinois. His father, Peter Stromsland, immigrated from Norway and his mother was of Norwegian descent. Ken was surrounded by Norwegian communities and traditions while growing up. The family moved to Addison, Illinois, then a small township surrounded by farmland. There he met Judith Hausermann, who would become the love of his life. They married August 26, 1961, at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Addison, Illinois. Together, they enjoyed life to the fullest for the next 59+ years.

Ken and Judy started their life together by honeymooning in Glacier Park and then moving into the top floor of a house in Evanston, then to an apartment in Villa Park and once more to the top floor of a house in Lombard, Illinois. Ken earned his Bachelor of Architecture from Illinois Institute of Technology in 1962, the same year children entered the picture, starting with his daughter

Kari. Daughter Susan arrived in 1964 and the family moved to a townhouse in New Lenox, Illinois so that Ken could be close to work and he and Judy could start working towards their dream of building a house in the rural countryside. He had accepted an offer to work for S-L (Semitekol-Larson) Architects in Joliet, Illinois. Son Peter joined the family in 1966 and Ken earned his Architectural license in 1967. Son Eric arrived in 1969. Ken designed his and Judy's dream house and soon they were living their dream in the rural countryside with their children in their beautiful new home. Dogs, cats, horses and birds followed soon after.

Between vegetable gardening, family vacations spent hiking in the rocky mountains, bow hunting, sailing, all types of skiing, raising and showing horses, field trialing with his pointers, traveling to Norway and sailing Lake Michigan, Chesapeake Bay, the Pacific coast, the Caribbean and South Pacific, he became an accomplished architect and grew to principal and owner as S-L Architects transitioned to SLS (Semitekol Larson Stromsland) and then S&D (Stromsland & DeYoung) Architects. He was a long serving member of the AIA (American Institute of Architects), Eastern Illinois chapter, and served terms as vice president and president.

He served as school board member for the Homer grade school district while each of his children were attending and served as board vice president and president. He was a member of the Joliet Exchange Club for over 40 years where he again served as vice president and president. He was passionate about Bicentennial Park in Joliet and served as a board member and treasurer. He was equally passionate about Trinity Services, Inc., New Lenox, Illinois where he served as architect, board member and board vice president and president. He served as a board member for Shepherd of the Hill Lutheran Church, Lockport, Illinois, where he was a member of the congregation.

Ken was an active member of the Hilltoppers Field Trial club, the Paso Fino Owners and Breeders Association, Inc. and the local Paso Fino club where he served as president. He lovingly maintained his Sons of Norway membership and endeavored to learn Norsk.

He is survived by his beloved wife Judy Stromsland, daughter Kari Stromsland and her beloved Todd Willsie, daughter Susan O'Connor and her husband John, son Peter Stromsland and his wife Susan and their children Katie and Jason Stromsland, and son Eric Stromsland and his wife Kim.

He is preceded in death by his father Peter Stromsland and mother Charlotte Stromsland.

Throughout his life, Ken kept his heart, spirit and sense of humor. He has been described as down to earth and he was drawn to the outdoors and nature. If you asked Ken what was most important in life, he would smile and easily tell you that it is family, friends, loved ones and the joy of learning and giving of oneself in a way that honors the simple, natural and human truth: what comes around goes around and what goes around comes around. He lived by the advice he gave to his children: "The more you do, the more you can do".

Excerpts from the Song of Hiawatha, by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow  
(in remembrance of Ken & Judy's first date)

By the shores of Gitche Gumee,  
By the shining Big-Sea-Water,  
Stood the wigwam of Nokomis,  
Daughter of the Moon, Nokomis...

...One long track and trail of splendor,  
Down whose stream, as down a river,  
Westward, westward Hiawatha  
Sailed into the fiery sunset,  
Sailed into the purple vapors...

Visitation and Service:

May 8, 2021, Saturday

R.W. Patterson Funeral Home,

401 E. Main St, Braidwood, Illinois, 60408

Visitation: 10:00am

Service 12:00pm

Memorials may be made to:

Bicentennial Park

Trinity Services, Inc.

Parkinson's Disease and Movement Disorders Center at Northwestern

Memorial Hospital

# Previous Events

## Visitation

MAY 8. 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM (CT)

R.W. Patterson Funeral Home  
401 East Main St.  
Braidwood, IL 60408  
(815) 458-2336  
info@rwpattersonfuneralhome.com  
<https://www.rwpattersonfuneralhomes.com>

## Service

MAY 8. 12:00 PM - 12:30 PM (CT)

R.W. Patterson Funeral Home  
401 East Main St.  
Braidwood, IL 60408  
(815) 458-2336  
info@rwpattersonfuneralhome.com  
<https://www.rwpattersonfuneralhomes.com>

# Tribute Wall

LB

“ Dear Susan, It's beautiful to see you are your "father's daughter" and where you get your love for hiking and nature, skiing ,family and friends, and of course, sailing!  
My heart goes out to you and your family.  
RIP Mr. Stromsland, and thank you for giving me my dear friend...Love you Susie ♥♥ Linda xox

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Linda Behla - May 09, 2021 at 11:32 PM

AI

“Over many years we have been privileged to share a wonderful friendship with Ken, Judy and family. Ken had a zest for life, a willingness to help others, a sense of humor and a smile that was contagious. He served on the Boards of Bicentennial Park and Trinity services in Joliet for many years where he gave generously of his time and assets. He was a real servant leader in all aspects of his life.

*His love of dogs and Paso Fino horses eventually led him to the sport of Field trialing where his enthusiasm and love of competition with his two most memorable dogs, Flash and Buddy was apparent.*

*He was an avid sailor who loved being on the water when conditions were “on the edge”. We were lucky enough to share several sailing trips to far and exotic places. His love of his Norwegian heritage sent him back to his roots in Norway, where, on one of these visits, we were fortunate enough to accompany he and Judy on a memorable tour of his ancestral land and meet several of his wonderful family.*

*Ken was an excellent cross country skier and never could any of us keep up with his competitive drive and strength and speed on the snow. He loved breaking the trail so the rest of us could follow. When the kids were little Ken set up fishing competitions that would pit the children versus the adults on pristine lakes in Michigan. We will long remember his laugh when the adults “won” even if we had to change the rules in the middle of the competition.*

*He shared his life and love with his wife, Judy and family, and will be terribly missed by all. Rest in peace our dear friend.*

*Ann and George*

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**Ann and George Ihrke** - May 06, 2021 at 09:44 AM