



## Kenneth Lee Kinner

May 28, 1933 - July 4, 2019

Kenneth, age 86, (known as “Ken”) Lee Kinner died peacefully in his sleep on July 4, 2019 in Ogden, Utah.

Ken, along with his twin sister, Eleanor Kay, was born on May 28, 1933, during the heart of the Great Depression, in Sparks, Nevada to Eleanor Lee Kinner and their older brothers, Richard and Vernon. Their father, Albert Vernon Kinner, passed away prior to the twin’s birth.

Ken and his twin sister were deaf at birth. Educational opportunities for deaf children at the time were limited and there were no suitable programs near their Nevada home. In 1939, at the age of six, the twins were enrolled at the Utah School for the Deaf (USD). It was a new beginning not just in terms of education, but also in developing the language and culture of the Deaf. The community at USD became their family, particularly since they only returned to their Nevada home during school breaks.

Until the family was able to relocate to Utah, the twins, along with other deaf children, commuted to school via the Southern Pacific Railroad from Sparks, Nevada to the Union Station in Ogden, Utah. This experience was especially unique to Ken’s generation of deaf children resulting in cherished stories of friendship, fun and mischief while traveling to and from school.

Ken was 11 years old when the family relocated to Utah, to be closer to USD. With the support of his family, Ken continued to excel in academics, sports and leadership. He was very outgoing and would often choose to stay at the USD dorms so he could participate in various USD sports, activities and student government.

At USD, Ken also participated in various vocational trainings and decided to specialize in printing, which landed him a printing job at the Inland Printing Company at age 17. He continued working as a printer while attending USD and beyond graduation in 1954. His career in printing included positions with the Salt Lake Tribune (4 years) and the Ogden Standard Examiner (44 years), where he finally retired after 57 years in the industry.

Ken married his sweetheart, Ilene Coles, on September 11, 1959. They established their home in Ogden, Utah. There they raised their two children, Deanne and Duane, who were also Deaf and who would continue the Kinner legacy at USD.

Ken served on the Utah Association of the Deaf Board for 19 years and Ned C. Wheeler Scholarship Foundation for the Deaf for 37 years. He was an admired and well-respected member of the Utah Deaf community.

Ken was a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. He played an integral role in establishing leadership positions for deaf members in the Ogden Branch for the Deaf and held many leadership callings. Ken served two terms as Branch President from 1969-1975 and 1994-1999.

Ken had passion for family history; he loved taking pictures and making videos and sharing information with family and friends. As a longtime member of the Utah Deaf community and a history enthusiast, he opened the gates to Utah's untold and rich Deaf History.

And finally, Ken enjoyed having fun with family and friends doing all sorts of activities such as camping, fishing, hunting, and sports. Leaving those he loved with many wonderful and fond memories.

Ken is survived by his wife, Ilene, and children, Deanne Montgomery and Duane (Jodi) Kinner, three foster children, Travis Kayhart, Renee Solis and Hine Tahu, 7 grandchildren, 5 great-grandchildren, and two more on the way. He was preceded in death by his parents, Albert Victor Kinner and Eleanor Lee; siblings, Richard Ervin Kinner, Albert Vernon Kinner, Eleanor Kay Kinner (Curtis) and Theodore Thomas Long Jr. Ken is the last of his generation to leave this earthly life.

A funeral service, celebrating and honoring the life of Kenneth Lee Kinner will be held Saturday, July 13 at 11:00 AM. A viewing will also be held on Friday evening from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM and again on Saturday at 9:00 AM, two hour prior to the funeral service. Both services are located at the Ogden Valley Deaf Branch for the Deaf, 5640 South 850 East, Ogden, UT. Interment: Centerville City Cemetery.

IN LIEU OF FLOWERS, please consider a donation to the Kenneth Kinner Memorial fund (# 9111212) with America First Credit Union to help pay for medical expenses.

# Previous Events

## Viewing

JUL 12. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (MT)

Ogden Valley Branch  
5640 S 850 E  
South Ogden, UT

## Viewing

JUL 13. 9:00 AM - 10:30 AM (MT)

Ogden Valley Branch  
5640 S 850 E  
South Ogden, UT

## Funeral Service

JUL 13. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (MT)

Ogden Valley Branch  
5640 S 850 E  
South Ogden, UT

## Interment

JUL 13. 12:30 PM - 1:00 PM (MT)

Centerville City Cemetery  
400 S 600 E  
Centerville, UT

# Tribute Wall



“ *Kenneth Lee Kinner*

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October 05, 2023 at 07:49 PM



“ *We were privileged to get to know Ken, he always had a smile and a big heart. His kindness and love for others touched many lives, especially ours. He was a light and example to many and the legacy he has left on the Deaf community is unmatched by any words that can be written.*

*To Ken's family and loved ones, words fail to express our sorrow for your loss of a loved one. Our condolences and prayers are with your family during this difficult time.*

*As Elder Joseph Wirthlin once said, "One of the blessings of the gospel is the knowledge that when the curtain of death signals the end of our mortal lives, life will continue on the other side of the veil. There we will be given new opportunities. Not even death can take from us the eternal blessings promised by a loving Heavenly Father." Ken is now preparing a mansion for you, Ilene and your loved ones on the other side.*

*With Love,  
The Cantrells*

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**The Cantrells** - July 14, 2019 at 02:31 AM

WJ

*Ken, has been a wonderful man and contributor to the Deaf Community! I am so thankful for him volunteering his time for conducting and sharing his thoughts at my son's (Todd Michael Johnson) funeral, back in the Spring of 1969. May the Lord bless his wife, Ilene and the entire family, at this time of remorse and sorrow. Sincerely, Billy Lee Johnson (son of Berdean and Arvel Christensen, and the brother of Betty Jones, Judy Burt, and Shirley Leavitt!)*

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**William (Billy) Lee Johnson** - July 14, 2019 at 05:27 AM

DA

“*Kenneth was a sweet and good heart !!!  
Gonna miss him! He always smiles every time  
we meet ! He won't be forgotten ! May he  
Rest In Peace.. sending my thoughts &  
prayers to his family and friends Huggs* ❤️🙏



*Darrie Albers*

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**Darrie Albers** - July 12, 2019 at 01:54 AM

KR

“*I was privileged to work with Ken at the Standard-Examiner, after he had retired and was only working part-time. He proofread our ads and when he found a mistake, he would find the culprit and laugh his great booming laugh. He always had great stories to tell about his life and brought so much joy to our department. He was a hard worker and a dear friend. He will always be in a sunny part of my heart.*

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**Kimberly Roe** - July 11, 2019 at 08:38 PM



“ One of the several memories about Ken was when Travis and I helped clean up the front yard one day during springtime. Ken was mowing the lawn. I asked him to let me mow, and he did. It was not that big, I thought that I would be comfortable doing that. When I tried to push it; it was hard to do it. I struggled in mowing it, I had learned humility, all Ken did was smiling and had helped me afterward. I laughed about it in remembrance.

Glorie Kayhart

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Travis Kayhart - July 11, 2019 at 11:41 AM



“ i can't believe he is gone on the earth and went to home in the heavenly father and meet his family again.. ( cries hard) .. i really happy that he did hard work to teach me to learn how to be future in success. i know he did success in his life at all of it! amazing!.. he is best example to teach me and Duane and Travis. He is wonderful man and more humble and be patient so power spirit. how i feel inspired at Kenneth Lee Kinner? Yes, he always smile to me.. i love you daddy Kenneth Lee Kinner! <3 i will see you again in the heavenly father 's home. \*HUG\*.

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Hine - July 10, 2019 at 11:28 PM



“ Ken was good man service & loved served church. I know ken was example family & gave money \$2.00 each grandchildren. We attend deaf branch during branch president Kinner was patient & humble. They has tent trailer camping with family & friends. We miss him.

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Julie Lein - July 10, 2019 at 04:47 PM



“ *A Giant Pillar*

*A family man stood tall as a giant pillar for the Deaf community in Utah. Kenneth Lee Kinner, a beloved and dearest father, watches over us on the earth, even still now in the paradise. His strength as a steadfast, unselfishness, gospel rearing, knowledgeable, and patience has influenced the deaf community by preserving the integrity in the family. He works full-time as a newspaperman and father at home. He excels in teaching and leads us into the light. His penitence stood with might and always stayed positive as a true leader. His countenance influenced us with his sense of humor remained a real strength in the family as well as the deaf community. He is a cherished listener and always smiled. He's a giant pillar in our lives. He will be missed on the earth, but knowing that he's with us in our hearts for the time until we meet again.*

*Travis Kayhart*

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**Travis Kayhart** - July 10, 2019 at 02:02 PM



“ *Had known Ken for decades through ones of my best friends, Duane & Jodi Kinner (Becker) since late 80s to early 90s. Had seen & associated with Ken & his sweetheart of a wife, Ilene at numerous gatherings, church events, political settings, some special events and mostly at Duane's & Jodi's house each time I visited. Always enjoyed hearing many stories & histories he shared with me. He thought so high of his son, Duane and her daughter, Deanne. He mentioned how he met his sweetheart, Ilene, bought their first house, raised their beautiful family along with Travis, too. Have been good friends with many members on both of Kinnners' paternal & maternal sides. Dorene, Paul, Merla, Becky for instance & many others. My deepest condolences to his whole clan. Thank you for all you did, Ken! Be free & enjoy, my dear friend, Ken!*

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**Christopher Palaia (CP)** - July 10, 2019 at 01:45 PM

CJ

“ *He is a fine man I know from church... Love all his stories that he share with me when I was a little girl.. My deep condolences to his family.. Fly high Ken!*

*-Connie Johnston*

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**Connie Johnston-Ruberry** - July 10, 2019 at 11:47 AM