

An Honorable Life

Have you ever known anyone that in his lifetime worked as a veterinarian and then a lawyer?

I have. His name is William K. “Ken” Grisham, Jr.

His experiences in those fields of endeavor provided great subject matter for stories that Ken loved to tell. He was a great storyteller with remarkable recall.

It’s not his expertise in two very different and technical professions that impressed me most about this man. He is one of my heroes, and here are some reasons why:

Family. It has been said of Ken, “His joy was his family, and he took great pride in watching his children and grandchildren striving for excellence in their academic and athletic endeavors.” He loved his wife of 57 years, Anna, who cared for him and helped him through some very difficult days.

A Fighter. Ken battled cancer – multiple myeloma – for the last 10 years of his life. He endured countless treatments that took a great toll on his body. Throughout this ordeal, his loving wife was by his side, helping him in numerous ways. Ken was courageous and faced challenges head on. My Dad described Ken as being the type of man that would go bear-hunting with a switch. As he faced his difficult challenges with his health, he maintained a positive, determined outlook.

Friendliness. Ken was a friend to many. Many sought his wise counsel. All enjoyed his fascinating stories. Whenever I spoke with him, he was always asking about the wellbeing of others. When some friends and church members who were also battling cancer saw Ken in the cancer center, he was always delighted to see them and showed a great interest in them.

Faith. Ken’s faith was the foundation of his life. I am one of many who loved to hear him pray. He was a Bible student and a Bible teacher. He loved the Lord, the church, and God’s Word.

I was with Ken when a surgeon was talking to him about a very risky surgery. “You are a sick man, and you may not survive the surgery,” the doctor told him. Ken said he understood. He told the doctor, “If I don’t make it, then hallelujah, I’m going home.”

Ken passed from this life just a few hours after that surgery. His earthly life ended, but he knew he was headed to an eternal home in heaven because of his faith in Jesus.

I believe Ken could say with the Apostle Paul: “I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing” (2 Timothy 4:7-8).

You and I can have that hope if we will follow Jesus like Ken. Place your faith and trust in Jesus (Acts 16:30-31), turn from sin in repentance (Acts 17:30-31), confess Jesus before men (Romans 10:9-10), and be baptized (immersed) into Christ for the forgiveness of sins (Acts 2:38). Then, walk in the light of God’s Word, and He will continue to cleanse you from all sin (1 John 1:7-9) and prepare for you an eternal home in heaven (John 14:1-3).

Thank you, Ken, for your life, your love, and your legacy. You have provided a great example for us to follow as you sought to follow the Lord.

-- David A. Sargent

* In loving memory of William K. “Ken” Grisham, Jr. (August 15, 1947 - April 24, 2026). Until we meet again.