



Kenneth Lewis Dotson

December 25, 1932 - February 3, 2021

Ken Dotson, 88, of Frankfort died Wednesday at his home. A native of Versailles, he was the son of the late Mary Elizabeth Kenley and Walter (Buck) Dotson. Ken received his bachelor's degree from University of Kentucky Agriculture Department and started a lifelong career landscaping the Commonwealth. A professional landscaper with Kentucky State Government he was responsible for the beauty surrounding the Frankfort Capitol and Floral Clock. He enjoyed coaching youth sports, watching college sports and most of all spending time with his grandchildren. Ken was a veteran of the US Air Force and a member of the Ruritan Club.

Ken was preceded in death by his wife, Wanda; brother, Bobby and sister Ruth Richardson. Survivors include his sons Kent, Kurt (Fran) and Keith (Grace) Dotson, daughter Dana (Tommy) Griffin; siblings Edith Hogg, Philip and Gerald Dotson; six grandchildren Caitlin and Kenley Dotson, Emily and Ethan Griffin, Isaac Dotson and Kemper Dotson

LeCompte Johnson Taylor Funeral Home is handling the arrangements. Please visit our website to share memories and leave the family messages of condolence.

Due to Covid, a private service will be held. The family plans to have a memorial tree planting service in honor of Kenneth at a later date. In lieu of flowers, any expressions of sympathy may be made by supporting his passions in life. Plant a tree or garden, donate to a local garden club or community garden, or sponsor a youth sports player or team.

You can listen to a oral history interview with Kenneth about the floral clock by visiting:

<https://www.kyhistory.com/digital/collection/Ohist/id/3435/>

Tribute Wall

GS

“ *Kent, Kurt, Keith, and Dana, and family,*

*As neighbors and friends, we watched you grow up in a most loving family. Your Dad and Mom (and Grandma too) were great examples of loving parents and life examples for us all. Living two doors down (next to Anne and Gary) during the 1980's, we were privileged to get great landscaping/horticultural advice from Ken —which came in very handy when we built a new house (in the middle of an overgrown thicket!) half a mile up the road on South Benson. Around that time, Ken let us (and daughter Laura) pot a boxwood seedling —which today has grown to over 5 feet tall! A very healthy specimen for sure. It is a beautiful reminder of Ken, his friendship and sage advice. The world is a more beautiful place (particularly the Capitol) because of the talent of this wonderful man. Our sincere condolences to you all,
Gary and Angie Scott*

Gary Scott - February 13, 2021 at 10:32 AM

AW

“ *He was such a fine man. I new him as I grew up attending Bridgeport Christian Church, and in the 80's my husband and I became his next door neighbors. He always loved to kid around. He called our daughters Gabby and Gabby Jr, because they were always "gabbing." Ken and my husband, Gary, became good friends over the years, and both of them enjoyed sitting together and talking in Ken's backyard. We were blessed with a wonderful neighbor, and Gary and I send our sincere sympathies to the family. He will be missed.*

Anne Wolf - February 12, 2021 at 02:08 PM

JD

“ As a new state employee just out of high school, I worked with a bunch of landscape architects in the Highway Department’s Division of Roadside Development. All of these guys knew and respected Ken Dodson, and introduced me to him. They took me along sometimes when they visited him. I always liked being around really intelligent men, they were my role models.

Ken was not just a brilliant horticulturalist, but a really nice guy. He kept our Capitol grounds beautiful for decades, which was no easy task. Most folks just took this beauty for granted. Under his expert tutelage, the front median of the capital and floral clock we’re always breathtaking for the many tourists, famous dignitaries and celebrities came visiting when Derby rolled around.

But that was just the beginning of the season, as Ken had that area re-planted as soon as the blooms dropped, maintaining a succession of flowering plants at their peak!

He truly loved his work! And isn’t that about all any conscious entity could ever ask for?

James Daniel - February 09, 2021 at 10:37 AM

DC

“ To the Dotson clan: Sorry for your loss. We will all miss Mr. Dotson. What I will always remember most about Mr. Dotson is him helping me become a pretty good hitter for our baseball team. Keith and I would go out to the side yard with Mr. Dotson and he would use his special "hitting tool" to help us improve our game. It was a rope with a baseball attached to the end. He would swing it around and around and allow us to take swings and tell us what we were doing right and wrong.

To Keith, Kent, Kurt, and Dana, you all are in our prayers, and if you all need anything, please let us know.

David Clark and family.

David Clark - February 09, 2021 at 08:03 AM

RS

“ Your entire family is in our prayers at Bridgeport Christian Church. We loved Ken very much.

Rev. Ann Shepherd - February 07, 2021 at 09:47 AM

DD

“ *Dotson Family -*

Just a note to let you all know that "Mr Dotson" left lasting impressions on many people, including me.

I recall the many times I would go up in the bleachers of Bridgeport gym to sit, talk, and discuss sports with him. He always spoke to me as a young adult instead of a small kid. The last time I spoke to Mr. Dotson was in a gym (of course) where he was watching his grandson playing basketball.

He was a very good man. RIP

David Duvall - February 06, 2021 at 11:15 AM

WW

“ *Ken I go way back was a dear friend worked together in the landscape business! He was very instrumental in helping me get started in the landscape business in my early years. I will miss him! So sorry for your loss! Wade Wearren*

wade wearren - February 05, 2021 at 07:54 PM

DT

“ *Deborah Peyton Taylor lit a candle in memory of Kenneth Lewis Dotson*



Deborah Peyton Taylor - February 05, 2021 at 07:33 PM

CG

“ *My second father. That's why I'm Cheryl D. He always said the D stood for Dotson. All of you SHOOT THE MOON and we will see you soon. All my love.*

Cheryl Gayhart - February 05, 2021 at 05:58 PM

BA

“ *Brenda Adams lit a candle in memory of Kenneth Lewis Dotson*



Brenda Adams - February 05, 2021 at 08:54 AM

HS

“ Heather Stout lit a candle in memory of Kenneth Lewis Dotson



Heather Stout - February 05, 2021 at 08:25 AM

RM

“ Robin McIver lit a candle in memory of Kenneth Lewis Dotson



Robin McIver - February 05, 2021 at 07:37 AM



“ Sweet Tranquility Basket was purchased for the family of Kenneth Lewis Dotson.



February 05, 2021 at 07:20 AM



“ Memories 44" Sonnet was purchased for the family of Kenneth Lewis Dotson.



February 04, 2021 at 08:51 PM

PW

“ What a fine man, always wanting to help us with our gardening or our flowers. Sending love and hugs and prayers to the family to get your through these days....I always will think if him when I see the Floral Clock, he told us the story of how he helped get the clock and it is amazing story..We will think of him when we get started on our garden beds in the Spring.....Love Conny and Paula

Paula Moore Woolums - February 04, 2021 at 02:09 PM

JT

*Ken I'm sure going to miss you. You've always been in my life as long as I can remember. I know heaven is going to be a much more interesting place with your presence. There will be many new flowering trees and lots of tomato plants.....not to mention a Big beautiful new floral clock.
Love you my old friend. Go fly high and then.....
RIP Ken Dotson*

Judy Tincher - February 05, 2021 at 10:53 PM

PW

“ Paula Moore Woolums lit a candle in memory of Kenneth Lewis Dotson



Paula Moore Woolums - February 04, 2021 at 01:56 PM

NM

I am SO SO sorry to learn about this. He was just the best, ever! His personality, he was so witty! He could grow anything!! Again, I'm SO sorry! 🙏🙏🙏❤️😞

nancy moore - February 08, 2021 at 09:51 AM

BJ

“ Bettye Fern Johnson lit a candle in memory of Kenneth Lewis Dotson



Bettye Fern Johnson - February 04, 2021 at 12:24 PM