



Kenneth L Sheppard

MAR 5, 1927 - JUL 18, 2025



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Sray Webster
FUNERAL HOME, LLC.

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Kenneth L Sheppard

MAR 5, 1927 - JUL 18, 2025

Kenneth L Sheppard, 98, a longtime resident of Fairton, NJ passed away suddenly on Friday morning July 18, 2025 at the home of John & Kelly Sheppard.

Born in Bridgeton, NJ March 5, 1927, he was the son of the late Benjamin Gaskel and Miriam Lytle (Noss) Sheppard. He was predeceased by his loving wife Maria Sheppard, who passed in 2013.

Ken's education began in the same school his mother attended, which was a one room dwelling on Lebanon road called the Loder School, built on land deeded from Seeds Dairy Farm. He would later attend Cedarville, Hopewell, Seabrook, and Greenwich area schools throughout his youth before ultimately graduating from Bridgeton High School in 1943.

In 1945 he was drafted by the US Army and admirably served overseas in Germany with the 1st Armored Division. Upon his Honorable Discharge, he returned home to work in various roles such as farmhand for Husted Farm and the first ever Manager of the Delsea Drive In Theater and later the Bridgeton Drive In. Ken served as Board of Education District Clerk for Fairfield Township for 24 years. Most notably in 1952, he founded Sheppard Bus Service after purchasing a Greyhound Bus and charter operating authority from family member and Bridgeton native, Milton Sheppard. What began as one contract and three school buses for Fairfield Township continued to grow for over 70 years into a business that now operates over 900 school vehicles throughout the state of New Jersey.

Outside of his career, Ken loved tending to his garden and reading, especially The New Yorker Magazine. He was an opera and classical music enthusiast and spent many years as an avid antique collector with his wife, Maria. "Opa" loved traveling and spending time with his grandchildren teaching life lessons. Ken enjoyed playing pinochle, attending scholastic high school wrestling matches and watching professional tennis on television.



Obituary

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Kenneth's memories and legacy are left to be cherished by his son John Sheppard (Kelly) and his four grandchildren Quinn, Johnny (Mikayla), Henry, and Stella Sheppard.

He was preceded in death by his parents Benjamin and Miriam Sheppard, his wife Maria Sheppard, step daughter Marianne Lunsford, and two brothers Raymond and Benjamin Sheppard Jr.

Family and friends are invited to attend a memorial service to honor Kenneth's life on Tuesday July 22, 2025 from 10AM- 12PM.

In lieu of flowers, contributions can be made to Future Farmers of America <https://ffa.givenow.stratuslive.com/ffadonate> and Cumberland County Historical Society <https://cchistsoc.org/>





Events


Kenneth L Sheppard

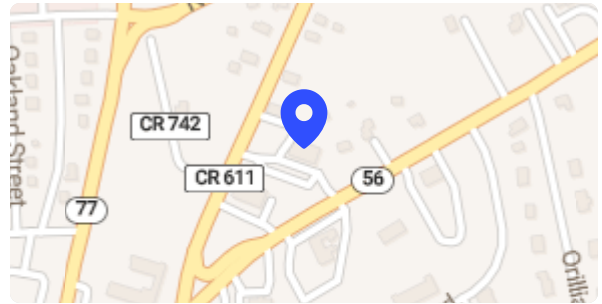
MAR 5, 1927 - JUL 18, 2025

Memorial Service

 **Tuesday**, July 22, 2025

 10:00 AM ET

 **Sray Webster Funeral Home**
62 Landis Ave, Bridgeton NJ 08302





Tribute Wall

Kenneth L Sheppard

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Byron C. planted a grove of 5 Memorial Trees in honor of Kenneth.



August 27 at 6:54 AM



Adeleen Mather Jones lit a candle in honor of Kenneth.



August 15 at 5:15 PM



Adeleen Mather Jones August 15 at 5:33 PM

Dear John and Kelly, I knew of your dad Kenny and I really new Maria from back in the mid 60's when she drove the school bus for Kenny before they married. I found out how I was related to Kenny through my great grandmother Bertha Righter Barrows and attending Fairton Christian Center 1979. I met your family and loved them immediately and will hold ALL in my heart in Jesus name!! John, Holly Dunn whom you knew is my daughter. My sincere condolences to you both. I should have noted this when I sent my card. Sincerely, Addie Jones, Lesson SC



Audrey McNally posted:

I never had the pleasure to meet him, but I did hear some wonderful stories from some of our employees over the years. He was a self starter and a hard worker and very pleasant as is his son, John Sheppard. He left a true legacy with his company Sheppard Bus Services. I am so sorry for you loss but know you are a very strong family and you have each other to help with the loss. Take care. Audrey K. McNally

August 5 at 7:36 AM



Mark Mcfixit posted:

My condolences to the Sheppard family. Loved listening to his stories of wisdom. A great guy and a true gentleman.

August 5 at 3:49 AM



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Patricia A Cutler posted:

I'm sending my Condolences to the entire family & to all that knew him. May the God of us all keep everyone under His Care to comfort you all n this time of Grief. I do know that God is a Healer and that He will keep everyone in perfect. Just know that all the memories that you've had of Mr.Kenneth will always be with you all. So just hold on to all them as he continues to look down at all of you as he guides you and the entire family on 🙏🏠🙏 (employee)

July 27 at 3:18 PM



Nancy P Vanaman lit a candle in honor of Kenneth.

When seeing Mr. Sheppard , he always had a smile and said hello .. Was always a great Boss. Way back in the Fairton days .. Marie and Ken you both will always be in my heart .. I know God is by you both.. Amen 🙏🙏

July 24 at 8:54 AM



Ian Hughes lit a candle in honor of Kenneth.

I remember Mr. Sheppard fondly. My mother worked as a school bus driver for Mr. Sheppard from 1958 until 1975. He was always respectful to my mother and to the other bus drivers. I remember, as a teenager, when he personally took my church choir from Trinity A.M.E. Church to New York City on his transit bus when we sang for a Christian Endeavor conference in New York City, and later when he drove us to sing at a church up in Sussex County NJ. The last time I saw him was a couple of years ago when he came to the Annual Meeting of the Cumberland County Historical Society. Whenever you see a Sheppard Bus Service school bus go by, you will know that was Mr. Kenneth Sheppard's legacy.

July 24 at 6:53 AM



Terry King Harrison lit a candle in honor of Kenneth.

July 24 at 4:44 AM



Russell Williams lit a candle in honor of Kenneth.

July 22 at 6:00 PM





Tribute Wall

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Russell Williams posted:

John Kelly and family so sorry for ur loss first time I meant Kenny was in fairton shop when I was putting some motor in some busses and it will be a time I never will forget he came in the shop and asked Mike mikus were the bold head kid was I was under the bus putting the transmission line on was afraid to come out from under the bus but he was waiting for me and I finally rolled out from under the bus and there stood Kenny with no shirt on asking me 101 questions so after that one Friday I got called to the office in Carmel and I had to go help Kenny flip his rottiller back over and that was an adventure og its own but by far the funniest man that I know if there's anything we can do or help with just say the word and John Sheppard I wouldn't have got them memories if I wasn't working for you guys Russell Williams Megan and the boys

July 22 at 5:58 PM



Danyelle lit a candle in honor of Kenneth.

Kenny's stories will live on through his family and company. You will be truly missed -Lst Shop

July 22 at 7:14 AM



Ryan Sharkey And The Zonar Family sent a Peaceful White Lilies Basket to the Sheppard family.

July 22 at 6:39 AM



Sharon Mitchell posted:

Sorry for you loss

July 22 at 3:50 AM



June Reed-Solomon lit a candle in honor of Kenneth.

July 21 at 5:00 PM





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Sheppard Trenton Terminal sent a Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet to the Sheppard family.

July 21 at 10:28 AM



Sheppard Trenton Terminal planted a Memorial Tree in honor of Kenneth.

July 21 at 10:28 AM



Anonymous sent a Dreams From the Heart Bouquet to the Sheppard family.

July 21 at 10:22 AM



Paul H. planted a Memorial Tree in honor of Kenneth.

July 21 at 9:53 AM



Reah Bates posted:

John and Kelly sorry for the loss of your father he was a great man. I know him through Hollis who drove for you. Your father will be missed.

July 21 at 9:44 AM



Stella Adkins lit a candle in honor of Kenneth.

I worked for Kenny for many years & he left me with fond memories ❤️👤 to the family

July 21 at 5:03 AM





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Anonymous planted a Memorial Tree in honor of Kenneth.



July 21 at 4:46 AM



Anonymous sent a Sentiments of Serenity Spray to the Sheppard family.



July 21 at 4:46 AM



Wayne & Linda Roller posted:

Ken - a very wise man. I always looked up to Ken and will always remember him for his intellect. He was a very successful businessman. Very sorry to hear of his passing.

July 20 at 10:10 PM



Bob Rose posted:

I have many fond memories of Mr. Sheppard driving BHS sports teams to away games, but on a personal note he provided a bus so I we could attend a concert at the Spectrum.

July 20 at 5:46 PM



Roger Brian Bates posted:

Sorry for the families loss. I remember back in 1968 or 1969 he drove the bus for Greenwich safty patrol outing to Atlantic City. He was truly a great man. Rest in peace

July 20 at 7:58 AM



Diane May posted:

My father in law Clifford "Pete" May worked for Sheppard Bus driving school bus and Tour bus trips for many many years. RIP Mr Sheppard

July 20 at 5:24 AM



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Bill Chestnut posted:

Always a pleasure to do business with Ken. He was a true American success story.

July 20 at 3:36 AM



Anonymous sent a Treasured Lilies Spray to the Sheppard family.



July 19 at 5:49 PM



Bambi W. planted a Memorial Tree in honor of Kenneth.



July 19 at 5:29 PM



Penny lit a candle in honor of Kenneth.

Deepest Sympathy, Jim & Penny Laning

July 19 at 5:11 PM



Debora Palen lit a candle in honor of Kenneth.

So sorry for your loss, lots of prayers for you and your family. 👤 👤

July 19 at 3:18 PM



Rick & Sonja Schlosser, And Lisa Garrett planted a Memorial Tree in honor of Kenneth.



July 19 at 1:29 PM



Tribute Wall

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RG

Rick & Sonja Schlosser, And Lisa Garrett sent a Pink Tribute Spray to the Sheppard family.



July 19 at 1:29 PM

BB

Bettyann Bryant posted:

I remember, we had a float room down in fairton. we used to do puzzles and sit around, Ken Shepherd. We always talk about classical music like Mozart and a great composers. and we always go in his garden, and pick some of his fruits and vegetables. those are the things, I'm going to miss from him. He was the great boss, I am so glad that. I got a chance to work with him. I will have the family up in prayer. Bettyann Bryant family.

July 19 at 1:08 PM

MM

Margaret Mcknight posted:

Ken was wonderful person. He knew so much history. My fondest memories were meeting up with Kenny at Lou and Bonnie's house every Friday for pizza. Wonderful discussions and laughs, what a gem of a man.

July 19 at 11:33 AM

RB

Rusty Brady posted:

One great Memory was Ken was driving the bus to New York with the Boy Scouts riding up the Thurway. They switched Drivers it was great. Ken was the best the scouts had a great camping trip

July 19 at 11:22 AM

CP

Cindy Panzner lit a candle in honor of Kenneth.

My condolences to your family sending prayers and hugs 🙏



July 19 at 10:09 AM



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Sharon Cox lit a candle in honor of Kenneth.

July 19 at 10:06 AM



Desiree Farside lit a candle in honor of Kenneth.

My condolences 🙏

July 19 at 9:18 AM



Betty Gandy lit a candle in honor of Kenneth.

Mr. Sheppard was a kind and generous man who made a lasting impact on our neighborhood. He was always there for the kids, offering them jobs washing buses and teaching them the values of responsibility and hard work. I've known Mr. Sheppard since I was a little girl. Years later, I had the pleasure of building a home across the street from him. I will always treasure our long conversations at the mailbox—he loved talking about his garden, and he never missed a chance to share how proud he was of his son, daughter-in-law and his grandchildren. His eyes would light up when he spoke about them, and you could feel the love and pride in every word. Rest in peace, Mr. Sheppard! You will be deeply missed. ❤️🙏 Condolences to the entire Sheppard family, Betty Jane and Vernon Gandy

July 19 at 6:55 AM



Frederick Cabegin And Family planted a Memorial Tree in honor of Kenneth.

July 19 at 5:47 AM



Frederick Cabegin And Family sent an Enchanted Cottage to the Sheppard family.

July 19 at 5:47 AM





Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Kenneth by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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