



Kenneth Max Benningfield

March 6, 1934 - February 14, 2025

Memorial services for Max Benningfield will be 11:00 a.m. Saturday, March 1, 2025, at the First United Methodist Church with Reverend Taylor Anderson officiating. Cremation arrangements are under the direction of Marshall Funeral Home of Alva.

Kenneth Max, son of the late Kenneth Roy and Della Pearl (Steward) Benningfield, was born March 6, 1934, on the family farm west of Alva near Cora, and passed away peacefully February 14, 2025, at Alva, at the age of 90 years, 11 months, and 8 days just weeks from his 91st birthday.

Max attended Farry School and later received his Bachelor's Degree from Northwestern Oklahoma State College. On August 26, 1954 he was united in marriage to LaDonna Joan White at the Christian Church in Alva. He volunteered to serve in the United States Army for 3 years before he was honorably discharged after serving in the Korean War. After leaving the Army, Max remained a proud veteran supporting veterans' causes throughout his life. Max was also a proud member of the United States Postal Service carrying mail in Alva for 17 years. For three decades Max served the Alva Public Schools as an industrial arts instructor. Max introduced countless Alva school children to their first power tools always emphasizing safety and never letting a class end without a thorough tidying up of the workshop. As life changed so did his class, it eventually became known simply as Technology.

Max was one of the first teachers in the state to embrace the transition and help write the original textbook for the course that covered a wide range of topics from construction to computers to photography.

Eventually, Max retired from the schools but never stopped working. His home built originally in the 1880s has been renovated, expanded and remade by his own hands. His talent for building extended to finer woodworking as well. Max was a prolific carver. Every room in Max and LaDonna's home has something carved by Max from the smallest figure to five feet tall classic cigar store figure that was once displayed at Alva's Museum of the Cherokee Strip. Max's carving career culminated in an art show at Graceful Arts Gallery in 2023 where the entire community enjoyed his work.

He was a member of the First United Methodist Church. He was also a member of VFW and the American Legion Post 92 serving as Vice Commander.

Besides his parents, Kenneth and Della, he was preceded in death by his sisters, Wanda Jean Eckert and Donna "Dorene" Joy; and infant sister, Evelyn June.

Max is survived by his wife of 70 years, LaDonna of Alva; his daughters, Julie Benningfield Jungman and husband, Greg, of Alva, and Mary Benningfield Cline of Alva; four grandchildren, Emma Cline of Alva, Max Benningfield Cline of Alva, Jack Jungman of Norman, and Sophie Jungman of Alva; other relatives and friends.

Memorial contributions may be made through the funeral home to the First United Methodist Church of Alva.

Previous Events

Memorial Service

MAR 1. 11:00 AM (CT)

First United Methodist Church
626 College Avenue
Alva, OK 73717

Tribute Wall



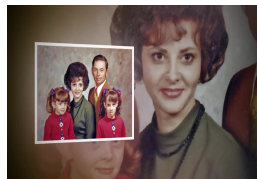
“ 1 file added to the album *Service Video*



Marshall Funeral Homes - March 07, 2025 at 04:56 PM



“ 1 file added to the album *Video Tribute*



Marshall Funeral Homes - March 01, 2025 at 09:30 AM



“ We are so sorry LaDonna and girls to hear of the passing of Max, he was a great friend and classmate. In our teens Kenneth and Pearl would hire me to help with the farm work and when Max went to the service I lived with the Benningfield's during the farming time. I will miss Max, I'm sure that GOD will ease and comfort you at this time of sorrow. Our prayers are with you and family.

Jim & Marilyn Davison - March 01, 2025 at 07:14 AM



Max was the best shop teacher! Class of 1978 7th grade. His family and Alva were blessed by his contributions. He was a great man that made a lasting impression on my life. God bless his family and everyone he inspired.

Kelly Welch - March 09, 2025 at 01:18 AM

EB

“ My condolences to LaDonna and the Benningfield family. Max was the 1st cousin I did not know I had. I found Max through Ancestry.com some 10 years ago and had the privilege of visiting him and LaDonna at their home on at least 2 occasions and we communicated via phone on several other occasions. They were very kind to myself and Gail and we really enjoyed their company and the wealth of knowledge Max had about the Benningfield Family. I really wish I had got to know him earlier. I look forward to seeing my cousin when I get to Heaven, what a joy that will be! Thank you Mary for taking the time to call and tell me about his passing.

God Bless,
Ed and Gail Benningfield, Houston, Texas

Ed Benningfield - February 24, 2025 at 04:32 PM

MS

“ What a great, tremendous and nice man! I loved having him teach me in shop class and share his photography and knowledge in that as well. He will be deeply missed for sure and WOW, 70 years of marriage. My heart goes out to the Benningfield ladies and rest of the family

Michael Sterba - February 23, 2025 at 09:18 AM

DC

“ *Mr. and Mrs. Benningfield were good friends of my parents, Don & Vera Sterba, so I grew up knowing him and his family. He was such a wonderful man and will be greatly missed. I was one of the students that he introduced power tools to when I was in 7th or 8th grade. I was the only two girls to take shop. He was so patient and understanding and helpful. I enjoyed that class immensely. He made learning fun. He always had a great attitude and a wonderful smile. He made the world a better place. Thanks Mr. B for being a part of my life! RIP you have earned it.*



Donise Cinnamon - February 23, 2025 at 01:59 AM

BB

“ *Bill/Linda Beeler sent a virtual gift in memory of Kenneth Max Benningfield*



Bill/Linda Beeler - February 21, 2025 at 07:17 PM

CE

“ *He was such a good friend of ours. We loved them both.*
Claudette Ehrlich

claudette ehrlich - February 21, 2025 at 03:16 PM

KW

“ *Praying for your family.*”



Kim Oakes Wildeman - February 21, 2025 at 11:27 AM