



Kenneth Melvin Blackwell

FEB 13, 1961 - JAN 13, 2026



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Kenneth Melvin Blackwell

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Kenneth Melvin Blackwell was born in Nashville, Tennessee, on February 13, 1961, to Melvin and Brenda Blackwell, who welcomed their son with joy and pride. He is preceded in death by his parents and by his brother, Kevin Blackwell.

Fondly known as “Hammerhead,” Kenneth earned the nickname for his good-natured stubbornness—unyielding in all the ways that mattered most. He stood firm in caring for his family, standing by his word, and living each day with unwavering integrity. His hardworking, loyal, honest, humble, and resilient spirit shaped every chapter of his life. Kenneth found pure joy in sports, the outdoors, and music—passions that filled his days with energy, laughter, and connection. His daughter Terah remembers watching NASCAR with him, cheering for Jeff Gordon each time he sped around the track at Daytona. Even life’s simplest moments became meaningful in Kenneth’s presence, like the many afternoons he spent riding his lawn mower, proud of the neat lines and peaceful rhythm of a well-kept yard.

Those who joined him for a game, a hike, or a favorite song remember the enthusiasm he brought, turning ordinary moments into memories. Family and friends trusted Kenneth because he always showed up—and he always told the truth. His steadfast loyalty was a safe harbor for those he loved, and his humble nature made every triumph feel like a shared victory. His example of working hard, keeping promises, and choosing honesty leaves a lasting mark on all who knew him.

Kenneth is survived by his devoted wife, Dorothy Blackwell; his children, Terah (Misty) Blackwell, David (Heather) Draper, and Jaqueline (Jeffery) Arena; his sister, Kimberly (Ricky) Ghee; and his cherished grandchildren who lovingly called him “Pop Pop”: Gustavo Blackwell, Autumn Slayton, Leila Slayton, James Arena, Levi Arena, Tyler Arena, Autumn Skye, and Nicholas Draper.

Today, we celebrate a life well-lived and a character worth emulating. Kenneth Melvin Blackwell’s resilient spirit continues to guide those who were blessed to know and love him.



Events

Kenneth Melvin Blackwell

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Visitation

- Thursday**, January 22, 2026
- 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM CT
- Spring Hill Funeral Home**
5110 Gallatin Pike S, Nashville TN 37216



Chapel Service

- Thursday**, January 22, 2026
- 2:00 PM - 2:45 PM CT
- Spring Hill Funeral Home**
5110 Gallatin Pike S, Nashville TN 37216



Cemetery Details

- Spring Hill Cemetery**
5110 Gallatin Pike S, Nashville TN 37216
- 615-866-1419**





Tribute Wall

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Alan Blackwell posted:

Ken is my cousin and a hard headed cousin, but always with a smile and laughing. He was a fantastic golfer and many said that he had the potential to be a professional. Ken met the band Van Halen on the golf course and they gave him back-stage passes !! Needless to say, he was so excited and from what I remember he may have missed a day or two from work to get his feet back on the ground...true story. Another great memory is when we met up at 5:00 AM at Percy Priest lake and rented a boat for a full day of fishing. We had a blast and caught our fair share of fish, but guess who had to take all the fish home?...it wasn't me. I think about the fights we would get into when we were kids, but it was kind of fun, until our grandfather whipped our tails...our cousin Steve knows this as well...hello Steve !! I will often wonder what Ken's last cuss word was, but on a serious note, Ken had a heart of gold, loved his family deeply and is now in the care of his Creator, Almighty God. Rest in peace buddy, and to all his family...you are loved. Alan and Sonja Blackwell.

January 24 at 3:53 AM



Bruce Hawkins posted:

I knew ken from a young age, we went to lockland school together thank kindergarten first second third and fourth grade same class together and I knew him later in life but not real close like I did at the child was a good friend growing up with rest in peace

January 17 at 10:57 PM



Dorothy Draper sent a virtual gift in honor of Kenneth.

I have loved you since I was 14 years old I'm gonna miss you so much Fly High Baby I'll see you in Heaven

January 17 at 3:17 PM



Dorothy Draper posted:

I love you so much I'm gonna miss you, but I'll see you in heaven

January 17 at 10:54 AM



Dorothy Draper posted:

I love you so much

January 17 at 10:53 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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