



Kenneth Garrett

March 19, 1929 - July 4, 2016

Kenneth (Blackie) Garrett was born to Rosa Barnes and Samuel Garrett in Fresno, CA. on March 19, 1929. Mr. Garrett moved to Visalia, CA. in 1936. Mr. Garrett graduated from VUHS in June 1946. He immediately joined the navy. His service included among other naval assignments, the Navy Frogmen, forerunners to the Navy SEALs. Mr. Garrett performed 3 combat tours in Korea earning 6 combat engagement stars. Following a brief break from the Frogmen at the end of the Korean War Mr. Garrett was assigned to a series of Special Assignments and ultimately to the CIA while still on military roles. Mr. Garrett performed for 9 years with the CIA as a Military Detailee and upon accruing his 20-years of Military Service he retired from the military and immediately joined the CIA in a Civilian capacity advancing to Chief of Station. Upon Mr. Garrett's Retirement from the military in 1968 he soon married Mary Jane (Leonardo) Renzi in 1969. At that time the Garrett's resided in San Bernardino, CA. Upon retirement from the CIA the Garrett's returned in 1978 to Visalia, CA., where they resided until Mr. Garrett's death. A graveside service will be held at San Joaquin National Cemetery in Santa Nella, CA on August 11, 2016 at 11:00 a.m. A memorial tribute may be offered by logging onto www.salseranddillard.com

Cemetery Details

San Joaquin Valley National Cemetery

32053 W. McCabe Rd.
Santa Nella, CA 95322

Previous Events

Graveside Service

AUG 11. 11:00 AM (PT)

San Joaquin Valley National Cemetery
32053 W. McCabe Rd.
Santa Nella, CA 95322

Tribute Wall

LV

“ *He was a gentleman.
He is greatly missed.* ”



Linda Vann - August 11, 2016 at 08:06 AM

AF

“ *4 files added to the album New Album Name* ”



A Friend - July 27, 2016 at 12:13 PM

AN

“ *Ann lit a candle in memory of Kenneth Garrett* ”



Ann - July 27, 2016 at 11:53 AM



“ *John Tygart lit a candle in memory of Kenneth Garrett*



John Tygart - July 24, 2016 at 10:56 PM

BP

“ *Ken "Blackie" Garrett was a good friend to me and he was a classmate of my aunt Daisy and uncle Bill Andrews. Bill and Ken were in the Navy together many years ago. Ken loved photography and growing chrysanthymums for November. A few weeks ago I visited Ken and he talked about the difficulties of his wife Jane being so ill with Alzheimers. He deeply cherished his wife and you could tell he hurt for her condition. Ken will be very missed by me and all who knew him . My condolences for his family and my respects to a Great American that served our country proudly with distinction and integrity ! May he rest in peace for eternity in the hands of our precious Savior. Brent L. Pryor.*

Brent L. Pryor - July 22, 2016 at 01:19 AM

KA

“ *Kalanis lit a candle in memory of Kenneth Garrett*



Kalanis - July 21, 2016 at 04:29 PM

LL

“ LLL lit a candle in memory of Kenneth Garrett



LLL - July 21, 2016 at 02:40 PM

MB

“ *And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.*

The ultimate quiet professional.

RIP sir.

MB - July 21, 2016 at 06:36 AM

CW

“ *Charlie W lit a candle in memory of Kenneth Garrett*



Charlie W - July 20, 2016 at 05:59 PM

JB

“ *A founding father Frogman, old school, wrote the book on many operations, went-on to lead a cloak and dagger life. The young and strong, now have The Watch. Sir, you are relieved of The Watch.*

RIP

*Hooya Legacy Frogman; LLTB Long Live The Brotherhood
Doc Beard sends respect and admiration.*

James Beard - July 20, 2016 at 04:51 PM

GL

“ *Glassiam lit a candle in memory of Kenneth Garrett*



glassiam - July 20, 2016 at 02:15 PM



“ *I wish I had been able to meet Cass, but never had the honor. I liked and greatly respected this man. Fair winds and Following Seas Frogman...*

Jim Speed - July 20, 2016 at 07:26 AM

LI

“ *RIP Cass you will be missed. Thank you for your service to our country. I'm going to miss our chats in PM and email. Prayers to family and friends. A donation has been made in your honor & remembrance to the Navy SEAL Foundation and to SOCNET.*

Linda1961 - July 20, 2016 at 04:41 AM

SO

“ *My condolences to Cass' family.*

Soutpiel - July 20, 2016 at 03:51 AM

JO

“ *John lit a candle in memory of Kenneth Garrett*



John - July 20, 2016 at 02:01 AM

CH

“ *Chimo lit a candle in memory of Kenneth Garrett*



Chimo - July 19, 2016 at 10:44 PM

CL

“ *Clark lit a candle in memory of Kenneth Garrett*



Clark - July 19, 2016 at 10:27 PM

JH

“ *See you in Valhalla, Cass. You have been an inspiration in my life for the past 5 years and a wealth of wisdom. RIP, Sir! Fair winds and following seas.*



jdogonroad

Jay Harrison - July 19, 2016 at 10:01 PM

MI

“ *MikeC2W lit a candle in memory of Kenneth Garrett*



MikeC2W - July 19, 2016 at 09:31 PM

DA

“ *You'll be missed.* ”



Dawn - July 19, 2016 at 09:14 PM

 Estéban Trujillo de Gutiérrez

“ *Such a fine gentleman.* ”



Estéban Trujillo de Gutiérrez - July 19, 2016 at 09:12 PM

DE

“ *Fair Winds and Following Seas - Todd Thompson* ”



DevilDawg - July 19, 2016 at 08:53 PM

TP

“ *TPD1280 lit a candle in memory of Kenneth Garrett* ”



TPD1280 - July 19, 2016 at 08:49 PM



“ Kenneth Garrett

March 19, 1929 - July 04, 2016

Kenneth (Blackie) Garrett was born to Rosa Barnes and Samuel Garrett in Fresno, CA. on March 19, 1929. Mr. Garrett moved to Visalia, CA. in 1936. Mr. Garrett graduated from VUHS in June 1946. He immediately joined the Navy. His service included, among other naval assignments, the Navy Frogmen, forerunners to the Navy SEALs. Mr. Garrett performed 3 combat tours in Korea earning 6 combat engagement stars. Following a brief break from the Frogmen at the end of the Korean War Mr. Garrett was assigned to a series of Special Assignments and ultimately to the CIA while still on military roles. Mr. Garrett performed for 9 years with the CIA as a Military Detainee and upon accruing his 20-years of Military Service he retired from the military and immediately joined the CIA in a Civilian capacity advancing to Chief of Station.

Upon Mr. Garrett's Retirement from the military in 1968 he soon married Mary Jane (Leonardo) Renzi in 1969. At that time the Garrett's resided in San Bernardino, CA. Upon retirement from the CIA the Garrett's returned in 1978 to Visalia, CA., where they resided until Mr. Garrett's death. A graveside service will be held at San Joaquin National Cemetery in Santa Nella, CA on August 11, 2016 at 11:00 a.m.

John Czarnecki - July 19, 2016 at 07:13 PM



“ Expatmedic lit a candle in memory of Kenneth Garrett



Expatmedic - July 19, 2016 at 06:45 PM

EX

Class 0. What a life well lived.

Expatmedic - July 19, 2016 at 06:46 PM

Ray
Barger

“ *Ray Barger lit a candle in memory of Kenneth
Garrett*



Ray Barger - July 19, 2016 at 06:10 PM

JT

“ *John Turkal lit a candle in memory of Kenneth
Garrett*



John Turkal - July 19, 2016 at 05:37 PM

TW

“ *Tracy-Paul Warrington lit a candle in memory
of Kenneth Garrett*



Tracy-Paul Warrington - July 19, 2016 at 05:34 PM

WE

“ *Wench lit a candle in memory of Kenneth Garrett*



Wench - July 19, 2016 at 05:28 PM

 Seph Stephens

“ *Seph Stephens lit a candle in memory of Kenneth Garrett*



Seph Stephens - July 19, 2016 at 05:23 PM

 John Czarnecki

“ *John Czarnecki lit a candle in memory of Kenneth Garrett*



John Czarnecki - July 19, 2016 at 05:15 PM

86

“ *8654maine lit a candle in memory of Kenneth Garrett*



8654maine - July 19, 2016 at 02:32 PM

GE

“ Ken was a great man and left a legacy many had the honor of following. Fair wind and following seas, my friend.



George - July 19, 2016 at 02:31 PM

MT

“ MT lit a candle in memory of Kenneth Garrett



MT - July 19, 2016 at 01:44 PM

FR

“ Frog lit a candle in memory of Kenneth Garrett



Frog - July 19, 2016 at 12:24 PM

SA

“ Sarah lit a candle in memory of Kenneth Garrett



Sarah - July 14, 2016 at 06:21 PM

AM

“ Amy lit a candle in memory of Kenneth Garrett



Amy - July 13, 2016 at 11:19 AM

JK

“ Julie Aka Veterans Kid lit a candle in memory of Kenneth Garrett



Julie aka Veterans Kid - July 12, 2016 at 11:59 PM

JK

“ I also am one of the many who knew him from the caregiver board. His dedication and love and caregiving for his wife was a beautiful thing. He gave great advice to caregivers- real, he didn't sugarcoat things-and I will treasure always the advice that he is given me to help me care for my dad.
Zolly, I know there's a special place for you in heaven, and I'm sure you are preparing for your sweet wife to join you.
I will remember our virtual picnics and your humor. Thank you for helping us, may you rest in peace now my friend



Julie aka Veterans Kid - July 12, 2016 at 11:57 PM

MA

Rest in peace Cass. You'll be horribly missed but never forgotten.

Maas - July 21, 2016 at 09:21 AM

CS

“ One of my favorite memories is when he sent me a letter from "Santa Claus" when I was a little girl. It was even postmarked from the North Pole. I still have that letter. He was a long-time friend of my parents and was part of our family. He was a good man. Always enjoyed hearing his stories. I know he will still be watching over Jane from above. Rest in peace Blackie. It's well deserved.

Carol Son - July 11, 2016 at 09:55 PM

JB

“ Jackie Bautista sent a virtual gift in memory of Kenneth Garrett



Jackie Bautista - July 11, 2016 at 01:29 PM

JB

Dear Zolly:

I will miss you so much. Like so many others, I only knew you from the caregivers site. Your devotion to Jane was so moving. Your generation of men, like my father and my uncle, are unsurpassed as far as I am concerned.

Your sharing with others was so valuable. I know you did not have family as you mentioned, but I hope you did feel the love and care from those on the caregiver site. Their feelings for you were true and sincere and you made a difference in everyone's life.

Peace to you dear Zolly. Job well done. When I see butterflies, I will think of you.

Jackie Bautista - July 11, 2016 at 01:33 PM

Wendy Weirman

“ Thank you Kenneth, aka Zolly, for all your loving kindness. You lent support to virtual strangers, and lead by example. You will be missed. RIP, our friend.

Wendy Weirman - July 11, 2016 at 12:48 PM

BE

“ Bela lit a candle in memory of Kenneth Garrett



bela - July 09, 2016 at 08:22 PM

LY

“ I, also, knew him as Zolly, on a caregivers board. He was a wonderful caregiver and advocate for his wife, and offered such great support to us when we needed it. And loved his sense of humor. Farewell, Zolly.

Lynne - July 09, 2016 at 12:10 AM

GR

“ Gail Rule sent a virtual gift in memory of Kenneth Garrett



Gail Rule - July 08, 2016 at 10:49 PM

GR

“ *Gail Rule lit a candle in memory of Kenneth Garrett*



Gail Rule - July 08, 2016 at 10:48 PM

RB

“ *I only knew Zolly through a caregiver support group but he touched my life by sharing his wisdom and experience. Rest in peace Zolly and thank you for your help.*



Roberta B - July 08, 2016 at 08:59 PM

JU

“ *Like many here, I knew Ken as "Zolly" on the caregivers' board. What a wealth of information he generously gave even though he was going through his own personal struggles. I'll miss his posts. God bless to his family and friends, he was a wonderful husband and friend.*

Judy - July 08, 2016 at 08:54 PM

YS

“ *My condolences. I too knew Mr. Garrett as "Zolly" through the caregiver's forum. I want to express how grateful I am for his gentle guidance through the difficult times we are going through. He will be missed. Good journey dear friend.*

Yota S.

Yota S - July 08, 2016 at 08:42 PM

AC

“ Zolly was such a ray of light for so many people. He was a true gentleman and I so appreciate the wisdom he shared. My heart breaks for his dear sweet wife.

Amy Crotty

Amy Crotty - July 08, 2016 at 07:12 PM

DP

“ Debbie Pardue sent a virtual gift in memory of Kenneth Garrett



Debbie Pardue - July 08, 2016 at 04:03 PM

NB

“ Nadine Bolkhovitinov sent a virtual gift in memory of Kenneth Garrett



Nadine Bolkhovitinov - July 08, 2016 at 03:59 PM

NB

I knew Ken briefly as "Zolly" on the Caregiver Forum. He brought a bright spot of joy to Caregivers everywhere with his feisty perceptions and zest for life.

Nadine Bolkhovitinov - July 08, 2016 at 04:00 PM

DP

Yes, he did bring joy with his wonderful wisdom. His "Zolly-isms" will never be forgotten.

Debbie Pardue - July 08, 2016 at 10:38 PM

GR

I also know Ken as "Zolly" from the caregiver message boards. There were many times that I reached for his wisdom and strength. He was loving and generous with his time and understanding. Our loss is now heavens gain.

Gail Rule - July 08, 2016 at 10:44 PM

MC

I am in shock at this news, RIP Zolly

maxine collier - July 11, 2016 at 08:14 PM

NB

“ I knew Ken as "Zolly" on the caregiver forum. Ken's warmth towards us "newbies," his willingness to share information and his zest for life will be missed dearly by this caregiver. Thank you, Zolly!

Nadine Bolkhovitinov - July 08, 2016 at 03:52 PM

TE

“ Zolly's wisdom and wit will be missed and I for one am glad I came to the Alzheimer's Forums in time to witness first hand his love and devotion to his wife. It was/IS a beautiful thing to behold.

Zolly, may Love and Light be your reward for a life well lived!

TessC - July 08, 2016 at 02:47 PM



TS

“ Tay S. lit a candle in memory of Kenneth Garrett

Tay S. - July 08, 2016 at 01:57 PM



DB

“ I only knew Kenneth as "Zolly" on the Alz. Connected forum. I learned much from him, as I cared for my mom. He took such good care of his wife. Thank you Zolly, for all your words of wisdom. You meant so much to so many.

Daughter of Marie

Diane Barnes - July 08, 2016 at 01:31 PM

RS

There is no candle that can burn as bright as this man a caregiver to his wife ,god,and country~It was way more than an honor to know this man as I knew him as Blackie.a leader of men in more ways than one,I salute your life and courage sir thank you for calling me a friend,enjoyed thanksgiving with you very much,you sir will never be forgotten and a best best friend to my father in law you were one to look up too,may the angels in heaven salute you! Godbless Blackie!

Rick Son - July 12, 2016 at 08:04 PM

CR

“ Ken--I only know of you through your online presence of "Zolly", but you have been an inspiration and lifeline for many of us caregivers over the last several years. You have walked the journey with us, and your knowledge and wisdom, and sweet sense of humor will be much missed. May the peace that surpasses all understanding be with your family in the coming days, and may God hold them in a pocket of grace at this sad time.

Cyndi R - July 08, 2016 at 01:28 PM

DP

“ Dear Ken,

Three years ago I responded to a connection request on the Alzheimer's Association Website. I sent you a message saying how much I valued your wisdom and compassion, you responded back, and thus began a friendship that has meant more to me than words can say. I had lost my father to cancer, was losing my mother to Alzheimer's, and felt like I was losing myself in the process. Your encouragement helped me find my way. Your love and care of your wife was unsurpassed and gave me such courage as I care for my mother.

Often you closed your e-mails to me by saying, "From the best friend you've never met." In one of your final messages, you said, "Goodnight, Mrs. Calabash, Wherever you are." I know that there is a heaven, and we spoke of this often. I will say now, Goodnight, dear Ken, and we will meet one day.

*From the best friend you never met,
Debbie*

Debra Pardue - July 08, 2016 at 12:22 PM

EA

“ Estella Arzola lit a candle in memory of
Kenneth Garrett



Estella Arzola - July 06, 2016 at 02:19 AM

EA

“ *My Dearest Sweet Friend, Ken, may you rest in Peace. You will truly be missed. You were such a blessing in my life and I hope you knew that. I hope you knew just how special you were to me and my family. You have made a lasting impression in my life and taught me many life lessons that I will cherish forever. I thank you so much for our time together. I will miss your "sea stories, your jokes and most of all I will miss YOU! Fly with the Angels my friend! ❤️*



Estella Arzola - July 06, 2016 at 01:57 AM

DP

Hello, Estella. I was Ken's online e-mail friend Debbie. Recently he sent me a picture of the two of you, holding a bottle of Aveeno lotion that you had drawn a face on. He held you in very high regard and praised your care. Ken and I never met in person, but we got to know each other through the Alzheimer's caregiving community we were part of. I am in shock, and tears, and a void will be in my life without Ken's encouraging messages to look forward to. I cannot express how much Ken's wisdom and compassion meant to me. Oh what a wonderful man. My heartfelt sympathy goes out to you. God Bless you, and may He bring you comfort and peace. --Debbie Pardue

Debra Pardue - July 08, 2016 at 12:26 PM

EA

Thank you so much, Debbie. I do appreciate your sympathy. I am also in shock and heartbroken. This is a very difficult time for me as Ken was not just someone I gave care to but someone I considered a friend. He was a true Gentleman, a Wonderful Man. I too feel a void since his passing. I Thank God for crossing our paths. My condolences go out to you as well. He did tell me about him sending our photo to you and our funny story to go with it. He spoke very highly of you as well and everyone else from the site that he reached out to and that reached out to him. I am sorry for the void you must feel, I completely understand. May our Dear friend Rest in Peace.

Estella Arzola - July 08, 2016 at 09:55 PM

TR

Hello Estella, I too knew Ken aka Zolly through the alz caregivers online group. I am so saddened and so shocked to hear of his passing. He spoke very highly of you and so appreciated the care you gave him. I am so glad he had someone like you taking care of him. He is going to be missed by so many. He has helped so many of us on this journey. Sending my thoughts and prayers to you during this sad time.

Trina - July 09, 2016 at 01:33 AM

EA

Thank you so much, Trina. Hearing from you nice ladies has helped me cope. He was truly a wonderful man, as much in person as he was through social media. He often reminded me of how much he appreciated having me around. What a blessing he was in my life as well. He will be missed by many.

Estella Arzola - July 09, 2016 at 06:55 PM

DP

It is my prayer that his passing was peaceful and that he was able to say goodbye on behalf of his wife. I will miss his presence, and not an hour goes by that I don't think of him and either smile or shed a tear, or both.

Debbie Pardue - July 09, 2016 at 07:24 PM

LD

I looked for Zolly's posts every time I went on the Alz.Connect Caregivers Board. He made me laugh, he made me sad. Most of all he helped me through my care giver's journey by giving thoughtful, meaningful advice. I have tears in my eyes for a man I never met but touched my heart by sharing his love for his dear wife. May they soon be dancing together. Blessings to all who mourn him.

LD - July 10, 2016 at 05:23 PM

EA

Thank you so much, Trina. Hearing from you nice ladies has helped me cope. He was truly a wonderful man, as much in person as he was through social media. He often reminded me of how much he appreciated having me around. What a blessing he was in my life as well. He will be missed by many.

LD, Ken had a great sense of humor, he was kind and always willing to help in any way that he can. He enjoyed giving everyone advice from the Alz Board. He often shared his experiences with me about people that he talked to and reached out to help. He was one of a kind. His love for "His Jane" was one of a kind. Getting to know Ken and how he adored his wife proved to me that true love really exists. A real life "Notebook" story in my eyes. ❤️ God bless you all. He would be so touched to know how many people cared for him and miss him. I sure do miss my friend.

Estella Arzola - July 10, 2016 at 10:30 PM

KD

Dearest Blackie, I will sorely miss your love, enduring friendship, wit, humor, and wisdom. You are the most patriotic person, I have ever had the honor to know. Seems appropriate in some regard that your passing occurred on our great country's Independence Day celebration. Rest now my friend, you served your family, country, and friends well. No love stronger than that you share with Jane. You shall remain forever in my heart, it has been a blessing. <3

Kim Dalton - July 11, 2016 at 09:19 PM



Wendy Weirman

*Estella,
I knew through Ken's messages on the AlzConnected forum that your companionship brought him much joy. He treasured your humor and attention.*

"Zolly" had hundreds of friends and perhaps thousands of followers on the forum. I'm sure at least a few would like to make a memorial donation in his honor. Likely recipients include the Alzheimer's Association, the VA, or Jane's care home.

Would you mind sharing the name of the Jane's care home? I would like to call the director to see if a resident's care fund can be established in Ken's honor. Thank you.

Wendy Weirman - July 13, 2016 at 11:43 AM

EA

Hello Wendy,

I will talk to Ken's Trustee to make sure it is ok to share that information with you. That is very kind of you! Ken was a very kind and caring man so I can understand your wanting to honor him in such a way. He would be so grateful for your kindness. I hope he is watching over us and can see how many people cared for him and will be missing him until we meet again. ❤️

Estella Arzola - July 15, 2016 at 01:52 AM

TE

It says quite a lot about a person that he touched so many lives without even meeting so many of them in person. I knew Ken online and we use to share stories about our past adventures, or rather, he'd share his stories and I'd read them and be amazed and reminded how much more effort I needed to put into my service. He was a very unique and wonderful person and will be greatly missed.

Estrella, I'm wondering if there is a way to get details about the service in Santa Nella? I would like to see if it's possible to attend and pay my respects.

Ted - July 20, 2016 at 07:29 AM

JA

A graveside service for Ken will be held at San Joaquin National Cemetery in Santa Nella, CA on August 11, 2016 at 11:00 a.m

Jan - July 20, 2016 at 04:01 PM

AG

Dear Estella ..I am so thankful you were there for Ken these many months. He was happy that you were part of his life. I love the picture of you two..he looks happy. :)

He was a dear friend for 15 years as I two was a caregiver of my beloved husband. He was truly a wonderful husband and a devoted care giver to his sweet Jane. He was a part of our support board for many years and dearly loved. He had a huge caring heart for everyone and a deep concern for their well being. His service to his country as a Navy Seal was amazing..Ken was a true hero in many ways and I will always cherish his friendship.

May God bless you and all of Ken's friends..his heart would burst seeing all the beautiful words spoken here to him..he would be pleased for sure. So many will miss him and hold dear the memory of who he was!

Ann

Ann Gallagher - July 25, 2016 at 02:57 PM