



Kenneth Leon Schelling

November 24, 1924 - September 27, 2017

Kenneth Leon Schelling passed away on September 27, 2017 at the age of 92.

He was born on November 24, 1924 to Elizabeth and Leo Schelling in Exeter, California.

In 1929, when he was five, Ken's father started a retail business and the family moved to Visalia. Ken attended local schools, graduated from high school, and then attended COS.

In 1942, Kenneth enrolled in the Naval College Program at the University of Oklahoma and graduated with a degree in civil engineering. A veteran, Ken served our country in the Pacific during WWII. Upon returning home from service, he was employed by the Tulare County Planning Department and was responsible for re-designating country lanes as roads and avenues. Subsequently, Ken went into partnership with his father in the retail business, where he remained until his retirement in the year 2001. Best known as the owner of Schelling's Menswear, many people remember obtaining their letter jackets from him or getting the best suit they ever owned. A perfectionist about each detail of fit and fashion, Ken outfitted many people with tailor-made suits and accessories. The embodiment of class and elegance himself, he would share his immense knowledge and work tirelessly to ensure ultimate perfection and maximum style for each person he served. Multiple fittings were often required to attain this level of excellence.

After retirement, Ken worked with his good friends, the Links, at Links

Menswear until he finally decided to completely retire.

Helping his community was important to Ken. He helped form the Downtown Visalia's Organization and was a director on the first board. He was also an active Rotarian and a member for 45 years.

Generous, kind, loving, humble, and elegant to the end, Ken always put others before himself and communicated with kindness and respect.

Ken loved skiing, tennis, and socializing with his friends.

He was very loved by his family, which includes his beloved partner of 45 years, Marla, his daughter Christianne (Andrew), his close cousins Sid, Bob, and Betty Schelling, and his caretaker Gloria Gutierrez.

Ken will miss his buddies at the downtown coffee group; they met daily to socialize and solve the problems of the world.

The sorrow felt in Ken's passing is not due to the way he passed because he went gently, with love all around him. The sadness we feel is for ourselves because he was an exceptional man who enhanced our lives and those of countless others.

The family's wishes are that, in lieu of gifts, charitable donations be made to your charity of choice. That is the best way to honor our beloved Ken.

A gathering of friends and family to celebrate Ken's life will be held on October 21st from 1-3 pm at the Vintage Press.

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

OCT **21**. 1:00 PM (PT)

Vintage Press
Visalia, CA 93291

Tribute Wall

SM

“ I was so sad to read of Ken's passing. He was such an important icon in Visalia. He always had a way of making you feel so welcome when you walked through the door of his store and never ceased to remember your face when passing on the street. My uncle, Joe Streeper, worked for him before opening E's Fashions next door, and though I doubt he ever really knew my name, he always acknowledged me with a, "How are you doing?" There are few of Ken's generation left and that leaves a big void in this community. He was probably the longest presence in the Downtown and I loved seeing him having morning coffee with his cronies, keeping up on all the goings-on of this special place that he had such a part in developing and keeping going. Ken was truly a gentleman of the highest quality and his presence will be missed.

Very truly,
Susan Stanton Mangini

Susan Stanmton Mangini - October 24, 2017 at 03:18 PM

CT

“ Marla and Christianne,
Our love to you and our condolences. Your Ken was surrounded by you two beautiful women.
His laugh. His generous welcome on my infrequent visits---Ken truly made one feel welcome and part of family. His cunning and ruthless card playing skills. Ken's civic interests and wanting to know more about the world. He was a role model on how to get along with people. And his gracious hospitality. I remember one time waiting for taxi pick up to the airport at Ken and Marla's home. Ken fixed me the best bourbon and water ever and we sat in their lovely garden talking like old friends. Thank you for sharing him with us. Ken will be missed.

Cathy Talkington - October 08, 2017 at 01:31 PM

CT

“ Many people enter our lives, but Ken's personal grace and convivial personality made him one-of-a-kind. In his presence, one immediately lowered of their guard, as his smile and inherent conversational attitude projected a curious, friendly aura that just pulled you to his side. Ken was a unique communicator, who improved everything he touched.

Rest in peace, Ken...Cathy and I are honored to have been part of your family.

*Chris Talkington
Twin Falls, Idaho*

Chris Talkington - October 07, 2017 at 11:52 AM