



Mr Kenneth Robert Free, Jr.

August 29, 1973 - March 15, 2023

Kenneth (Ken) Robert Free, Jr., 49, passed away on March 15, 2023 at home. Born August 29, 1973, he is the son of Kenneth Robert Free, Sr. and Cindy Case Free.

Ken grew up along the Delaware River where a lifelong love of water and boating began. Since early childhood, Ken spent his summers boating in his beloved blue and silver Checkmate with his family and friends who lived nearby as well as those who vacationed along the Delaware.

Ken graduated from Bangor High School in 1991 and went on to earn a Bachelor's Degree in Marketing from James Madison University. Upon graduation, Ken was offered a marketing and sales position with E. & J. Gallo Winery. During this time Ken purchased and lived aboard a 50' Carver Yacht that he named Into the Mystic (ITM), a beautiful vessel he was the Captain of on many nautical adventures. While living aboard, Ken met and married his wife Jeanie Wong, and together they had one daughter, Seraphina, who he adored and loved beyond words.

In his professional career in the adult beverage industry, Ken worked for Gallo Winery for over 14 years as their National Accounts Manager with a focus on world class hotel brands and The Melting Pot restaurants. During his time with Gallo, he was considered one of the best in the business. He was

instrumental to Gallo as they became the top beverage company they are today.

Ken was the quintessential salesman who could remember everything about every customer. With ease he recalled their brand initiatives and he could even recite their company mission statement word-for-word.

Ken also developed incredible, long-lasting friendships as a result of his time in the hospitality world. Ultimately Ken developed his own company, Steadfast Hospitality Advisors. He continued to make an impact for many different brands for the last decade.

Those close and in acquaintance with Ken witnessed his "work hard, play hard" approach to life. Be it working in farm fields and trucking produce to NYC farm markets in his college years, traveling the country inspiring those in his industry, or taking friends and family crabbing in the dingy off of Into the Mystic, Ken brought serious enthusiasm and passion to all his chosen endeavors. While living a full outer life, Ken also had a deep inner faith and close relationship with Jesus Christ. He quoted scripture and prayed for family and friends often.

Ken is survived by his grandmother, Emma Case, mother, Cindy Case Free, his daughter, Seraphine Free, wife Jeanie Wong Free, sister Dani Stoveken and her husband Blake, nieces Lily and Gracie Stoveken, nephew Jesse Stoveken, as well as aunts, uncles, cousins, and dear friends.

The Free and Stoveken families intend to hold Christian services for Ken in April.

He now rests in peace with his beloved father, Kenneth Free Sr., and his Savior, Jesus Christ.

Tribute Wall



“ There have been several rewrites to this post as the words seemed inadequate. I am terribly sorry for all the Free family and your loss. Ken and I were competitors in the wine industry. One of the best things about National Accounts is how it allows us to work closely together and cultivate enduring friendships with our competitors. I had that gift of genuine liking with Ken. He brought the fun and joie de vivre. We've kept in touch and although Ken encountered personal challenges of late, he never once failed to check in on me in our conversations and leave me with a blessing. Ken had tremendous faith and recognized Serafina as his greatest treasure. He loved her beyond measure; proudly sharing pictures and accomplishments. I know he'll be by her side always.

Lynne Clarke - April 04, 2023 at 10:50 PM



Thank you, Lynne!

Dani Stoveken - April 15, 2023 at 10:17 AM

LW

“ Ken and I worked for different alcohol companies yet it was always a respectful competition. I will always remember when Ken told me he had gotten engaged to Jeanie. He was over the moon and then when Seraphine was born, he showed me pictures every time we were at conferences or golf tournaments. He was the happiest I had ever seen and ken always exuded confidence and positivity! His family (and the water & boat!) was everything to him. My heart breaks for this enormous loss and please know that Ken was well respected and made it a point to reach out to anyone who asked for assistance or recommendations in business. Heartfelt condolences to his family & friends.

lori welsh - March 28, 2023 at 01:28 PM



Thank you Lori!

Dani Stoveken - March 29, 2023 at 10:44 AM

BJ

“ Ken's Carver Aft Cabin was moored on the now almost infamous "E-dock" at Harborview marina in Federal Hill, Baltimore. My wife, Lori and I met one another on that boat during a cookout in May, 2002. We were with Ken and Jeannie on the Wye River the night we got engaged. Those days were some of the glory days of boating in the Chesapeake Bay - and Ken is an indelible presence in many if not most of those memories. It was there also where many of us found and grew our faith in Jesus. Ken moved his boat to the quieter waters of Shady Side off of the West River and although we visited on occasion our lives took us different places. We were devastated to recently learn of Ken's passing and send our heart-felt condolences to his wife, daughter, and family. We also rest in the magnificent assurance of his eternal place in heaven. We'll see you on your side of glory my friend!



Brian Johnson - March 27, 2023 at 07:02 PM



Brain, thank you so so much for the post and pictures! Seeing these pictures have brought Mom and I lots of smiles and comfort.

Dani Stoveken - March 29, 2023 at 10:42 AM

MD

“ So sorry to hear this news. Ken was larger than life, full of energy, enthusiasm and passionate about food and drinks! He challenged us in working hard, playing hard and being in the moment to take it all in. Even at the end of a hard day on the road, he was relentless in hitting the gym, While on the treadmill he would carry on a conversation without losing a step or breath! He will be missed for sure, but always in our hearts! My condolences to Ken's family and friends during this difficult time. Peace and hugs to you / RIP Ken Mary and Bob CD

Mary Cirafice DOrval - March 24, 2023 at 05:28 PM



Thank you Mary! Loved what you shared about Ken!

Dani Stoveken - March 29, 2023 at 10:45 AM

MS

“ Rivertime, Odorizzis dock. Probably 1990ish. Had this one on my phone from over the Xmas holiday when I was looking over past photo albums.



Mike S - March 20, 2023 at 07:57 PM

MS

So sorry for your loss, words don't fill the void. I thought he looked pretty happy in this image, arms open wide loving the water we all enjoyed. I remember this being a good day and a lot of fun messing around in small boats. Heck we even put the 8 hp on the little 10 foot foremost boat. I remember Kenny throwing a little rooster tail with the 2.2 Mercury in shallow water drive. we trick skied that day behind the 12 foot Starcraft. A happy moment.

Mike S - March 20, 2023 at 09:10 PM



♥ *it Mike!!! Thank you so so much for sharing!*

Dani Stoveken - March 22, 2023 at 06:20 PM