



## Kenneth E Nix

January 5, 1935 - January 31, 2023

Ken was born on January 5, 1935 in Birmingham, Alabama to Ruth and William C Nix. Ken's father got work in Alaska and moved the family there when Ken was 14 years old. He lived in Alaska for 42 years.

Ken was ambitious and hard working. If there was something that interested him, he would find all the information and read about it to master it. Ken hunted and fished and learned how fly.

He was a bush pilot and flew out to the best spots for hunting moose and other wildlife. He loved flying so much that he had many airplanes over the years and got his multi-engine and Instrument rating (IFR).

He loved and learned the guitar. Ken and 2 friends formed the Country/Bluegrass band "Ditchdiggers" and played music all over Alaska and later in life he played music from Alaska to Venezuela and Trinidad.

His love of adventure led him to build and race cars in Palmer and Anchorage racetracks, and because of his competitiveness, there were good races and some not so good

even if it landed

him in the hospital.

Ken loved airplanes of every design. He built and flew remote controlled airplanes and entered

in many competitions and won some pretty nice trophies.

He was drafted into the army and drove his beloved 1956 Crown Vic to report in Fort Benning,

Georgia.

He was a talented auto mechanic and eventually became the general manager of the Chrysler

Dealership in Alaska. He and a friend, Ken Parker, bought a backhoe and started underground

excavation work that eventually became the company Peninsula Excavating, completing multi-

million dollars' worth of water, sewer and natural gas pipe in Alaska.

As an inventor, Ken had an idea of a V-8 jet propelled rugged river boat. He developed Gator

Jet, which was so popular even the Alaska Fish and Game used them for many years.

In the late 80's the economy in Alaska tanked so he closed Peninsula Excavating. He studied and

became US Coast Guard Master Captain and bought an off-shore trawler (Bluefield) and with

Nancy cruised the entire Bahamas and the Caribbean including Trinidad and Venezuela. In 1993

they decided to come back to the US and brought "Bluefield" through Mobile to Guntersville to

live.

In Guntersville, Ken started a boat canvas and marine engine repairs business called D&N

Marine eventually changed from boats to recreational vehicles and re-named it D&N RV

Service.

Ken had a lust for life and adventure. He lived his life to the fullest. He belongs to the EAA

(experimental aircraft association) and local chapter He has kept his Jabiru sport airplane at the

Guntersville airport where he flew as often as the weather permitted.

When he was 77, he wrote the book "The Cobra Hold, Alaska Tough" which is compiled of many

short stories about events in his life.

He is sorely missed by his wife, Nancy, son David (Gabrielle) Nix of Guntersville, daughter

Pamela Shackleford of McEwen, TN and daughter Ruthann Tummins of McEwen, TN and son,

Brandon (Kary) Galbreath of Guntersville. 2 brothers, Gerald Nix and Terry Nix both of

Guntersville, sister Nelta (BILL) Richardson of Brooksville, MS. He leaves 8 grandchildren and 10

great-grandchildren and his beloved Border collie, Kaydee.

He left us on January 31, 2023 at the age of 88. There will be a celebration of Ken's life at a later

time when we have healed to the place that we can get together and enjoy who he was rather

than mourn our loss.

# Tribute Wall

GT

“ *Gwen Tucker lit a candle in memory of  
Kenneth E Nix*



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**Gwen Tucker** - February 08, 2023 at 12:26 PM

GG

“ *Gail Gammons lit a candle in memory of  
Kenneth E Nix*



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**Gail Gammons** - February 08, 2023 at 11:32 AM

GG

“ *I never knew Ken , but I felt like I did.He and Nancy wrote a book  
about his amazing life.Nancy and I have been friends for years and  
he was the love of her life.Prayers for her and the family.*

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**Gail Gammons** - February 08, 2023 at 11:32 AM

DB

“ I never knew Ken had such an exciting life ! Makes our lives so pale in comparison..such a sweet kind soul ..I'll always be grateful he took time to advise & help my music group make its debut cd .... He gave me one if his cds where he recorded “fox on the run” ...love listening to it ...as an rv owner myself, Ken’s business & family have been a great help to me ! God bless you Nancy and family! Just imagine the adventures Ken’s having now in heaven ! Truly a life well lived .

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**Debbie Booth** - February 08, 2023 at 10:03 AM

DB

“ Sorry for your loss Nancy. Prayers for you and your family.



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**David Bates** - February 07, 2023 at 10:10 PM

JD

*Bless you during this time of your loss Nancy. I never met a couple more suited for each other. The ball games I watched at your home , both of you were the most comfortable host & I could see the love shared between you guys. I know he is greatly missed by all his beloved family & friends. Condolences for the Nix family.*

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**Joyce Daniell** - February 11, 2023 at 11:28 PM