



## Kenneth William Sparks

August 11, 1938 - March 3, 2023

Kenneth William Sparks, aged 84, died peacefully at home on March 3, 2023, surrounded by his wife, three daughters, grandson, and sidekick (dog), Ellie. He is survived by his wife, Malissa Lovell Sparks, daughters Malissa (Ed) Lux, Stephanie Jones, and Angela (Tim) Philpott, grandchildren Joshua Roberts, Jason (Anne) Swanson, Margaret Philpott, Abigail "Maddie" Jones, Andrew Philpott, Matthew Lux, great-children Clive Roberts, Audrey Roberts, Rylie Swanson, and Morgan Swanson, sister Marilyn (Tim) Parrish, brothers Daniel Sparks and David (Nancy) Sparks, and numerous nieces, nephews, and cousins. He was preceded in death by his parents, sister, Sylvia Gormley, and son-in-law, Dennis Jones

He was born on August 11, 1938, in Bolivar, Missouri, to Vernon William Sparks and Shirley Hammontree Sparks. He was the first boy in Bolivar to earn the rank of Eagle Scout, receive the God and Country designation, and become a member of the Order of the Arrow. Bloomington became his forever home when his family moved at the beginning of his senior year in high school. He and Malissa were married by his pastor and mentor, Douglas W. Rae, on September 12, 1959, in the First Baptist Church (First United Church), and his remains will be interred in the Ash Garden of the church.

Working with missionaries on the Hopi and Navajo Reservations in 1959 instilled in Ken a respect and love for the American Indian that he held dear

for the rest of his life. He was a financial representative for Northwestern Mutual for over fifty years and past president of the Salvation Army Board and Bloomington Rotary Club.

Ken was a serious reader and meditated daily. Golf, white-water rafting, skiing, and IU sports were activities he enjoyed to be sure, but family and friends always told him it was his systematic investigation of the accoutrements of the activity and his acquisition of same that was his greatest pleasure. "Be prepared" was his mantra.

A service celebrating Ken's life will be held at First United Church on Friday April 14, 2023 at 12:00PM Noon at the First United Church, 2420 East Third Street, Bloomington. The family will receive friends and family from 10:00AM until the time of the service at 12:00PM Noon at the church.

To honor Ken, please consider donating to an American Indian education fund of your choosing or First United Church.

Allen Funeral Home and Crematory 4155 South Old State Road 37 is handling the arrangements and online condolences, photos, and memories may be shared with family and friends at [www.allencares.com](http://www.allencares.com)

# Previous Events

## Visitation

APR 14. 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

First United Church  
2420 East Third Street  
Bloomington, IN 47401

## Memorial Service

APR 14. 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM (ET)

First United Church  
2420 East Third Street  
Bloomington, IN 47401

# Tribute Wall



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Kenneth William Sparks.*



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April 08, 2023 at 09:31 PM



“ *Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Kenneth William Sparks.*



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April 07, 2023 at 12:32 PM



“ *Melissa, I am so very sorry for you loss. I've known you and Ken for so long, my heart breaks for you and the girls. Hugs and prayers of love and comfort for you all. Michele Scott*

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**Michele Scott** - April 06, 2023 at 07:57 PM



“ *I just remember Mr. Sparks as a confident & content man that was always in the back yard taking care of the dogs;) We had a number of friendly conversations across the fence as I played in the back yard as a kid. Thoughts & prayers to all those good looking Sparks girls.*

*-Jason*

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**Jason Storm** - March 09, 2023 at 09:09 PM

TJ

“ To my dear sister Punkin,  
May God bless you and your daughters, Missy, Stephanie and  
Angie during this time. We all will miss Ken, but knowing his  
presence in Heaven, without pain or suffering, gives us peace and  
comfort.

Love,  
Tom, Barbara, T3 and Jeff Lovell

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**Thomas H Lovell Jr** - March 09, 2023 at 02:29 PM

KS

“ Sending our love to all of you.  
The Siffins.

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**kelly siffin** - March 07, 2023 at 02:42 PM



“ The neighbor kids would play capture the flag in their backyard and  
he never seemed to mind. Mr. sparks was always very kind and  
approachable.

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**Tyler Storm** - March 07, 2023 at 09:02 AM

SS

“ Ken was a wonderful friend and neighbor. We have known him for  
many years, and only have cherished memories of that relationship.  
He is in a better place, where there is no sickness or worries. He is  
enjoying Heaven today. Our love to Malissa and all the family. Bruce  
and Shannon Storm

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**Shannon Storm** - March 07, 2023 at 08:14 AM