



Kenneth Franklin Fiebelman

December 19, 1941 - January 3, 2017

Kenneth Franklin Fiebelman was born on December 19, 1941 in St. Louis, Missouri, son of Lawrence and Cynthia (Warfel) Fiebelman. Ken grew up on the family farm at Howes Mill, Missouri. He attended the one room school at Howes Mill for 8 years. He attended Cherryville High School and graduated from the Salem High School in 1959. He graduated from the University of Missouri, Columbia in 1963 with a bachelor's degree. He taught business and Missouri History in the St. Clair High School for 3 years and at the Salem High School for 18 years. He also spent over 20 years promoting Missouri tourism for the Meramec Caverns, traveling over several states.

He attended the Howes Mill Union Church during his lifetime and was baptized in the Huzzah Creek at Boss, Missouri while attending the Boss Assembly of God Church. He officiated many funerals of family and friends. He was a member of the Salem Masonic and Odd Fellow Lodges for over 50 years. He was also a member of the Shriners and the Scottish Rites of St. Louis, Missouri. For many years he was on the Home Care Advisory Board of the Salem Memorial Hospital. He was a long time member of the Missouri State Teachers Association and has served on numerous of boards involving the community.

He and his brother, Gary, have maintained the family century farm which has been in the family since 1894. He had been a life-long member of the Dent County Cattleman's Association. He was a recipient of the Friend of Agriculture Award by the Missouri Farm Bureau and was involved with the

improvements on the Wurdack Farms at Cook Station.

He was elected to the Missouri House of Representatives and served 6 consecutive terms beginning in 1984 through 1996. He served as chairman of the Missouri House Mining committee and was on the agricultural and education committees. He was the author of the bill that made the fiddle the official instrument of Missouri. He also authored the bill that made Highway 19 designated as the first Missouri Scenic and Historical State Route. He served on the transportation committee and was instrumental in getting the renovation of Highway 72 from Salem to Rolla started and part of this highway has been named in honor of him. He was also a member of the Tourism Committee and has been very active in promoting tourism for the Ozark Heritage Region. He is responsible for naming the region, Ozark Heritage, as he gave this name to the Dent County History books starting in 1978. Since that time the name Ozark Heritage has been used to identify this section of the Ozarks.

He was the founder and the first president of the Dent County Historical Society and remained an active member and was a life-long member of the Dent County Museum board. He is responsible for the Ozark Heritage History books which featured the Dent and Crawford counties and the Ozark Heritage regions. He started collecting Ozark memorabilia when he was a teenager and for over 50 years he has been an avid collector and has spent the last 30 years preserving the history and genealogy of the Ozark Heritage region by collecting items of the local interest and operating the Ozark Heritage Center in Salem, Missouri. He was a life-long member of the Missouri Historical Society in Columbia and a member of the Crawford and Phelps County Historical Society. He received many local and state awards in genealogy and history including awards for the Missouri State Genealogy Society.

He has been involved with the perpetual care of the rural area cemeteries of the Ozarks and was an original director of the ABC Memorial Foundation for the preservation of rural area cemeteries. He served as treasurer for this foundation for many years. He was also secretary for the Boss and Stone Hill

cemeteries perpetual care funds since they were started.

He was active in the business community and an active member in the Salem Area Chamber of Commerce for around 50 years where he has received many honors and awards including the Outstanding Citizen Award. He was a member of the Salem Community Betterment Association and received the Gift of Time Honor Roll Award for outstanding volunteer services.

He has spent his life preserving the history and genealogy of our Missouri Ozark region by collecting items of local interest and has operated the Ozark Heritage Center in Salem, Missouri. He loved the people of the Missouri Ozarks and strived to improve the quality of life.

Ken is survived by Gary & Barbara Fiebelman, Laura Fiebelman Parker, Victoria Fiebelman Lowe and husband David Lowe, Lauren Spicer, Braxton Parker, Jacob Kennison Parker, Slayton Parker; caregiver/cousin, Eunice Williams; a host of extended family and many friends.

Funeral services for Kenneth F. Fiebelman will be held 1:00PM Friday, January 6, 2017 at the Salem Chapel of the James & Gahr Mortuary with Paul Davis and JJ Tune officiating. A visitation for family and friends will be held Thursday, January 5, 2017 from 3:00PM - 9:00PM with a Masonic service at 8:30 PM. Interment will be held in the Boss Cemetery in Boss, Missouri. In lieu of flowers donations are suggested to the Boss Assembly of God Church; Salem Chapter of the Salvation Army; Life Way Center.

Previous Events

Visitation

JAN 5. 3:00 PM - 9:00 PM (CT)

James & Gahr Mortuary - Salem
103 West Center
Salem, MO 65560
(573) 729-3117
jgsalemmo@hotmail.com
<https://www.jamesgahrmortuary.com/>

Masonic Service

JAN 5. 8:30 PM (CT)

James & Gahr Mortuary - Salem
103 West Center
Salem, MO 65560
(573) 729-3117
jgsalemmo@hotmail.com
<https://www.jamesgahrmortuary.com/>

Service

JAN 6. 1:00 PM (CT)

James & Gahr Mortuary - Salem
103 West Center
Salem, MO 65560
(573) 729-3117
jgsalemmo@hotmail.com
<https://www.jamesgahrmortuary.com/>

Tribute Wall



“ *Kenneth Franklin Fiebelman*

January 30, 2023 at 04:37 AM



“ *Kenneth Franklin Fiebelman*

January 30, 2023 at 02:54 AM



“ *My Dear Cousin Ken, Your kindness, humor, love of family and local history will always identify with you, as well as being a man of Faith. Our Goodbyes only began your Hellos Again...as you return to our Heavenly Family. What a Glorious Reunion you had. Sad you needed to leave us; but rejoice that your suffering with ALS is no longer. The Love you have for your Family and True Friends is a shining example of Living Righteous and hopefully no regrets. Many will learn too late of the fine man you were and all that you did to help build the Community that each enjoy today. Rest in peace dear cousin,*



Patricia Freukes - January 09, 2017 at 08:49 PM



“ *My condolences to the Fiebelman family on the passing of Ken. I met him on several occasions when I visited my ancestors Judge L. B. Woodside photographs and moustache cup at the Ozark Heritage Center. I hope that the center will be able to be maintained by someone. I would not want to see the wealth of history lost.*

Garret

Garret - January 08, 2017 at 02:43 PM

MB

“ I first met Kenny in 1975 when he was my high school Missouri History teacher, and later got to know him better through the Dent County Historical Society meetings and from visiting his wonderful shop and museum. What a wonderful man he was! I think most kids had him for Business or Typing, while I was lucky enough to get him for History! A person could not have a better history teacher than Mr. Fiebelman! It just wouldn't be possible. He even took our class on a field trip to his house to meet his mom and view some of his cherished local antiques. My love of antiques and history comes from this man. And his teaching made a positive difference in my life. My condolences to Eunice and the Family.

Mark Bottomley - January 06, 2017 at 06:17 PM

MB

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Mark Bottomley - January 06, 2017 at 06:10 PM

SC

“ *Our thoughts to the Fiebleman family. Not only a teacher, historian, author, a representative for our great state of Missouri, and a neighbor on Howes Mill he will be sadly missed. What a special man.*

Sharon (Peterek) Carson - January 06, 2017 at 04:46 PM

“ To the Fiebelman Family, my condolences. I wrote for the Kaleidoscope Weekly in Salem and later for River Hills Traveler, interviewed him once, listened to him when I stopped in, and he served as backup for local facts a number of times when I needed confirmation. We all must pass, but his loss creates a hole in the fabric of the Ozarks, May God watch over all of you. I live 100 miles away and cannot attend the service, but wish to share the tribute I wrote and shared on the Scenic Rivers page on Facebook. There are many many people thinking of Ken today.

Leonard Butts just told me that former State Representative Ken Fiebelman of Salem just passed away. Fiebelman was an Ozark original, a jack of all trades, amongst other things, a high school teacher, a summer roadman for Lester Dill, an Upper Current River historian and tourist promoter, who ran the Ozark Heritage Center, a big white building on Hwy. 19 in Salem stuffed to the rafters with antiques, quilts, pieces of cast off public buildings, paintings, books, signs and in the middle of it an old overstuffed couch where he held court, and a Western Electric phone that was liable to ring at any moments with someone wanting to buy, sell, trade, do an interview or bring a tidbit of news. And, he would never never let you leave the building without signing in, regardless of how many times you came in! He wrote dozens of large and copiously illustrated local history books, knew every small cemetery within a 50 mile radius of Salem...he told me once that he was "the person who knew where the bodies were buried." Ken was always on call to preach at funerals: not as the minister, but as the family friend who seemingly knew everyone in town, and their families. The first time I met him he asked if I was related to anyone in town, and I mentioned my great-aunt, and he said, "Oh, yes, Arna, She lived on South Jackson Street and she passed about 15 years ago." That was spooky. He helped me out several times when needing information on Sligo, and the Boss and Jadwin areas, as well as Salem itself. There is a section of Hwy. 72 named for him. When the sign went up, some years back. people asked if he had died, and he called the paper to tell them "No" and spoke at the dedication. He told me later that was

his finest accomplishment -- getting people to come down those roads, and get to know the South Central Ozarks.


Jo Schaper - January 05, 2017 at 08:12 PM

NB

“ *On behalf of the Dale (Toot) & Betty Brooks family, we extend our sincerest sympathies to the family of Kenny Fiebleman. The facts that he acquired regarding the heritage of so many families of Dent County and surrounding communities has been appreciated by many. Kenny's commitment of gaining and sharing knowledge was truly amazing, and certainly beyond all others. Rest In Peace, Kenny.*

*Dale, Betty & Nancy Brooks
Tom & Leann (Brooks) Kelly*

Nancy Brooks - January 05, 2017 at 03:27 PM

 Joann Tallent

“ *You will be solely missed my friend... You have done so much for the County you lived in ... You said I would never catch up to you and you were right You even got to heaven before I*



Joann Tallent - January 05, 2017 at 03:23 PM

BF

“ I am sorry to hear of Mr. Fiebelman's passing. He was a good man and one of the best, if not THE BEST teacher I knew. He loved his work and you could surely tell it. He had the gift to make you want to learn. Many times I found myself thinking of his teachings in my day-to-day business and at work. He is remembered with thoughtful reverence.

Sincerely,
Bernie Fudge

Bernie Fudge - January 05, 2017 at 02:52 PM

SW

“ Ken was such a friend to our family, especially helping with the Walker Cemetery. I so enjoyed getting to know him and his wealth of knowledge about Dent county and sharing it with everyone. I treasure his books. One of the highlights of coming to Salem over Memorial Day was to visit with Ken at his antique shop. A kind and thoughtful man. He will be missed. Suzanne White, Springfield, MO

Suzanne White - January 05, 2017 at 01:42 PM

AB

“ Ken's love of local history was an inspiration. He was a collector's collector and if there are auctions in heaven I'm sure Ken is there. He was a good friend, so knowledgeable and with great humor. My condolences to Eunice, Jamie and the family.
Alan Banks

Alan Banks - January 05, 2017 at 12:24 PM

RH

“ Gary and Family: I am saddened to hear of Ken's passing. Dent County and all of Missouri have lost a treasured son. No one knew more about the families and history of Dent and the surrounding counties than Ken did. And he loved to share that knowledge through conversation and with his many books. May God bless Ken and your entire family. Ron Hogan (son of Ray Hogan) Raleigh, NC

Ron Hogan - January 05, 2017 at 11:08 AM

JS

“ You will be missed greatly, from your kindness to the family, even though we are only distantly related. We will all miss the connection you made for all of us to the area and family history.

Rest in Peace our friend, Heaven has a new angel .

Jerry Schroeder {Grandson of Emmet and Ellen Short



Jerry Schroeder - January 04, 2017 at 09:57 PM

LT

“ Our deepest condolences to Ken's family !



Larry & Margaret Teague - January 04, 2017 at 07:32 PM



“ *Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Kenneth Franklin Fiebelman.*



January 04, 2017 at 06:49 PM



“ *You always had a smile and a story.....thanks for your dedicated service to writing a history of our ancestors. You will be missed.*



Bonnie Nelson - January 04, 2017 at 02:51 PM