



John Christopher Kent

August 30, 1935 - February 11, 2021

John Christopher Kent

John Christopher Kent died on Feb. 19th, 2021 in Longmont, CO of natural causes. He was born on Aug. 30, 1935 in Minneapolis, Minn., to Iva Fae Duncan Kent and John Charles Kent. He was raised in Arlington Heights, Ill. As a high school student Chris won the high hurdles in the West Suburban Athletic Conference for the Arlington High School Cardinals. He was president of the Math Club, as well as president of the jazz band "The Rhythm Aces." Chris attended Interlochen Center for the Arts in Michigan to study music. Chris graduated from Purdue University in 1957 with an undergraduate degree in engineering. He was a member of Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity. He played trumpet with the 7-member "SAE combo" on Just Jazz nights at the student union when he was in graduate school. He was a lifelong member of the Purdue Alumni Club. He met his wife at Purdue and on March 23, 1957 he married Sondra McCormac at her family home in Oak Park, Ill. Only immediate family attended.

Chris went on to receive a M.E. and M.S. and then finished his Ph.D. in Mechanical Engineering in 1962. He was a member of Pi Tau Sigma, the international honor society in the field of mechanical engineering. Members are chosen on a basis of sound engineering ability, scholarship service, leadership, and integrity. Chris attended officer's training in the U.S. Army first at Aberdeen Proving Ground in Baltimore, Md., then at Redstone Arsenal in Huntsville, Ala., where he became a First Lieutenant.

He and his wife moved to Birmingham, Mich., where Chris worked at General Motors Technical Center in Warren as a Research Engineer. He was a member of the Society of Automotive Engineers (SAE). They adopted their first child, David James Kent, from the Cradle Society in Evanston, Ill. In 1963. Their second child, Katherine Kent, was adopted in 1966, from the same adoption agency.

In June of 1972 the Kents moved to Palo Alto, Calif., so Chris could work as a research scientist at Lockheed. In 1974 they moved back to Michigan settling in Bloomfield Hills, Mich. Chris was an active member of the First Presbyterian Church in Birmingham. Blackberry, a black miniature sheepdog joined the family at this time. Chris worked as a research engineer at the Ford Research Laboratory until his retirement in February of

1995. In 1994 he was awarded the Technical Achievement Award for development of Advent: a Tool for Rapid and Accurate Evaluation of Engine Designs relative to In-cylinder Fluid Motion. He presented papers on this in London, Cologne, Munich, Salzburg and Graz, Austria. He often travelled to present papers internationally, always stopping to visit his international friends.

After retirement in 1995 the Kents moved to Sante Fe, N.M. and took up golf, volunteered in museums, and attended the Sante Fe Opera every season. They made close friends and Chris became an avid fly fisher. In April of 2001 they build a house in Longmont, moving to be closer to their daughter and her family. The Kents loved to travel and this took them from Canada to Malta to the Amazon Rainforest. They also loved the National Park System in the United States and visited almost all the parks.

In Longmont they became active members of the Longs Peak United Methodist Church. Chris served on the Longmont Water Board, joined the Longmont Rotary Club, and participated in a men's bookgroup on Saturday mornings unofficially called the "Spidermen."

In 2014, after the sudden and devastating flood of 2013 in Longmont which they barely escaped when it flooded their home, the Kents moved to Albuquerque, N.M. briefly, then back to Colorado and to Longmont in 2018. In 2019 they moved to Boulder to live with their daughter and her family until 2020 where they moved to an assisted living facility in Longmont.

Chris was always a musician. He played the trumpet in high school, college, and in the army. He attended Interlochen Center for the Arts in Michigan to study music. At Purdue he played such songs as "Basin Street Blues" and "Won't You Come Home Bill Bailey." After Chris retired, he founded and became director of several jazz bands. His favorite music was Dixieland and Gospel jazz. He played the piano, trumpet, and coronet, often arranging original scores for his bands. In Longmont he started the Longs Peak Stompers and in New Mexico he started the Sandia Stompers.

He loved his band-mates, and both his band-mates and the music they played gave him unlimited joy. He and Sondra travelled to Washington to follow one of their favorite bands "The Salty Dogs." His last concert of "The Stompers" was March 8, 2020 at Longs Peak United Methodist Church. All his concerts were free to attend, they were always packed, and they always raised money for various good causes such as Longmont Meals on Wheels. He loved to tell jokes, especially during his concerts. Most of these jokes could be defined as "Dad jokes," but he thought they were funny, and nothing could stop him from sharing his humor. He always had a pocketful of jokes to tell.

Chris was preceded in death by his parents John and Fae Kent, and his wife Sondra, all of Longmont. She died just three months before Chris. He is survived by his son David James Kent of North Pole, Alaska, and his grandson, Christopher Michael Kent of Golden; his daughter Katherine Kent Weadley (Michael) of Boulder and his grandsons Conor and

William; and his niece Laura McCormac Solyom (David) of Texas.

Chris had a wonderful life: he was married for almost 64 years to the love of his life; always supported the endeavors of his family; had a brilliant career doing what he loved; traveled the world; was a dedicated and gifted musician and band director; was a true friend to everyone; and he fully enjoyed retirement. He died peacefully and well loved.

Comments



“ Chris was my inspiration in my early years when I entered High school. He was the principal trumpet in the Arlington Heights High School band. I was awed by his playing and worked hard to replace him after he left for college. At Purdue we reconnected and he introduced me to the Salty Dogs Jazz Band. We went our separate ways for fame and fortune but years later we we had a discussion about the trumpet. Chris hadn't played for years but we discussed a road to recovery and he took it. Chris got his playing skills back and brought his wonderful talent to Longmont, Co. He and Sondra had a wonderful life. We were lucky to spend time with them before the world shut down.

A truly wonderful couple and friends with class. Chris and Sondra will be sorely missed, but not forgotten.

Lives well lived!!

Lew & Mary Green

Lew Green - March 30 at 09:58 PM



“ Chris was an inspiration to me and to many other LPUMC and Longmont men. The quietness with which he went about making contributions to his fellow humans made it almost impossible for those not close to him to detect the magnitude and frequency of his generosity. It seemed to be the way he humbly preferred it. His terse wisdom at Saturday morning book group is the stuff of legend. Hardly a month goes by that we do not find a way to work him into a conversation...especially when we are trying to puzzle something out. In addition to his crisp musicianship and band leadership, he managed to pull off something even more impressive...he made jokes that were even cornier than Dale Sherrod's. I am grateful to have known him and will continue my efforts to emulate his selfless kindness, wisdom, and Christian values.

With Great Respect and Christian Love,
Jeff Linroth

Jeff Linroth - March 29 at 06:31 PM



“ 8 files added to the album Memories Album



A Better Place Funeral & Cremation - March 29 at 11:31 AM