



## Kenneth C. Canary

June 22, 1926 - February 8, 2019

Kenneth C. Canary, 92, passed away peacefully in his sleep early Friday morning, February 8, 2019 at Kingsway Community in Schenectady, N.Y. where he and his wife Phyllis had been residents since July.

Ken was born on the Route 29 Canary Farm on June 22, 1926, to Clayton and Estella Miller Canary. He was the fourth of eight children, all of whom formed close life long bonds with each other, working and growing up on the farm together. Ken attended Elementary School at the Frank's District School House on what is now Progress Road. He graduated from Broadalbin High School in 1944.

While in High School he started buying, repairing and selling Used Cars and Used Parts. (a good move due to new cars not being built and new parts not being available during WWII). Ken caught the attention of the owner of an Esso Gas Station in Johnstown when he was able to correct an engine issue on a customer's car that none of his Gas Station Mechanics had been able to figure out. He offered young Ken a job at his Gas Station and Ken agreed to move his Repair Business out of the barn on the farm so long as he could sell his Used Cars at the Gas Station. It was during this time that Ken regularly rode his 1931 Indian Scout Motorcycle. Eventually the station became Canary Bros. Esso when Ken's brother Warren joined him in business.

Ken married his childhood sweetheart Phyllis Crannell on June 5th, 1948 at Broadalbin Baptist Church, the church they both had grown up in. They moved into an upstairs flat on East Clinton St. in Johnstown and ran the Gas

Station and Used Car Business until 1950. At that time, Ken's brother Warren became a Dairy Farmer, the Station was sold and the Repair Business was moved back to Route 29. Ken and Phyllis built the original portion of what would be their home there for the next 68 years. By 1952, Ken and Phyllis were parents of Lynda and Lois and became the local John Deere Dealer. They turned one end of the basement of their home into a Parts Department and the other end into a Repair Shop Garage. Eventually the business was moved to a new building next door. In 1958 the family welcomed another daughter, Laurie. Ken and Phyllis founded Capital Tractor in 1966 and welcomed son Keith in 1967.

In 1969, K C Canary opened in Clifton Park and in 1981 in Fultonville. Eventually other partners joined the business and expansion /mergers took place resulting in additional K C Canary locations in Beacon, Schroon Lake, Plattsburgh and Gouverneur. Today three of the K C Canary Industrial Locations survive as Nortrax Equipment locations. Ken was one of the original partners in the formation of The Hudson River Tractor Company which has locations in Fultonville, Goshen, Chatham, Clifton Park and Schaghticoke. He was recognized at various times throughout the years by Deere & Company as being a major contributor to their success in the Northeast due to his commitment to their complete Product Line and taking care of customers. An annual "John Deere Day" where customers were treated to a nice meal, door prizes and movies was a tradition held for many years at the Broadalbin High School. This tradition continues at Hudson River Tractor each March. An extremely humble man, Ken took great joy in quietly helping others and giving people a chance to excel.

Throughout Ken's life he was an active member of his local church, he and Phyllis were members of Broadalbin Baptist Church for many years then Perth Bible Church most recently until his health started to become an issue. Ken served on the Board of Directors at Sacandaga Bible Conference from 1961 until just recently. He was an accomplished pilot, first flying an Aeronica Champ in the 1950's then graduating to a Cessna 172 that he flew from 1962

to 2009. That plane now lives on being used to train Missionary and Relief Pilots preparing for service around the globe. Ken recently had the opportunity to go for a ride in his old Cessna when it was back in the area and was tickled beyond belief to be back in the air. His interest in aviation had been sparked when he was taken to the 1939 NY World's Fair by an Aunt and Uncle. As a 12 year old boy this was his first time away from the farm and gave him a glimpse into the world outside of Fulton County and all new technology of the day.

In the latter years of his life Ken started to put together a collection of John Deere Two Cylinder Tractors and memorabilia. For many years his Two Cylinder Tractors were a favorite attraction at the Fonda Fair and other area Vintage Tractor Shows. Ken was a member of The Coons Hollow Engine Club and has hosted their Annual Show at his Museum for many years each July. Ken is believed to have been the only original Amphicar owner in existence, still owning the 1966 Amphibious car he had purchased new. Ken and Phyllis enjoyed a ride on the Mohawk River in it just within the past 2 years.

Ken is survived by his wife of over 70 years, Phyllis Crannell Canary, daughter Lynda Naske (Bob) of Johnstown, daughter Lois Wager (Michael) of Broadalbin, daughter Laurie Frederick (Tom) of Northville and son Keith Canary (Kelly) of Vail Mills. Kenneth had 8 grandchildren, 8 great grandchildren and a great-great grandson. He is also survived by his younger sister, Marilyn Ottendorf (Doug) of Kokomo, IN and 22 nieces and nephews. Family Reunions each summer for both sides of the family were always a highlight for Ken.

Ken was predeceased by his infant brother Merrill in 1928, then more recently, his younger Twin Sisters Eileen Minkler and Arlene Mac Vean, older sister Shirley Rose, older brothers Warren and Donald and Son in Law, Bill Dmyszewicz.

Calling Hours will be held at Perth Bible Church, 1863 Co Hwy 107, Amsterdam, NY 12010 on Tuesday, February 12, 2019 from 3PM to 6PM

followed by a Celebration of Life Memorial Service at 6PM

Memorial Contributions can be made to Sacandaga Bible Conference, 191  
Lakeview Road, Broadalbin, NY 12025.

Arrangements are by the Robert M. Halgas Funeral Home, Inc. 111 County  
Highway 106, Johnstown, NY.

# Previous Events

## Calling Hours

FEB 12. 3:00 PM - 6:00 PM (ET)

Perth Bible Church  
1863 Co. Hwy 107  
Amsterdam, NY 12010

## Celebration of Life

FEB 12. 6:00 PM (ET)

Perth Bible Church  
1863 Co. Hwy 107  
Amsterdam, NY 12010

## Graveside Service

MAY 18. 10:00 AM (ET)

Broadalbin-Mayfield Rural Cemetary  
Broadalbin, NY 12025

# Tribute Wall



“ So sorry for your loss. You are in my thoughts.

Don MacVean - February 13, 2019 at 06:31 PM



“ My thoughts are with your family.

Don MacVean

Don - February 13, 2019 at 07:53 AM



“ Lynda and family: We were sadden to read that your father passed away.

We are sure that you have many happy memories that will give you strength and comfort during this time.

Our thoughts and prayers are with all of you.

Bill, Marj and Abby Jones

Marj Jones - February 12, 2019 at 02:16 PM



“ So sorry for your loss. I hope you take comfort in knowing he is with his Lord now.

Barbara Johnson Westbrook - February 12, 2019 at 09:42 AM

EM

“ Ed and Judy McSwain purchased the Peace, Prayers, & Blessings- Lavender and White for the family of Kenneth C. Canary.



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**Ed and Judy McSwain** - February 12, 2019 at 08:55 AM



“ Ken was a blessing to our family and he was always a person you could trust.

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**Raymond Morse** - February 11, 2019 at 09:21 PM



“ White Sympathy Baskets was purchased for the family of Kenneth C. Canary.



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February 11, 2019 at 01:46 PM

CG

“ Keith and family,

*I was so sorry to hear of the passing of your Dad. My Dad worked for your Dad for many years. My Dad Walter was very fond of Ken and had the upmost respect for him. Its unfortunate that my Dad will not be able to attend the calling hours but I know if he was able to understand he would be there. May your Dad rest in peace and may God Bless you all.*

*Catherine Grabo (DeBevoise)*

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**Catherine Grabo** - February 11, 2019 at 01:20 PM

RN

“ It had been a pleasure doing business with you throughout the years. Will miss seeing you at the Fonda Fair.  
*Russell & Melinda Nare*

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**Russell & Melinda Nare** - February 11, 2019 at 10:15 AM

TF

“ The Perry Family, High Tower Farm purchased the Yellow & White Sympathy Floor Basket for the family of Kenneth C. Canary.



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**The Perry Family, High Tower Farm** - February 10, 2019 at 07:57 PM

DS

“ Our family always appreciated his kindness and caring attitude toward us.

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**Debbie Sams** - February 10, 2019 at 07:36 PM

MA

“ Your Dad was a wonderful Man! He and My Dad go back many years.  
I remember Keith, when you started at Crossroads Christian Academy, and in my Art Class. I got to see more for myself of what wonderful Parents you had.  
My heart aches for you today for the loss of your Dad but, we Rejoice because Your Dad Is In Heaven Now Too with my Dad and Mom!  
We are Praying You and Your Family through this really difficult time.  
We love you, Karl and Margaret Ann and Family

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**Margaret Ann** - February 10, 2019 at 08:49 AM

KG

“ *What a beautiful legacy he left! Ken was a faithful and loving man who gave generously of his life and resources. My family has known the Canary family for many years and the consistent and genuine testimony he bore are rare and honorable! May God comfort you all as only He can during this time.*

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**Kathy Keeler Guzman** - February 10, 2019 at 07:46 AM

VF


“ *I thoroughly enjoyed reading Mr. Canary's obituary. I lived just down the road from him and his family. I've known all of the Canaries all of my life. What a beautiful and admiral life Mr. Canary and his wife lived. May he rest in peace.*

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**Valerie Aesch Fiorillo** - February 09, 2019 at 05:35 PM

CM

*Yes, Valerie. Remember when we were kids and he would take off in his plane, we would say, "There goes Ken Canary!" He was a very good man and neighbor!*

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**Christine Aesch McCreedy** - February 09, 2019 at 07:42 PM

 Jerry Wager

“ *Jerry Wager lit a candle in memory of Kenneth C. Canary*



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**Jerry Wager** - February 09, 2019 at 04:50 PM

ED

*He was such a wonderful man. He did more for people than most realize. He will definitely be missed. Prayers for the family.*

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**Edna** - February 10, 2019 at 10:50 AM

TB

*Lynda, Phyllis and family, So sorry to hear of Ken's parting. It has been a long hard journey for all of you. We grieve for your loss yet rejoice in his safe arrival Home. Love and prayers, Tom and Ruthie Becker*

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**Tom and Ruthie Becker** - February 12, 2019 at 08:15 AM