



## Kenneth "Ken" Ellenberger

January 14, 1945 - July 16, 2022

Kenneth "Kenny" J. Ellenberger, of Bluffton, passed away on Saturday evening, July 16, 2022, at his farm in rural Bluffton.

Mr. Ellenberger was born on January 14, 1945, in Bluffton, Indiana to Jesse & Mary (Linn) Ellenberger and graduated from Bluffton High School.

Kenny was the owner/ broker of Ellenberger Brothers, a family auction and real estate firm located in the heart of downtown Bluffton and serving clients since 1925. Under his leadership, Kenny personally conducted over 4,000 successful auctions, representing buyers and sellers for clients that placed their trust in the Ellenberger name. He was a member of the Adams, Jay, Wells Board of Realtors.

Kenny served as the Vice President of the Bluffton Free Street Fair, and served as the Chairman of the Bluffton Free Street Fair Horse Pull Committee, for the last 49 years.

On May 8, 1971, at the First United Methodist Church in Bluffton, Kenny and Jill (Holloway) Ellenberger were married.

Survivors include his wife Jill of Bluffton, and children; DeAnna (Sri) Pursai of San Jose, CA, Angel Ellenberger of Decatur, Doug (Christine) Ellenberger of White Salmon, WA and Jessica (Dion) Dubbeld of Bluffton along with 5 grandchildren; Anjali & Nina Pursai and Shepherd, Otis and Woods Dubbeld, along with a sister Nancy Markell of Ohio.

He is preceded in death by his parents, three brothers; Donald L., Robert J. and Richard L. Ellenberger, and two sisters; Charlotte Mittlestedt and Shirley

Ellenberger.

Visitation will take place from 2 P.M. to 8 P.M. on Tuesday, AUGUST 2, 2022, at The Historic Ellenberger Office Building located at 130 West Market Street in Bluffton.

Visitation will continue from 9 A.M. to 11 A.M. on Wednesday, AUGUST 3, 2022, at the First United Methodist Church in Bluffton.

Funeral services will take place at 11 A.M. on Wednesday, AUGUST 3, 2022, at the First United Methodist Church in Bluffton with Pastor Ed Schwartz officiating.

To honor Kenny's love for horse pulling, a team of horses will take him to the Six Mile Cemetery in Bluffton for the final committal service.

Memorials may be made to the College of Adaptive Arts, a program that Kenny's daughter DeAnna, oversees, and more information about this organization can be found at [www.collegeofadaptivearts.org](http://www.collegeofadaptivearts.org).

Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to the direction of the Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home in Bluffton. Friends can send condolences to the family at [www.thomarich.com](http://www.thomarich.com).

# Cemetery Details

## Six Mile Cemetery

4795 SE State Road 116  
Bluffton, IN

# Previous Events

## Visitation

AUG 2. 2:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

The Historic Ellenberger Office Building  
130 West Market Street  
Bluffton, IN 46714

## Visitation

AUG 3. 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

First United Methodist Church  
325 West Washington Street  
Bluffton, IN

## Funeral Service

AUG 3. 11:00 AM (ET)

First United Methodist Church  
325 West Washington Street  
Bluffton, IN



# Tribute Wall



“ *Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Kenneth "Ken" Ellenberger*



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**Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home** - August 02, 2022 at 02:49 PM



“ *Kenneth "Ken" Ellenberger*

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September 08, 2022 at 08:26 PM



“ *He would say "not another one in captivity." Good old days!*

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**Kathy Gardner** - August 02, 2022 at 09:57 AM



“ *Sweet Tenderness was purchased for the family of Kenneth "Ken" Ellenberger.*



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August 02, 2022 at 09:31 AM



“ 152 files added to the album *LifeTributes*



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**Thoma/Rich,Lemler Funeral Home** - July 30, 2022 at 05:56 PM



“ *Beautiful Dreams* was purchased for the family of **Kenneth "Ken" Ellenberger**.



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July 29, 2022 at 06:57 PM



“ *We are sorry to hear of the passing of Ken. He will certainly be missed by family, friends, and the community. A special note to Jessica. We had some nice visits while you were working at the bank. I always enjoyed our chats. You and family are in our prayers.*  
*Sharon & Jeff Espich*

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**Sharon Espich** - July 27, 2022 at 01:20 PM

DD

“ I can hear that laugh still today.....I can see that big smile still today.....all the way back to high school. Football....I was maybe 120 pounds, Kenny was 180 or so. Blocking drill, two lines. I had to block while someone else ran through. I started counting back the other line, hoping it was someone small and easy. When I got there, guess who it was? Number 77.....Kenny.....and he had already figured it out. He was looking right at me and he was laughing. As the line moved he became even more engaged. He couldn't wait for this collision and he was letting everyone know it. He was laughing so hard I decided to hit him with everything I had which brought on a big grunt from Kenny.....it also brought out some colorful language.....which brought out a response from Coach Fornshell.....ELLENBERGER!!!! The same thing I had heard several times in the locker room.

*I'm gonna miss the big red head, one of my dearest friends and someone I had total respect for. A monster loss for Bluffton and the entire area. As my dad (who went all the way back to Jess) would say, "there's nobody better than Bob and Kenny ELLENBERGER, period!"*

*And, I agree with that statement.*

*Doug Durr*

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**Doug Durr** - July 27, 2022 at 11:09 AM

SM

“ We are so sorry to hear about the passing of Ken. Sending love and our deepest condolences.

*Sue & Jim McAleer*

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**Sue McAleer** - July 24, 2022 at 03:23 PM

BB

“ *Jill and family,  
Rod and I were so sorry to hear about Kenny, it's been a long time since we spent the weekend with your family at the lake but what fun we had (even with no electricity). Our prayers and thoughts are with you and the family.  
Barb and Rod Bailey*

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**Barb Bailey** - July 24, 2022 at 11:13 AM

JD

“ *Kenny was a class member and good friend, he will be missed by all. We send our prayers and condolences to Jill and the family, so sorry for your loss.*

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**Jerry Cindy Dillon** - July 23, 2022 at 07:24 PM

BS

“ *Jill and Angel  
So sorry to hear of the loss of your husband and father.  
You may not remember us but we remember you! Bree used to get together with Angel yrs ago. I also follow news about the College of Adaptive Arts. So awesome!  
Bree also lost her beloved dad, my husband 8 yrs ago.  
We know what you are going through and have much sympathy.  
Brenda&Bree Simonovic*

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**Brenda Simonovic** - July 23, 2022 at 03:03 PM

ST

“ Sending my sympathy and prayers to Jill and the Ellenberger family. I have a few special memories of the Ellenberger auctions that served our community. My dad, Walter Speheger and my mom Mary, would help clerk the auctions with Dale, Bob And Ken. And I think my dad even did a bit of match making with Kenny and Jill. Ken will be missed and I'm sure his legacy will go on forever.

Susie Tinnel - July 23, 2022 at 08:15 AM

VA

“ I have worked with Kenny for many years. If we would have written a book of all the auctions we worked together and of the stories of enjoying our Ellenberger working family it would have been a large book for sure. It was always interesting to drive him to a work site and listen to his story of so many places, along the way, pointing out each place and who lived there and his memory of the auction. His mind was very sharp. He will be missed.

vicki Andrews - July 22, 2022 at 09:41 AM

JD

“ Janet DeWitt lit a candle in memory of Kenneth "Ken" Ellenberger



Janet DeWitt - July 22, 2022 at 08:11 AM

RH

*Sending thoughts and prayers to Jill (cousin ) and the Ellenberger family. R I P Kenny*

Rosalee Hockenberry - July 23, 2022 at 11:15 AM

RF

“ So very thankful for Ken's support and friendship. I will especially remember his line..."Hey, I have a curveball for you"...whenever he wanted to change something about an auction set up! He was a special man with a wealth of knowledge and passion for the Auction Business. I will miss our conversations. Praying for peace and comfort for the entire family.



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**Rod Fetters** - July 21, 2022 at 08:38 PM

RR

“ Jill, I was so saddened to learn of Ken's passing. You and your family will be in my prayers.

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**Rodney Rains** - July 21, 2022 at 09:36 AM

BF

Jill and family I am so sorry. You have my deepest sympathy. You may not remember me but I substituted for you at Lincoln Life when you took care of your mom with her broken leg. Bruce Badiac and Marilyn Thiele were in that department. I think of those days sometimes and think about reconnecting but time passes. Remember the good times you had with Kenny. God will put his arms around you and hug you tight. Barb Langley Fischer

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**Barbara Langley Fischer** - July 24, 2022 at 04:12 PM

AD

“ In Ken’s passing we have lost a great local historian. Ken could recall ownership of seemingly every farm as well as Wells County businesses. His wonderful collection of local items demonstrated his passion for Wells County. I shall miss sharing new local history discoveries with Ken.  
*Alan Daugherty*

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**Alan Daugherty** - July 21, 2022 at 04:32 AM

DF

“ Kenny was a quiet presence in our lives on a number of occasions. He was a dedicated member of the Bluffton Business community where he treated his clients and members of the real estate community with great respect. We will miss him.

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**Dave and Henerietta Fraysier** - July 20, 2022 at 11:57 PM

BH

“ It was a real privilege to know Ken and to be a committed friend to him. My heart goes out to Angel and family; they truly loved their father.  
*Brenda Haddix*

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**Brenda Haddix** - July 20, 2022 at 08:39 AM

CC

“ So sorry and keeping all the family in our prayers. One memory we have of Kenny: He came to our house once and noticed we had about 4 shelves of Avon Quail on display. Later at an auction, he said, “I have something for you. “. He went out and brought in an Avon Pheasant thinking that is what we collected. We placed it in the middle of all our quail for a conversation piece. Much later we sold all our collection.

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**Chad and Donna Cochran** - July 19, 2022 at 06:01 PM

SC

“ Rest in peace. Uncle Ken!!



Sally Conwell - July 19, 2022 at 11:57 AM

CD

“ To the family, You have our deepest sympathy on your loss. We will keep you all in our prayers. Ed & Celia Dunmoyer

Celia Dunmoyer - July 18, 2022 at 09:56 PM

TR

“ The Masons, Healds, Thiemans and the Richardsons purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Kenneth "Ken" Ellenberger.



The Masons, Healds, Thiemans and the Richardsons - July 18, 2022 at 05:59 PM

Lisa Wagaman

“ You could look the world over and not find another!!

Lisa Wagaman - July 18, 2022 at 03:44 PM

RJ

“ Kenny never met a stranger, just friends he had yet to discover.

Roy Johnson - July 18, 2022 at 02:49 PM

JJ

“ I had the good fortune to learn the art of Canada walleye fishing from Kenny through many trips to Northern Ontario. Ken enjoyed sharing his passion with fishing to many in our groups over the years. I'll never forget the back and forth between Ken and Ed Hanrahan on the best method to use. The two of them always presented the antithesis of fishing techniques.

*But most of all I'll remember Ken as being the family man. He cared so deeply for his family and often spoke of them. My prayers are with them now in their time of grief.*

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**Jerry Johnson** - July 18, 2022 at 01:05 PM

TR

“ Sorry for your loss



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**Trudy** - July 18, 2022 at 12:32 PM

BW

“ Knew Ken for awhile. I'd drive him up to the lake a few times and mowed his yard and watched over his more important auctions staying all nite watching over them. Enjoyed being around Ken. One auction in particular I found a book that that had Ken and his wife in the early years of their romance and how much Ken fell for Jill which I read out loud to Ken. He sat there with a big smile on his face. Going to miss him but he is home now. My deepest condolences to the family and will be in my thoughts and prayers.

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**bob weber** - July 18, 2022 at 09:34 AM

SC

*We will miss Uncle Ken..he always had a good story to tell. And he and my oldest sister Kathy were such good pals growing up. As they were only a couple yrs.apart in age. My sympathies to Deanna. Angel. Doug . Jill. And Jessica. ♡♡*

Sally Conwell - July 18, 2022 at 02:39 PM

BC

“*Dear Ellenberger Family so very Sorry to hear about Kenny! Our Sincere Condolences to all of you and the Ellenberger Family! Our Prayers are with u all as u Grieve your loss! 🙏 May God grant u all Peace, Grace, and Comfort at this time! Love, Barry and JoEllen Crosbie!* 🙏❤️🙏



Barry Crosbie - July 17, 2022 at 10:28 PM

JF

“*Kenny was such a part of my families memories. He was always so fun to chat with. Deepest condolences to the family.* 🙏🙏🙏💕💕💕

Janine Felver - July 17, 2022 at 04:33 PM

DG

“*I'm so glad I was able to visit my friend an hour before he passed into Heaven. We had a lot of good times together over the years. We did many auctions together the last 16 years. There were some good times at the Wawasee cottage that he was very proud of. It's hard to say good by to my friend but I know you are not in any more pain or discomfort. The Ellenberger family will be in our prayers. Dan and Darlene Gerdom*



Dan Gerdom - July 17, 2022 at 12:52 PM