



Kenneth John Hartlage

February 24, 1934 - February 5, 2026

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Kenneth John Hartlage passed away peacefully on February 5, 2026 at the age of 91

surrounded by his devoted wife and four children. He was at home in Fort Myers, Florida,

overlooking the golf course he so loved. He was a devoted husband and father and lived his

life in a loving, faithful, generous, passionate, and fun loving manner.

Kenneth (Ken) grew up in Louisville, Kentucky. He graduated from Valley High School,

where he was an accomplished athlete playing multiple sports. He proudly served in the

United States Marine Corps from 1953 to 1955. The discipline and grit Ken developed as a

Marine never left him and were evident in his strong work ethic, leadership, and

unwavering commitment to those he loved.

In 1957, Ken married Mary C. Vowels, beginning a devoted partnership that

spanned 68 years. In 1959, he went to work at Hartlage Fence Company, where he quickly distinguished himself as a top salesman. While Ken and Mary were busy raising their four children during his early years at the company, they eventually went on to purchase and build a successful business that still bears the Hartlage family name.

As the business prospered, Ken and Mary began traveling to southwest Florida, where their days were filled with golf and time on the beach. In 1996, they purchased a home in Lexington Country Club. Over time, they spent more of each year in Fort Myers, building a full and active life and forming many close and lasting friendships. Ken fully embraced the Florida lifestyle, indulging his love of golf and bocce, where he was known as both a fierce and fun competitor. Deeply devoted to Mary, he often spoke of how much he cherished their life together in Florida.

Ken was a man of deep faith. A devout Catholic, he attended Mass weekly and found strength in prayer throughout his life. He felt God's presence deeply, and his parishes in both Louisville and Florida were sources of fellowship, friendship, and spiritual grounding. Known to his grandchildren as Papaw, Ken was always full of laughter and never missed a

chance to share a good joke. He loved spending time with his grandchildren, taking walks on the beach and challenging them to games of Joker and marbles. He was immensely proud of each of them, and it brought him great joy to watch them grow into adulthood.

Ken is survived by his adored wife, Mary Vowels Hartlage; his children Bree Hartlage (Tawny), Karen McLeod (Kent), Jan Steck, and Jeff Hartlage (Julie); his grandchildren Amy Fillers (Sabrina), Chris Hartlage (Julia), Maggie Hartlage (Pilar), Garrett Steck (Claire), Kaci McLeod, Haley Apker (Will), and Kailey McLeod; his great-grandchildren Jayden Fillers and Cooper Hartlage; his sister Emarita Leitner; and many nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents, Ernest and Emma Stuber Hartlage, and his siblings Rosemary O'Neil, Clarence Hartlage (Ella), Estelle Greenwell (Bill), Ernest Hartlage (Ida), and Julian Hartlage.

Services for Ken will be held at St. Columbkille Catholic Church on February 20, 2026, at 10:30 a.m., followed by a Celebration of Life at Lexington Country Club. Memorial donations may be made to Hope Hospice of Fort Myers or the Wounded Warrior Project

Previous Events

Memorial Mass

FEB **20**. 10:30 AM (ET)

St. Columbkille Catholic Church
12171 Iona Road
Fort Myers, FL

Tribute Wall

KD

“ Dear Hartlage Family we are sorry for your loss. I met Kenny on the golf course at Lexington in January of 2018 and we hit off on day 1. From that time on whenever I was in the same foursome as Kenny we would ride together in the same cart and while the golf may not have been PGA quality the laughs were second to none. In 2023 my wife and I relocated to Lakewood Ranch Florida near Bradenton to help out our son and daughter in law who were expecting twins. We have been back to Lexington several times since 2023 and we always made it a point to see Kenny. We will be back on Friday to pay our final respects to our favorite marine and friend and share fond memories with Mary and the family.
Rest in Peace Kenny
Luann and Keith Dunlap

Keith Dunlap - February 16 at 09:01 PM

RM

“ Dear Hartlage Family, We are very sorry for your loss. Ken was one of the good guys, very real and full of fun. We will always remember the altar boy stories and the Latin phrases we added to them. Those stories never get old and are with us always. They will certainly keep the Lord laughing.
“May the Lord be with you, old friend. And with your spirit.” Ralph / Rose Marie

Ralph & Rose Marie - February 13 at 11:41 PM

JB

“ WE SPENT MANY YEARS I THE SAME BUILDING(16461 MILLSTONE) PLAYING MARBLES,OR EUCHER AND LOTS OF GOOD FOOD! WE SHARED BAD AND GOOD WITH LOVE

JACQUE BROWN - February 12 at 02:02 PM

JB

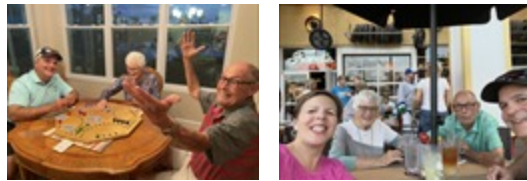
“ JACQUE BROWN lit a candle in memory of
Kenneth Hartlage



JACQUE BROWN - February 12 at 01:53 PM

DC

“ Kenny, we will always remember playing our marbles marathons with you and Mary, listening to country oldies and eating Mary's strawberry pie (which you made "gooder" by adding vanilla ice cream). We'll miss playing with you in the Ghosts and Goblins Tournament. You were the best neighbor in the world. We love you and we'll sure miss you. Donna and Mark



Donna and Mark Caccia - February 12 at 09:07 AM

AA

“ Ken and I frequently reminisced about our Marine Corp days. He was a real fun and great guy.
Alan Anderson

Alan Anderson - February 11 at 10:08 PM

DC

“ *Hartlage Family, we are so sorry for you loss. Remembering those life lessons growing up around as kids and teenagers. I say Kenny, JD and Jeff Coyle are just starting the back 9. Not wasting and time!*

David (Kevin) Coyle - February 11 at 05:35 PM

DE

“ *Kenny was always fun to work with. He believed in hard work and taking care of customers. He taught a wonderful work ethic and that continued on throughout many people. He will always be loved and missed.*

Denise Evans - February 11 at 08:52 AM

JA

“ *Jewell Wright Austin lit a candle in memory of Kenneth Hartlage*



Jewell Wright Austin - February 10 at 12:22 PM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Kenneth John Hartlage.*



February 09 at 05:12 PM