



Dr. Kenneth J. Ahler

August 4, 1940 - September 12, 2017

Kenneth J. Ahler, M. D., age 77, of Rensselaer passed away on Tuesday, September 12, 2017 at Franciscan Health Rensselaer where he was a resident of Alternacare. Ken was born in Medaryville, Indiana on August 4, 1940, the son of James Herman and Bernadine Margaret (Benner) Ahler. Ken had lived in Rensselaer for more than 47 years, having also lived in Indianapolis and South Bend, Indiana and Ellsworth Air Force Base in South Dakota.

He was raised in Pulaski County where he graduated as Valedictorian of the Medaryville High School Class of 1958. Ken attended St. Joseph College in Rensselaer where he graduated A. B. Magna Cum Laude (Biology) and was Valedictorian of his college class of 1962. He continued his education at Indiana University School of Medicine in Indianapolis where he received his M. D. in June 1966. He completed his internship from 1966-67 at St. Joseph's Hospital in South Bend, Indiana and his residency there from 1967-68.

Ken served in the United States Air Force Medical Corp. from 1968-1970. During that time he was Chief of Out-Patient Services at Ellsworth Air Force Base, South Dakota.

For more than 45 years Ken was a physician with, and a founding member of, the Clinic of Family Medicine in Rensselaer with active medical staff hospital privileges at Jasper County Hospital. He served as the Jasper County Coroner from 1973-1981.

On August 24, 1963 in Chesterton, Indiana Ken married the love of his life,

Margaret Ann O'Donnell. Together they had three children, Dr. John Patrick (Melissa) Ahler, Mary Margaret (Don) Spagnolo and the Honorable James Robert (Tara) Ahler. He is also survived by thirteen grandchildren, Jacob, Ben, Noah, Adam, Sam, Isaac, Abigail, Philip, Annie, Olivia, John, Quin, and Sydney, and one great-grandchild, Madison Margaret. Ken is preceded in by his parents and his beloved wife Margaret Ann.

His professional activities included Medical Director at Rensselaer Care Center, Rensselaer, Indiana; Pro-member of Quality Assurance Committees-State level (Peerview, Inc.); Chairman of State Sanction Committee (Peerview, Inc.); Senior Associate at the Clinic of Family Medicine, Rensselaer, Indiana; Preceptor for the Department of Family Medicine at Indiana University School of Medicine; a member of the Governor's Commission for Newborn Inborn Errors of Metabolism, 1978; and served as the assistant physician at the Boy Scout's of American National Jamboree at A. P. Hill, Virginia, 1985-2005.

Ken was a member of St. Augustine Catholic Church in Rensselaer, the American Medical Association, a Distinguished Member of the Indiana State Medical Association, the Jasper County Medical Society, serving as president from 1987-88, was a Fellow of the American Academy of Family Practice, and Diplomat of the American Board of Family Practice, where he was certified in 1972, re-certified in 1978 and again in 1984. His community involvements included memberships in Rensselaer Rotary, President in 1984-85; the Sagamore Council Boy Scouts of America, Executive Board and President 1984-1986; North Central Region Boy Scouts of America; St. Joseph College, Trustee; Jasper County Development Foundation, past Chairman; Catholic Relationships Area IV-B.S.A. North Central Region former Area Chairman; and the former State Bank of Rensselaer, Board of Directors; and was a 4th Degree Knights of Columbus. In 2004, Governor Kernan awarded Ken the high honor of Sagamore of the Wabash.

Ken enjoyed reading, gardening, community activities, Boy Scouts, cooking and, most importantly, vacationing with his family.

Friends are invited to visit with the family at Jackson Funeral Chapel of Rensselaer on Thursday, September 14, 2017 from 2:00 to 7:00 PM with Rosary services at 7:00 PM. Funeral Mass for Kenneth Ahler will be held at the St. Augustine Catholic Church in Rensselaer on Friday, September 15, 2017 at 11:00 AM with Father William Stang C.P.P.S. officiating. Interment with Military Honors will follow at Mt. Calvary Cemetery in Rensselaer. Memorials may be made to the St. Augustine Catholic School.

Cemetery Details

Mt. Calvary Cemetery - Rensselaer

Mt. Calvary Cemetery
Rensselaer, IN 47978

Previous Events

Visitation

SEP 14. 2:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Jackson Funeral Chapel of Rensselaer
250 N. McKinley Avenue
P.O. Box 70
Rensselaer, IN 47978
(219) 866-5123
info@jacksonfuneral.com
<https://www.jacksonfuneral.com>

Rosary

SEP 14. 7:00 PM (CT)

Jackson Funeral Chapel of Rensselaer
250 N. McKinley Avenue
P.O. Box 70
Rensselaer, IN 47978
(219) 866-5123
info@jacksonfuneral.com
<https://www.jacksonfuneral.com>

Funeral Mass

SEP **15**. 11:00 AM (CT)

St. Augustine Catholic Church
318 North McKinley Avenue
Rensselaer, IN 47978
(219) 866-5351
<https://stmichaelpastorate.org/>

Tribute Wall



“ *Jackson Funeral Chapels created a Tribute Video in memory of Dr. Kenneth J. Ahler*



Jackson Funeral Chapels - September 14, 2017 at 12:51 PM

ND

“ *I'm so sorry to hear about Ken's passing. I have fond memories of him at the Benner Reunions in Earl Park, IN. My deepest sympathy to the family. Nancy Salla Davis*

Nancy Salla Davis - September 18, 2017 at 11:07 AM



“ *Linda Hughes lit a candle in memory of Dr. Kenneth J. Ahler*



Linda Hughes - September 17, 2017 at 11:41 PM

RS

“ Our condolences to the family of Dr. Kenneth Ahler. He was a wonderful doctor and a friend. And will be missed.

Ron and Pat Sheffler



Ron and Pat Sheffler - September 16, 2017 at 02:54 PM

WJ

“ So sorry I was unable to attend Ken's Services. He truly was a Sagamore of the Wabash...a Great Family Dr., the Puma Football Team Dr. Who helped send out DJ to a more comfortable location. Love, Hugs and a few tears in remembrance of a life well lived. Bill & all the J's

William G. Jennings - September 15, 2017 at 01:03 PM

MQ

“ Dr Ahler was such a huge support of the boy scouts. Mark has so many memories from the years he was scout master and Doc was so generous in making sure that they got all of the equipment etc they needed. Such a generous heart.

Mark and Cheryl Query - September 15, 2017 at 12:08 PM

TR

“ There are not enough words to describe Dr. Ahler's importance to me and my family. A good and honorable man, he provided the best care needed by his patients. Just four days prior to my mother's passing in May, 2015, while struggling, she looked at me and said, "Dr. Ahler would have taken care of this - of me. If only Dr. Ahler was here." Dr. Ahler was the best, as was his wife and their family. My deepest condolences to the family. The memories of your father and mother will always be with me. Please take care as you lay this wonderful man to rest.

Teresa Snyder Rishel - September 15, 2017 at 12:25 AM



“ Dr. Ahaler was a very good dr. When i went in to the er one time I could hardly walk my Hip and Back was so bad he asked me how was you working not 1job but 2jobs i don't know but i told him, I have to do what i have to do , and I did not recive a Bill from the hospital or him and he got me back to work not that night but soon after ,,,, And He Saved My Sisters Son I didnt think he was going to we was waiting for the helicopter to come and get him and i heard him yelling what do you mean it at Jasper Ind. He was Hot Really Hot and he get a put in a Ambulance to go to Indy but they just about lossed him and had to take a turn in to Home Hospital to work on him before he could be moved on and Dr. Knew where ,he was at all the way there..... God Bless Him and To all of His Family to Allow Him to be Who He Was THANK YOU and PLEASE Know Our Prays r with You All

Mary Kennedy - September 14, 2017 at 11:32 PM

TF

“ A great physician.

Terri and Dave Forehand - September 14, 2017 at 07:44 PM

JS

“ I really enjoyed 5 o'clock nature hikes at scout camps.

Jim Steiner - September 14, 2017 at 06:48 PM



“ Summer's Light Bouquet was purchased for the family of Dr. Kenneth J. Ahler.



September 14, 2017 at 03:56 PM

ST

“ Dr. Alher was the doctor who removed my appendix about 44 years ago. I had the viral flu at the same time. I had 105 degree temperature and he took care of me along with nurses and other medical staff. This was at Christmas time. He came in the middle of the night to perform the surgery. He was so kind and gave me a rose in a vase when I was discharged. I know he cared about people. Hugs and prayers to his family.

Stephanie - September 14, 2017 at 12:11 PM



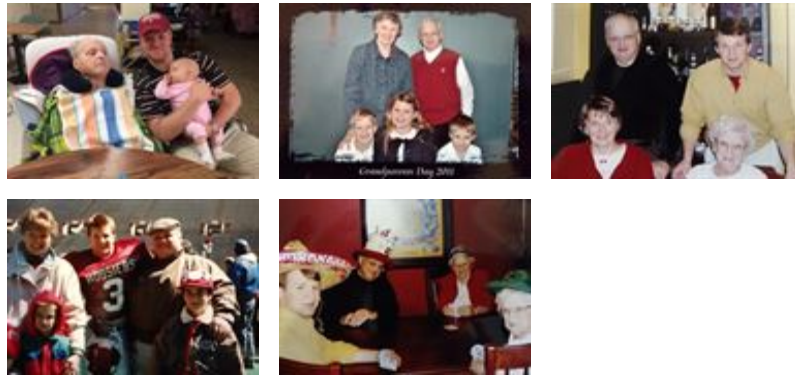
“ Crystal Cross Bouquet was purchased for the family of Dr. Kenneth J. Ahler.



September 14, 2017 at 11:35 AM



“ 11 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



Jackson Funeral Chapels - September 14, 2017 at 11:34 AM

PL

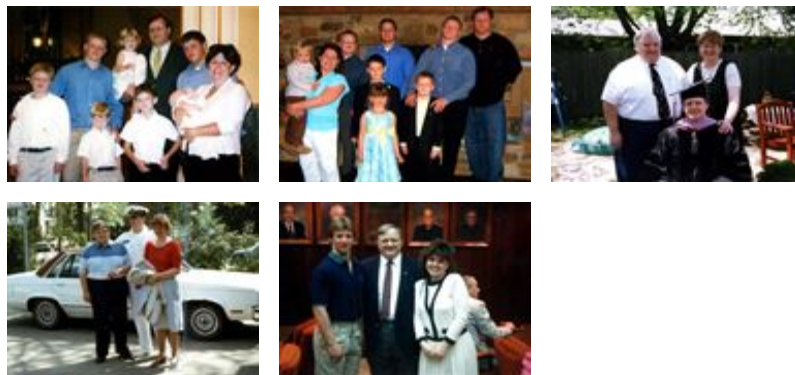
“ *Phyllis Lanoue lit a candle in memory of Dr. Kenneth J. Ahler*



Phyllis Lanoue - September 14, 2017 at 09:27 AM



“ 17 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



Jackson Funeral Chapels - September 14, 2017 at 09:21 AM



“ *Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Dr. Kenneth J. Ahler.*



September 13, 2017 at 10:32 PM



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Dr. Kenneth J. Ahler.*



September 13, 2017 at 07:51 PM



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Dr. Kenneth J. Ahler.*



September 13, 2017 at 03:48 PM



“ 18 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



Jackson Funeral Chapels - September 13, 2017 at 03:24 PM



“ *Wonderful man, loved his community and patients*



Stacey Powell - September 13, 2017 at 03:01 PM



“ *Sapphire Skies Bouquet was purchased for the family of Dr. Kenneth J. Ahler.*



September 13, 2017 at 12:29 PM

LS

“ *What a pleasure it was to have Ken Ahler as a part of the Medaryville High School Class of 1958. Memories of our four years as a part of the MHS student body brings back thoughts about the best of times. The way Ken approached both his life and his education inspired those of us who knew him to aspire to live our lives in ways that would be of benefit to those with whom we came in contact throughout our lives. Without question, Ken’s was a life well-lived!*

*Lonnie Steele
President of the Class of ‘58*

Lonnie Steele - September 13, 2017 at 11:44 AM

SR

“ *With sincere sympathy to the Family of Dr. Ahler.... Dr. brought so much to our community that has never been talked about...He was a giver not a taker... We thank you Dr. What a great doctor, husband, father, grandfather and great grandfather... You did well, Sir, rest in Peace...*

Steve and Ginny Reames - September 13, 2017 at 11:26 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Dr. Kenneth J. Ahler.*



September 13, 2017 at 10:44 AM

EP

“ Elizabeth Prohosky lit a candle in memory of Dr. Kenneth J. Ahler



Elizabeth Prohosky - September 13, 2017 at 10:33 AM

MR

“ Margo Roberts lit a candle in memory of Dr. Kenneth J. Ahler



margo roberts - September 13, 2017 at 10:20 AM

AS

“ Aileen Steele lit a candle in memory of Dr. Kenneth J. Ahler



Aileen Steele - September 13, 2017 at 10:13 AM

DW

“ Our sincere sympathy to all of you. May the hand of God, precious memories and friends see you through this difficult time.



Don & Gloria Waymouth - September 13, 2017 at 09:32 AM

TM

“ *Tyann McIntyre lit a candle in memory of Dr. Kenneth J. Ahler*



Tyann McIntyre - September 13, 2017 at 09:29 AM

BG

“ *Brenda Greene lit a candle in memory of Dr. Kenneth J. Ahler*



Brenda Greene - September 13, 2017 at 09:14 AM

JB

“ *Judy Burvan lit a candle in memory of Dr. Kenneth J. Ahler*



Judy Burvan - September 13, 2017 at 08:27 AM

MF

“ Doc passed away on the same day as our precious Tyler just 4 years ago. Doc was so passionate for his beliefs, his church, his family, and his friends. I remember how he wept at hearing of the loss of our son, who was awarded Eagle Scout just 2 years before his passing. His love for Margaret was something to behold. I felt so blessed to have witnessed it first hand. I know, he is again holding her hand up in heaven and is now at rest. Their love and faith they shared here on earth tells me that. They raised 3 beautiful children and were blessed with so many grandchildren and great-grands. Doc and Margaret leave behind such a legacy of a loving and caring family. God has gained yet another grand soul. Rest in peace Doc. To the whole Ahler family, please know you have our most heartfelt sympathy...

*Mike & Tracie Faker
Remington, IN*

Mike & Tracie Faker - September 13, 2017 at 07:57 AM

MT

“ *Melissa Taylor lit a candle in memory of Dr. Kenneth J. Ahler*



Melissa Taylor - September 13, 2017 at 07:31 AM

MB

“ *Our sincere sympathy to all of the Ahler Family.
Mike and Janet Brown*



Michael Brown - September 13, 2017 at 06:50 AM

AP

“ Great man, great doctor, great friend. My sincere condolences to all his family.

Annette Pardue - September 13, 2017 at 05:32 AM

DO

“ So sorry to hear of this loss. Dr. Ahler was my doctor when I gave birth to my first son back in 1986. He was a good doctor. My condolences to the family.

Donna - September 13, 2017 at 12:31 AM



“ Sweet Tenderness was purchased for the family of Dr. Kenneth J. Ahler.



September 12, 2017 at 11:47 PM

TM

“ My thoughts and prayers are with you all !!!!
God bless !!!! Rest in peace Dr Ahler you will
be missed !!!!!



Tammy (Lewis) McNelly - September 12, 2017 at 11:40 PM



“ *Marilyn Lowry lit a candle in memory of Dr. Kenneth J. Ahler*



Marilyn Lowry - September 12, 2017 at 10:57 PM

SG

“ *I am so sorry for your loss. Dr. Ahler brought my two sons into this world and for that I will be forever grateful. Peace be with your family at this time.*

Susan Gauger - September 12, 2017 at 10:56 PM

MM

“ *I was raised with Ken being my brother. His mom and dad raised me when my mother had cancer. I had 2 dads and one mom on earth and one in heaven. They were all so special to me. Eternal rest grant unto you Ken. Margie*

Margie Vlach Miller - September 12, 2017 at 10:56 PM

DE

“ *Both your mom and dad shared stories of their life together and their love for one another, and how proud they were of you, their children. I'm blessed to have worked with your dad and to care for your parents as they became ill. I have been blessed to know them. Your dad was committed to whatever he did and will be missed.*

Deb Ellis - September 12, 2017 at 10:55 PM

PB

“ *The Behrend family Bob and Phyllis lived across the street from the Ahlers in the mis 70's. He stitched my hand up when it was cut by glass when I was 8 mo. Pregnant. He was so kind. Lost my husband this past February. My prayers to the family!*

phyllis Behrend - September 12, 2017 at 10:52 PM

RK

“ *Ruby Kellogg lit a candle in memory of Dr. Kenneth J. Ahler*



Ruby Kellogg - September 12, 2017 at 10:23 PM

RK

One superior Dr.! He delivered my oldest son, Brad, and my daughter, Michelle!! He had the most wonderful bedside manner EVER!! Always kind and caring! My deepest condolences to his family! God got one amazing man!! Rip Dr. AHLER

Ruby Kellogg - September 12, 2017 at 10:26 PM

MB

“ *It is hard to believe that almost 46 years ago he delivered my first daughter on Halloween. When I delivered I asked if she was a boy and he replied" no, you have a beautiful princess" I loved him as a doctor. He was just the nicest, greatest doctor ever!*

Mary Brink - September 12, 2017 at 10:21 PM

PM

“ He was my friend and my Doctor. He save my life and I owed him and Margret more than I can ever repay. I so miss our chats and sharing of a good meal and a good glass of wine..He so enjoyed life.

phil mcgraw - September 12, 2017 at 10:03 PM

DS

“ Thoughts and prayers for the Ahler family. ❤️



Donna Sullivan - September 12, 2017 at 09:44 PM

BG

“ Bill And Deb Grigson lit a candle in memory of Dr. Kenneth J. Ahler



Bill and Deb Grigson - September 12, 2017 at 09:20 PM

BG

Dr Ahler was a great man, great Dr. I worked with him for years at Rensselaer Care Center, he loved his residents and they loved him. He did great things for our community. He will be missed. Now he is with God and his wife. RIP

Bill and Deb Grigson - September 12, 2017 at 09:24 PM

SG

“ Suzie Green-Callahan lit a candle in memory of Dr. Kenneth J. Ahler



Suzie Green-Callahan - September 12, 2017 at 09:15 PM

MW

“ Dr ahler delivers my son my son has been deceased for seven years rest in peace Dr ahler

Mary willoughby - September 12, 2017 at 09:10 PM

KS

“ Prayers for your family and very sorry for your loss!

Kevin & Mary Scheurich - September 12, 2017 at 09:03 PM

KJ

“ Praying for family and friends. I was so blessed to be one of his nurses for many years. He taught me so much. It was a privilege to work beside him. He was compassionate, fun and truly loved all. He will be missed.



Karon Joseph - September 12, 2017 at 08:31 PM

MA

“ Our prayers and sympathy is sent to the Ahler family. Dr. Ahler was a great boss, friend and physician to me and my family, He will not be forgotten.



Mary Alberts - September 12, 2017 at 08:20 PM

CQ

“ What an amazing man with such a love for humanity. Our family knows "Doc" through scouting. He will be missed by many. Praying for comfort and peace for all who knew and loved him.

Craig Quigg - September 12, 2017 at 07:52 PM

PH

“ Dr. Alher did so much for my father..Robert Jensen Sr. . that increased his time with us. He was an amazing doctor that thought of his patient's and their families. The lord has received a very special man. And my thoughts are with his family in this time of greif.

Patti Holland - September 12, 2017 at 07:01 PM