



## Kenneth Mandel Anderson

August 30, 1937 - May 17, 2021

Ken Anderson wouldn't be reading this obituary. "People die," he'd say, leaning forward in his chair, swirling the Merlot in his glass, "who wants to waste their day reading about that?" Then he'd look off with a smile and tell that joke about a priest and a rabbi arguing in front of St. Peter's Gates - the joke, like all of the ones he'd tell, that isn't a respectable fit for an obituary.

Kenneth Mandel Anderson first grabbed a hold of life on August 30th, 1937, in Sparta, Wisconsin, and gave the world all it could handle from that day on. He would regale his four children with stories of haunted houses, creeks responsible for his early-onset bald spot, slingshots, and, yes, walking to school in the snow. Over years, with the help of his four doting sisters - Shirley, Jan, Phyllis and Diane - his children were able to verify that these stories were, in fact, partially and mostly and somewhat true.

His stories continued, because what is life if not a good story waiting to be told over wine? There was his stint with the US Navy after high school, something to do with the CIA, and his move to the hills of San Francisco. He liked those days a lot - it is when he met his first wife, Angela Joan Selinger, a curious, very, very Catholic farm girl from North Dakota. Together, they explored the world and fell deeply in love.

Ken found the perfect job for a charismatic, life-loving, master-of-jokes: a traveling salesman. Starting with Wurlitzer, where he drove across Western America selling jukeboxes over stiff drinks and cheap cigars, he quickly moved into the exploding video game and pinball industry. He became a legend in the coin-op business, and was beloved by anyone and everyone who found him tucked behind a booth at the AAMA convention, selling himself first, and his latest game second. He was a hard worker - perhaps the hardest - and could still be found at a coin-op convention as recently as 2020, at age 82.

Ken liked to move. To travel. To go. He did not have patience for stagnation or stasis. There was no problem that could not be solved by a long drive and a longer lunch (best if the restaurant had ocean views and fried calamari). His job allowed him to travel the world: Brazil, Germany, England, Japan. It also allowed him to move across the country, as he climbed the professional ladder. Four kids (Debbie, Dane, Lisa and Mark) weren't enough to slow him down: There were moves to Foster City, Los Angeles, Denver, Chicago, San Diego, back to Foster City.

After the too-early death of his first wife, Angie, at the age of 56, Ken reconnected with an old high-school friend, Juno Kellar, and was happily married for a second time. They settled in Camarillo, California, where they watched the Lakers, visited piano bars, grilled delicious steaks, gave the perfect gifts to their multiple grandkids, and continued to squeeze the most out of every moment.

He loved as much as a person should be allowed to, and his generosity was legendary. His advice, informed by a lifetime of experience, was usually perfect. Ken's energy and vibrance were blinding, and, even in his last months at a nursing center, we could find his room just by following the sound of laughter.

For 83 years, he gave life everything he could. Sadly, on May 17th, 2021, he could give no more. With his loving daughter Debbie holding his hand, he passed into heaven, so he could finally tell St. Peter his joke firsthand.

Back here on earth, there's an AAMA booth that will never be the same, and a whole lot of heavy hearts.

He leaves behind too many loving people to count. And what's the point. This obituary is getting long, your glass is getting empty, and, Ken would impatiently remind us, there's no point in digging where there ain't no taters.

To pay last respects in person, we are having a memorial service on Saturday, May 19th at 11:30 with a viewing at 10am. Reception to follow.

# Previous Events

## VIEWING

MAY **22**. 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM (PT)

Aztlan Mortuary  
7856 La Mesa Blvd  
La Mesa, CA 91942  
(619) 337-8100  
info@aztlanmortuary.com  
<https://aztlanmortuary.com/>

## Service

MAY **22**. 11:30 AM (PT)

Aztlan Mortuary  
7856 La Mesa Blvd  
La Mesa, CA 91942  
(619) 337-8100  
info@aztlanmortuary.com  
<https://aztlanmortuary.com/>

# Tribute Wall



“ *Kenneth Mandel Anderson*

January 28, 2023 at 12:52 PM



“ *He was one of the most amazing people I've encountered in my life. There was no one like him. I'm a better person for knowing him. It was always a highlight of mine to see him at the shows. Rest in peace my friend.*

**Randy Chilton** - July 20, 2021 at 08:52 AM



“ *Dear Juno,*

*I was saddened to just learn of Ken's passing and send my condolences to you and your family. My memories of the fun and laughter from Ken at the Mariano's that Rita and I enjoyed will always be with me. Find comfort in knowing that many people will keep his memory in our hearts.*

*Blessing sent,  
Gary Greben*

**Gary Greben** - May 23, 2021 at 05:50 PM



“ *Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Kenneth Mandel Anderson.*



May 21, 2021 at 05:35 PM

BS

“ *What can I say about Ken. He was a special person, so caring and willing to talk to and help anyone. I met him through his wife, Juno, whom my family has known for 45 years or more. We all shared a lot of good times, bad times and those between. He was a mentor to my son for which I will be forever grateful. God Speed, Ken, you will be sorely missed by all who knew you. Barb and Matt Speer*

Barbara Speer - May 21, 2021 at 02:36 PM

PS

“ *Too many memories to count. But then again, not enough. Not enough drinks. Not enough cigars. Not enough jokes. Only 45 short years. Not enough time.*

Paul Scribner - May 20, 2021 at 07:54 PM



“ *Serene Reflections Bouquet was purchased for the family of Kenneth Mandel Anderson.*



May 20, 2021 at 07:44 PM



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Kenneth Mandel Anderson.*



May 20, 2021 at 04:01 PM



“ *A New Sunrise Spray was purchased for the family of Kenneth Mandel Anderson.*



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May 20, 2021 at 02:38 PM