

# William Kendrick "Ken" Raiford, Jr.

Provided by John M. Ireland & Son Funeral Home and Chapel

October 26, 1968 ~ September 4, 2020 (age 51)



William Kendrick Raiford, Jr.

## Services

### VISITATION

Tuesday  
September 8, 2020  
5:00 PM to 8:30 PM  
John M. Ireland

### VISITATION

Wednesday  
September 9, 2020  
9:00 PM to 8:30 PM  
John M. Ireland

### FUNERAL SERVICE

Thursday  
September 10, 2020  
10:00 AM  
John M. Ireland

William Kendrick "Ken" Raiford, of Oklahoma City, passed away September 4, 2020, at the age of 51. He was born October 26, 1968 in Atlanta, Georgia to Linda Maria (Shorr) and William Kendrick Raiford Sr. His mother passed away early in life, leaving Ken and his sister, Kathy, to be raised by their father for 10 years. He was baptized Catholic and attended Catholic school until 6th grade. Ken graduated from Norman High School and attended the University of Oklahoma for several years and pursued a degree in Computer Science. Ken loved football, especially OU football, and he loved watching the Sooners with his father. In junior football leagues, he was a star quarter-back for several years on teams his father coached. Although he had no children, he loved everyone just the same, including his dogs. Ken loved to travel, especially to the beach in Destin, Florida and South Padre Island.

Ken was a survivor and lived through the May 3rd tornado in Moore, OK. He lost everything in that twister, except his dogs, but made it through. Before he was diagnosed with Lukemia in 2019, he had been very active and full of life. Everyone who knew him treated him as if they were best friends. Ken was an Uber driver as a side gig, and almost a "driver counselor." He was extremely talented at shooting pool, but was never boastful about his skills.

During his illness, his least favorite thing was his medical treatment that involved "sticking, poking, and prodding," but he still endured these with dignity. He told his dad he didn't want to pass away in the hospital, and he received his wish and passed away in his home with his dogs at his bedside. Afterwards, he was transported to OU Medical Center where he was pronounced deceased. Ken will be missed by all who knew him.

He is survived by his father, Bill Raiford; mom, Denise Raiford; 2 dogs, Aspen and Zoey; 2 sisters, Maria Kathrine "Kathy" Raiford and Melissa "Missy" Kathleen Raiford Schmidt; grandparents, Ralph and Lavonna Sade; and many other loving family members and friends. Ken was preceded in death by his mother, Linda.

Visitation will be held from 5pm-8:30pm, Tuesday, September 8th and from 9am-8:30pm, Wednesday, September 9th, at the John M. Ireland Funeral Home & Chapel, 120 South Broadway. Funeral Services will be held at 10:00 AM, Thursday, September 10, 2020, at the John M. Ireland Funeral Home & Chapel, 120 South Broadway, in Moore, Oklahoma. Services are under the direction of the John M. Ireland Funeral Home & Chapel.

## Guest Book

Message from **Leslie Lewis**

September 10, 2020 9:14 AM

*My name is Leslie Lewis. I knew Ken from Lake Murray marina. He was always a happy joyful person that everyone loved. He was lovingly known as "Beef Jerky". I don't remember why. We had many great times together. He will be sadly missed.*

*I won't be attending the services with COVID and all but wanted to share my condolences with you and your father. Sending virtual hugs. Please find comfort in knowing he touched many lives!*

Message from **Dawnita**

September 7, 2020 6:00 AM

*I will miss seeing Ken out walking his dogs, Aspen and Zoey!  
God Bless the Raiford family*

Message from **Kimberly Jones Barr**

September 9, 2020 12:16 PM

*Rest In Peace, our dear Sooner friend! We will miss your beautiful blue eyes, cheery disposition, infectious smile, chats pool 🏠 🏠 side, your pool winning ways (running the table mainly against Kaitlyn who kept trying to beat you but doubt she ever succeeded). We will also miss your grilled bacon wrapped jalapeños 😊 🤔*

*You fought like a true Sooner until the end (you are your father's son) although it is really not the end. You are now in the hands and the land of our "Main Man" upstairs....our Heavenly Father, creator of all things good and also a Sooner! Your Mother, in heaven, is also comforted to have you with her, after all these years, where there is everlasting and eternal peace & love 🙏❤️🙏❤️🙏❤️🙏❤️🙏❤️🙏❤️🙏❤️🙏❤️.....*

*We will toast 🍷 you every OU tailgate Etc. Sooner Brother!*

*See ya Sooner!*

*Boomer love ❤️ forever,*

*Kimberly Jones Barr*