



Kenneth Eugene "Kenny" Rinker

May 1, 1956 - August 18, 2020

The staff at Heishman Funeral Home Inc. sends condolences to the family of Kenneth Eugene "Kenny" Rinker.

Kenneth Eugene "Kenny" Rinker, 64, died Tuesday, Aug. 18, 2020, at University of Virginia Medical Center after an 8-month heroic battle fighting complications stemming from a liver transplant last year.

Kenny was born May 1, 1956, in Augusta, WV, to Lloyd and Violet Rinker of Augusta, WV, both of whom survive him.

With their enthusiastic encouragement, Kenny laid the foundation for his future career in athletics by playing sports as a boy. He was a letterman at Hampshire High School in Romney, WV, in both football and baseball. He received a football scholarship to attend James Madison University, graduating in 1978, with a bachelor's degree in math and history.

His first teaching and coaching position right after college was at Central High School in Woodstock. Two years later, he would go to Stonewall Jackson High School where he took on the position of head varsity football coach and varsity girls softball head coach. He led the softball team to a State Championship in 1983. This was a special team to him.

From 1987 to 1989, he coached and taught at Harrisonburg High School, before returning to Central for the remainder of his career, retiring in 2018 after 40 years in education and athletics. He was head coach for varsity football, varsity girls softball and JV girls basketball at CHS during his tenure.

He especially loved his position as athletic director (2010-2018) and took pride in keeping the athletic fields in excellent condition.

Kenny received the Central High School Lifetime Achievement Award when he retired in 2018. He also was awarded the Virginia High School League Regional Administrator Merit Award in 2018 and was a four-time recipient of the Claudia Dodson Sportsmanship, Ethics and Integrity Award.

Kenny also served as a basketball referee (when his knees were younger) and as a baseball/softball umpire with the Harrisonburg Umpire Association where he made many lifelong friends.

In 2001, he took the editor of the local newspaper out on a date and seven months later he married Cindy Earehart Rinker. They were the perfect match of opposites (think math and English majors). Together, they raised eight rescue/shelter dogs: Brownie, Tip, Major, Buddy, Peanut, Roxi, Mia and PeeWee. He loved his dogs and missed them terribly when he was in the hospital.

The pride of his life was his lovely daughter, Olivia Donald, and her family. Grandkids Grace and Sam loved their Granddaddy and frequently used him as their playground. Just the mention of their names would bring a smile and light his eyes. He appreciated his son-in-law Webb as a good husband and father. It gave Kenny peace to know his daughter was well-cared for.

Kenny was a member of Woodstock United Methodist Church where he served on several committees and was a lay reader.

In addition to his parents, he is survived by his wife, Cindy of Maurertown; his daughter, Olivia (Webb) of Draper; grandchildren Grace Tiller Donald and Samuel Everett Donald, also of Draper; brother-in-law, Scott Earehart (Carrie) of Clemmons, NC and niece Gracilyn Earehart of Wilmington, NC. He also is survived by three close cousins he grew up with, Jimmy Rinker and Bob and Mike Hogbin, all of Romney, WV. And a special friend and hunting partner, Anthony Riffey of Edinburg.

A celebration of life will be held 11 a.m. Saturday, Aug. 22, on the football field at Central High School. The Rev. Rob Hoskins will officiate. This location will

accommodate social distancing guidelines, but please wear a mask and resist the urge to hug. Please bring a lawn chair. In lieu of flowers, the family would like you to consider making a donation to the Kenny Rinker Good Sportsmanship Scholarship which will be started in his name at Central High School. Send your donation to Central High School Athletic Boosters Club c/o Melissa Rice 1147 Susan Ave, Woodstock, VA 22664 with the scholarship name on the memo line.

The family would like to extend their thanks to the amazing doctors, surgeons, nurses, techs and staff of Fourth Floor Central Transplant at UVA, and those of the ICU who were so kind in his last hours. He received a lot of love and would want us to properly thank them.

Online condolences can be left at www.valleyfs.com

Arrangements by Heishman Funeral Home Inc., Valley Funeral Service Branch, Edinburg.

Tribute Wall



“ *Kenneth Eugene "Kenny" Rinker*

January 30, 2023 at 03:03 AM



“ *Kenneth Eugene "Kenny" Rinker*

January 30, 2023 at 12:44 AM



“ *Condolences to Ken's family from an old friend from Turner Ashby HighSchool. Kenny was a great person who put his heart and soul into the betterment of youth up and down the Shenandoah Valley. I will always remember him fondly. Billy Kyger*

Billy Kyger - August 23, 2020 at 02:04 PM



“ *Kenny was a great teacher, coach, Athletic Director, mentor and a good friend. Kenny loved his mother and father and enjoyed the drive back home to Hampshire County, West Virginia and his childhood memories. He was a great husband to Cindy, a great father to Olivia and he deeply lived Olivia's family especially the grandchildren very much!
He loved food, sports, hunting and his friends and neighbors!
Just want to send my deepest sympathies to ALL OF THE FAMILY!
He will be missed but never forgotten! Rest In Peace my friend,
Roger Wilkins*

Roger Wilkins - August 22, 2020 at 09:12 AM

AK

“ Dear Cindy and Olivia,
May your broken hearts heal through the loved memories You
shared and the love and support of our caring community. Kenny
will be so missed by all.

Abbe Kennedy - August 21, 2020 at 09:49 PM

SR

“ I first met Kenny in the late 70's at Central High where we both
taught. Our friendship developed and lasted for 40 plus years. We
both left Central to pursue other coaching and teaching positions.
We rekindled our friendship in 2004 when I returned to Woodstock
with the Riverbandits . Kenny was always there to help and give
advice. He was taken way to early and will he missed by everyone
who knew him.
Stu Richardson

stu richardson - August 21, 2020 at 09:24 PM

RH

“ Olivia and Family,
I am so sorry to hear about your Father. Sounds like a life well lived!
Sending prayers of peace and comfort for you and your family.

Ruth Hall - August 21, 2020 at 03:57 PM

KR

“ Wonderful man with wonderful parents and family. He will be sadly
missed but resting easy watching over loved ones.

Kayla Rinker - August 21, 2020 at 01:29 PM

GS

I knew Kenny for over 25 years. I officiated his games and officiated with him in Softball. I remember his first Regional Championship with Tink and I. He always took care of our Officials after each game. It was always appreciated. He will be missed. God bless him and keep him.

Gene Siciliano - August 21, 2020 at 02:03 PM



“ *I am saddened with the loss of Kenny. He was a great educator in the class room and on the athletic field. He was loved by use old math teachers and coaches at HHS and the memories of good times always brings a smile to my face. He was a beacon of light, especially on the day we stopped coming home from a scouting trip to NOVA to eat. The hot wings he and Art Ausberry ate lit up his head like a light On a fire truck on the way to a fire. What great times we had and what an asset he was during the years that I had to work with him. To Cindy and Olivia, I send my prayers that the memories of good times give comfort to you. May God Bless.*

Bill Turner - August 21, 2020 at 09:31 AM



“ *Mr. Rinker was quite a character as I recall. I'm very sorry for the loss to his family but also his many friends in the community. God bless.*

Judy Ryman Bauserman - August 20, 2020 at 11:15 PM

SG

“ *Sherry Govin lit a candle in memory of Kenneth Eugene "Kenny" Rinker*



Sherry Govin - August 20, 2020 at 08:53 PM

AA

“ I am actually stunned over the passing of a colleague and friend. I coached with Kenny in Harrisonburg. He was a ray of sunshine and always had a story to tell.
He will be truly missed.
Prayers to his family and many friends!!! He will always be with us.
Rest Well My Friend 😞

Arthur Ausberry - August 20, 2020 at 04:08 PM

JC

“ We were saddened to hear of Kennys passing. He was a dedicated educator who touched the lives of so many young people in such a positive way. He will be greatly missed. Our sympathy and prayers go out to Cindy and her family. Jerry and Pat Canody

Jerry and Pat Canody - August 20, 2020 at 03:42 PM

TS

“ The only thing bigger than Kenny's personality was his heart. He was a valued member of the Harrisonburg Blue Streaks staff "We Believe" and a friend. Our love is with Cindy and Olivia and family. - Coach Tim and Kathy Sarver

Tim & Kathy Sarver - August 20, 2020 at 02:55 PM

KJ

“ Kfoury Johnkins lit a candle in memory of Kenneth Eugene "Kenny" Rinker



Kfoury Johnkins - August 20, 2020 at 01:21 PM

LB

“ Please accept our sympathies on the passing of Kenny. We taught with him at HHS. Many fond memories especially the Friday lunches that the math department shared. He especially liked the Fridays that we had chili. We have lost a good friend

Linda Burner and the retired math department teachers of HHS

Linda Burner - August 20, 2020 at 12:11 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Kenneth Eugene "Kenny" Rinker.



August 20, 2020 at 07:11 AM

LC

“ Rest in Peace sir.

larry coates - August 20, 2020 at 03:54 AM

CR

He was a good man

Carl rigglemab - August 20, 2020 at 11:40 AM

CF

“ Mr. Rinker will be sorely missed. I had the pleasure of watching him coach my sister and the SJHS softball team to the state title and even more pleasure as a student in his Trig class. Always took a minute to talk when I saw him over the years. Just a great person in this community and he'll be missed....

Charlie Fultz - August 19, 2020 at 10:29 PM

CB

“ So sorry for your loss. Prayers for all his family. I'm a fellow class mate from the class of 1974. Played little league baseball with my brother. Kenny was a super nice person.

Cinda Lupton Bowman - August 19, 2020 at 10:07 PM

DR

“ Sending our special thoughts and prayers to all the family!
Alex & Dana Rygas and family.



Dana Bower Rygas - August 19, 2020 at 09:28 PM

SC

“ So sorry to hear of Kenny's passing. He was a neighbor and friend throughout our childhood. Kenny was a good athlete at HHS, class of 1974. He will be greatly missed. Love and prayers to the family.
Larry and Sheila Combs

sheila combs - August 19, 2020 at 09:05 PM

BD

“ I enjoyed going to high school with Kenny and send my best to his family. He was such a good hearted guy! Prayers for you all!



Beth Giffin Delawder - August 19, 2020 at 09:05 PM

PS

“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Paula Smith - August 19, 2020 at 08:43 PM



“ Dear Sweet Olivia.

My deepest sympathy to you and your family. Sending lots of hugs your way. Your Dad sounds like a great man!!

Christine and Staff at Skin Deep Medical

Christine Warden - August 19, 2020 at 05:40 PM

DD

“ Debbie DeCarlo lit a candle in memory of
Kenneth Eugene "Kenny" Rinker



Debbie DeCarlo - August 19, 2020 at 04:22 PM