



Kenneth Rabinowitz Warren

July 27, 1943 - August 21, 2024

Kenneth Rabinowitz Warren passed away on August 21, 2024. He was preceded in death by his parents Irving and Lillian Rabinowitz. He is survived by his wife of nearly 58 years Carol of Cave Spring, Virginia; his son David Warren and wife Dena and their children Grace and Eve of Kalispell, Montana; and his daughter Susan Warren and husband Ben Dickerson and their children Cooper and William of Willis, Virginia. Ken is also survived by his sister Karen Bogart of Ellicott City, Maryland, as well as numerous brothers- and sisters-in-law, cousins, nieces, and nephews.

Ken was born Kenneth Warren Rabinowitz on July 27, 1943, in the Bronx, New York. As a young man, he worked as a professional saxophone player while pursuing a chemistry degree at City College of New York. After obtaining his undergraduate degree, he moved to Michigan to pursue a Ph.D. in biochemistry at Michigan State University. While in Michigan completing his doctorate, he met and courted his wife, Carol Williams. They were married on November 22, 1966. Ken completed his Ph. D. in 1970.

After a brief time performing post-doctoral work in Los Angeles, California, and Ann Arbor, Michigan, Ken accepted a position with the federal government working at Walter Reed Army Medical Center, which took him and his family to Germantown, Maryland. After a couple years in this job, he ended up working for the young National Institute of Alcoholism and Alcohol Abuse

(NIAAA), transitioning from being a lab scientist to a scientific administrator, a change that suited him well. Ken worked at NIAAA for 39 years, was promoted to the Senior Executive Service at age 43, spent 22 years directing NIAAA's Office of Scientific Affairs, and spent his last 7 years as the acting institute director. Even after retirement, he continued to consult for NIAAA and maintained an active presence within the professional and scientific community in which he had spent his career.

In his long and successful career, Ken's primary legacy was in the field of fetal alcohol spectrum disorders (FASD), formerly called fetal alcohol syndrome (FAS). Shortly after joining NIAAA, he organized the first national research workshop on FAS. Ken was the lead author on the first government health advisory on FAS in 1977, the first Surgeon General's advisory on alcohol and pregnancy in 1981, and the second advisory in 2005. FASD and funding FASD research continued to be a priority for him throughout his career. Ken received numerous awards for his work and was inducted into the FASD United Hall of Fame. He loved his work to the last, participating in a conference virtually just a month before his death because he was not healthy enough to attend in person.

Ken had the rare gift of being someone who was extremely intelligent but also eminently approachable and likeable. He was a humble, gentle man whose kindness endeared him to many in both his personal and professional lives. He was gracious with family, friends, and colleagues and had an amazing knack for getting along with everybody. He was never someone whose presence stood out in a room; nevertheless, the quiet influence of his wisdom and caring was always felt by those around him.

A memorial service to honor Ken's life will be held on Friday, October 18, 2024, at 2:00 p.m. at Pierce Funeral Home, 9609 Center Street, Manassas, Virginia 20110. There will also be a dinner reception at the funeral home

immediately following the service.

Memorial donations may be made to FASD United.

Previous Events

Memorial Service

OCT 18. 2:00 PM (ET)

Pierce Funeral Home
9609 Center St.
Manassas, VA 20110
(703) 257-6028
pfh@piercefh.com
<https://www.piercefh.com>

Tribute Wall



“ *Pierce Funeral Home created a Webcast in memory of Kenneth Rabinowitz Warren*



Pierce Funeral Home - October 10, 2024 at 09:00 AM

DL

“ *I'm sure that all NIAAA staff past and present were deeply saddened by Ken's passing. He did so much for the institute and the research, including crucial leadership at a time of crises for the group. He was a strong supporter of the research at NIAAA and extramurally, and was a great help in my own career from my earliest faculty days. It was always a pleasure to interact with Ken, as he had such an calm and thoughtful demeanor. He is missed.*

David Lovinger - October 18, 2024 at 01:59 PM



“ *Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Kenneth Rabinowitz Warren.*



October 18, 2024 at 11:28 AM

BL

“ Ken came into our family almost 60 years ago when our sister Carol brought him home to meet the parents. Ken was understandably nervous, but we all felt an immediate kinship with him, probably helped that he gave us all rides up and down the drive in his powder blue mustang! Over the years Ken has become our brother, always willing to offer support. If any of us had a medical question, we asked Ken and he would get an answer. Who needs GOOGLE when you have Ken. His knowledge and experience always amazed me. I will miss my friend and brother. The world has lost a great mind and a great man.

Betty Lou - October 16, 2024 at 08:32 PM

JK

“ I had the pleasure of working closely with Ken, particularly when he served as Interim Director of NIAAA. I always found him to be a person of the highest integrity, kind, and scientifically astute. I enjoyed these interactions and I will miss seeing him. My condolences to his family. Sincerely, John Krystal

John Krystal - October 14, 2024 at 10:51 AM

DL

I am deeply saddened to hear about the demise of my dear friend, Ken after his brief battle with cancer. I have known Ken ever since I joined NIAAA/ADAMHA as a Visiting Scientist in 1974 under the tutelage of the famous Alcohol Researcher, Bud Veech and later continued to interact with him professionally as a Senior Career Scientist of Veterans Affairs Administration on Alcoholism until my retirement in 2018. He has always impressed me as an erudite scholar of highest integrity, and he was largely responsible in spearheading NIAAA as a premier National Institution in the field of Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism. My heart-felt condolences to his immediate family for their loss and may his soul rest in peace!

Raj Lakshman

Dr. Raj Lakshman - October 15, 2024 at 09:15 AM

MS

“ I was saddened to hear of the loss of Ken. He had a compassionate manner, and I have warm memories of the amusing stories he shared of a special bit of scientific trivia that no one else knew, or an anecdote from his travels across the world. I will ever be grateful for the opportunities he entrusted in me to lead FASD initiatives at NIAAA. His depth of scientific knowledge and history, and his faithful guidance have effected an indelible legacy on NIAAA and the FASD field. I extend my deepest sympathies to the Warren Family for comfort and healing.

Marcia Scott

Marcia Scott - September 28, 2024 at 12:04 AM