



Kurt Wubbena

August 31, 1949 - September 4, 2021

Kurt Wilharm Wubbena, 72, passed from this life into eternal life on Saturday morning, September 4, in the Siloam Springs Regional Hospital. Born in Dover, DE, on August 31, 1949, he was the son of Wyatt and Erika Wilharm Wubbena.

After high school he completed the three-year diploma course from the International Institute of Interior Design in Washington, DC, served in the United States Army, then completed the Bachelor of Interior Design degree, again from the IIID, and launched a long career in interior design in Washington. In 1979 he earned ASID (American Society of Interior Design) certification. In 1980 he was selected by the American Hairdressers Association to design the hair salon in the White House, and early in the Reagan administration he completed that project in consultation with the First Lady.

Kurt specialized in traditional home design, and several times his work was featured in *Traditional Home* and comparable magazines. He was honored with election to the Washington Design Hall of Fame and was named a “Designer of Distinction.” He preferred to work with the architect from the inception of a project, and he specialized in fine architectural detail and lighting design. His quiet, genteel manner served him well in his profession.

After retiring and relocating to Siloam Springs, Kurt volunteered at the Manna Center, Genesis House, Meals on Wheels, and in several capacities at Grace Episcopal Church, where he was a member. He was an excellent cook and a warm, generous host. Kurt had a heart for the elderly and paid visits to shut-ins. He was also an advocate for abandoned or abused animals. A stray cat adopted by Kurt was a grand prize winner in the lottery! At the time of his death he had six cats and one dog, all of them strays or from the shelter. A lover of international travel, he visited 70-plus countries and kept meticulous records of his adventures. He always had on hand a supply of \$2 bills and took delight in the novelty of using them!

He was preceded in death by his parents and by his partner, Frank Marti. Kurt is survived by his brother, Jan Wubbena (Terri) of Siloam Springs, and two sisters, Luise Reading (Charles) of Ephrata, PA, and Cheryl Keckler (Ben) of Indianapolis, IN, three nieces, and three nephews.

Kurt’s funeral and internment of cremains will be held on Saturday, September 11, at 2:00

at Grace Episcopal Church, Siloam Springs. Masks will be required. The service will be livestreamed.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests that memorial gifts be given to Grace Episcopal Church (<https://www.gracesiloam.org/>) or Tailwaggers (<https://nwatailwaggers.org/>).

Kurt was fully vaccinated against Covid-19, yet he contracted the disease in the latter part of July and was thus an uncommon “breakthrough” case and an even more rare victim who suffered for weeks before succumbing to the disease. The most appropriate thing an unvaccinated person could do in Kurt’s memory would be to be vaccinated. For those who are already vaccinated, it would be to get a booster when they become available.

The family is profoundly grateful to the Emergency Room staff at SSRH for their valiant efforts during Kurt’s difficult final hours.

Events

SEP **Memorial Service** 02:00PM

11

Grace Episcopal Church

617 N. Mt. Olive, Siloam Springs, AR, US, 72761

Comments



“ John Hedges lit a candle in memory of Kurt Wubbena



John Hedges - May 06 at 02:58 PM



“ I only knew Kurt from the dog park a few times, where he brought Abram and told the story of how Abram had picked him rather than the usual way. So sorry to hear this news a peace to the family. Jan Nelson

jan nelson - September 20, 2021 at 05:28 PM



“ SO SORRY TO HEAR THIS KURT AND I WERE FRIENDS IN JR HIGH,I REMEMBER WE WERE JOKING AROUND AT LUNCH ONE DAY, HE STUCK A PENCIL INTO MY SANDWICH AND A TEACHER SAW HIM AND MADE HIM GIVE HIS SANDWICH TO ME. SO WE SHARED IT. LOL I TOOK PIANO LESSONS FROM HIS MOTHER

Ed Swetland - May 03 at 11:07 AM



“ Went to school for a couple of years, he always made me laugh,and very nice.
Flo Fickes

flofickes - May 03 at 09:28 PM



“ Karl Wilharm lit a candle in memory of Kurt Wubbena



Karl Wilharm - September 17, 2021 at 09:32 AM



“ Kurt was a favorite customer of mine. He always brightened my day when he came in. My thoughts and prayers are with you and I am grieving with you too. He was special person, and I will miss him.

Sherry Moore Stout - September 11, 2021 at 08:37 AM



“ What an interesting and extraordinary life Kurt led. I always considered it a special treat (although a rare occasion) to sit at the same table as he did at the Senior Activity Center for lunch. He had so many stories and seemed such a kind and gentle man. Jan and Terri, I am so saddened by your loss. You have my condolences. May God comfort you during this time.

Anne Ruble - September 10, 2021 at 10:27 PM



“ My wife and I recently moved into Kurt's old home in Siloam Springs. We have enjoyed all the amazing features of the home and have walked through the beautiful garden many times this summer. We are so sorry to hear of him passing and will keep his family in our prayers.
Sarah Kathryn and Samuel Pegg

Samuel Pegg - September 09, 2021 at 10:07 PM



“ Healing Tears - All White was purchased for the family of Kurt Wubbena.



September 09, 2021 at 04:53 PM



“ My condolences to the Wubbena family

Sincerely,

Mike
(Norm Koeller's son)

Mike Altland - September 09, 2021 at 02:08 AM



“ Jeanna Wayland lit a candle in memory of Kurt Wubbena



Jeanna Wayland - September 09, 2021 at 12:43 AM



“ Kurt was such a blessing to get to know. I will miss his kind smile.



Cheryl Kester - September 08, 2021 at 11:19 PM



“ Cheryl, what a remarkable obituary tribute for your brother, and what a devastating way to lose him for your family. Prayers abound to surround you with the gifts of God's grace and the support of your faith community and friends. JMGantt

John Gantt - September 08, 2021 at 03:27 PM



“ Thank you John for your support!

Cheryl and Ben Keckler - September 13, 2021 at 10:37 PM



“ Alejandra Torres lit a candle in memory of Kurt Wubbena



Alejandra Torres - September 07, 2021 at 02:50 PM



“ Joe & Cheryl Burns lit a candle in memory of Kurt Wubbena



Joe & Cheryl Burns - September 06, 2021 at 02:43 PM