



Ken Lee Koster

January 19, 1964 - May 18, 2021

Ken Koster passed away in his home surrounded by family on Tuesday, May 18th at 11:00 pm. Born in Munich, Germany on January 19th, 1964 and moved to Santa Barbara, California when he was 2 years old, he was a true Santa Barbarian.

Ken attended and graduated from Santa Barbara High School in 1982, and received his AA after. In 1984 he moved to Oahu, Hawaii and worked in event planning. Soon after he returned to Santa Barbara to start his grassroots tree company, Quality Tree Care. In 1992, Ken married his wife Sue and together they grew the company. Being the 3rd oldest licensed tree company in Santa Barbara, they ultimately bought a 4-acre tropical nursery together which has been home to their family and Quality Tree Care for the past 21 years. There he focused on cultivating rare tropicals and palm trees, always making sure that his nursery was ever growing. Ken's creativity led him to diversify his business to include full service landscaping. He was very well respected by the community for his love and knowledge of trees. Now 38 years in the business Ken's vision of being able to pass his legacy down to his family has come true. For the past 18 years Ken had been mentoring his daughter Amanda, teaching her all aspects of the tree business. Taking these experiences with her, she now manages the tree division, while Ken managed the landscape division. Ken received the 'Santa Barbara Beautiful Award' in 2019 for his outstanding landscape achievements. In 2020, Quality Tree Care

was truly made into a family owned and operated business when his daughter Zoey and son Ethan joined the team. Lead by Ken's unstoppable ambition, they run the company together today.

Ken was a bright man with a huge heart. Nick-named 'Boo,' he loved his amazing wife Sue, three children Amanda (34), Zoey (28), Ethan (23), his son-in-law Mitch (32) and beautiful granddaughter Frances Penelope (2), who was named after his mother Penny. He is also survived by his father Paul Koster, stepmother, Janine, and brothers Keith and Jason. Ken loved rock climbing, motocross, skiing, outrigger canoeing, his many friends and tending to his nursery. Ken's spirit lives on in the trees and ground beneath our feet, and he will be forever missed.

Previous Events

Visitation

MAY **23**. 11:00 AM - 5:00 PM (PT)

Welch-Ryce-Haider - Goleta
450 Ward Drive
Santa Barbara, CA 93111
(805) 965-5145
info@wrhsb.com
<https://www.wrhsb.com>

Memorial Service

MAY **24**. 11:00 AM (PT)

Welch-Ryce-Haider - Goleta
450 Ward Drive
Santa Barbara, CA 93111
(805) 965-5145
info@wrhsb.com
<https://www.wrhsb.com>

Tribute Wall

KD

“ Ken’s Palm Tree Plaque above Ledbetter Beach..We miss you.Phil &KJ



KJ DiBartolomeo - November 06, 2021 at 05:46 PM

AG

“ Boo was a lovely friend - always so upbeat in high school. I remember the incessant spitting before wrestling matches to keep his weight down before the weigh in - haha! How sad to be taken so young and what a wonderful legacy he has left behind. Rest In Peace.

Amy Zemanek Gee - May 26, 2021 at 12:19 PM

NC

“ Ken and I were classmates and trained together on the wrestling team, The wrestling team was his gig in high school, he beat me for the varsity seat, and we’ve been friends ever since. We used to hang together when he lived at the condos on the Mesa .when I planted my garden and all my palms Ken took care of me. There’s a large 50 foot fish tail in my front yard I can always remember Ken bye. I love you brother thanks for taking care of all your people in this life. You were a warrior great worker family man and bro, Love to your family and friends rest in peace Ken 🙏

nick cabugos - May 23, 2021 at 01:10 PM

Jl

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Jill Ishkanian - May 22, 2021 at 11:31 PM

Jl

Ken as a Sophomore at Bishop Garcia Diego High School in Santa Barbara, Ca.

Jill Ishkanian - May 22, 2021 at 11:33 PM

Jl

“ *Such sad news to wake up to this morning. My home room buddy when I was a sophomore at Bishop Garcia Diego High School. My first laugh of the day was always with Ken. RIP...Jill Ishkanian*

Jill Ishkanian - May 21, 2021 at 08:17 PM

TB

“ *Ken
Rest In Peace. Every time I hear the Song Baby You can drive my Car I will smile and think of You and that morning we sang it over the phone with Poncho*

teresa butts - May 21, 2021 at 12:30 AM



“ *A great memory of Ken and I at Magic Mountain!!!!*



Phillip Di Bartolomeo - May 20, 2021 at 05:19 PM