

Ligon II, Kenneth M.

Surrounded by his family, Kenneth McGarvey Ligon II, lovingly known as "Pa", passed away on Thursday, December 23, 2004. He was 71. Ken was born on August 29, 1933 in Detroit. He served in the USAF during the Korean War. While stationed in California, he met and married his sweetheart and lifelong companion, Theresa Von Fluee. They raised their family in Michigan for 17 years before moving to Vero Beach, Florida in 1974. Early on in his career, he worked for Ligon Brothers, a tool and dye plant. A fervent entrepreneurial spirit led him to co-found several manufacturing companies, including Bad Axe Products. These companies ultimately produced 100,000 seat belts per day for Ford and GM and were eventually acquired by Firestone Tire and Rubber Company. Later, he and his cousin, Bob Ligon, purchased Avion Coach Corporation, a manufacturer of luxury travel trailers. This company was sold to Fleetwood Enterprises. Ken was very proud of the fact that he had two businesses that were acquired by Fortune 500 companies. After several years of living in Vero Beach, his passion for business inspired him to enter the investment industry. He and fellow partner, Dr. Ron Jaffe, formed Professional Advisory Services Inc., which today is one of the largest independent investment advisers in Florida. Pa was a man of many talents but he will be remembered best for his charismatic nature, quick wit and ability to connect with people. An avid sportsman, he was a past member of the Indian River Club, Bent Pine, John's Island, The Moorings, Rio Mar Bay Yacht Club and Verona Hills. He loved to travel and throughout the years was able to explore every corner of the globe. His other passions included reading, boating and music but his greatest passion was always his family, especially his grandchildren. He is survived by Theresa, his wife of 48 years; four children, Laurie Grigley and her husband, Roland, and their children, Carol, Rebecca, Ashley, Erin, Laila, Mikenzie, and Jacob; Kenneth M. Ligon III and his son, Brian; Carol Bieber and her husband, Andy, and their children, Jessa, Drew, Jordan and Lauren; and Jennifer Ligon. He is also survived by four great-grandchildren, Chloe, Cassidy, Caden, and Masen and by his brother, Donald Ligon. He will be greatly missed by his extended family and many friends. Ken was preceded in death by his father, Kenneth M. Ligon, mother, Ellen Poyhonen Ligon; sister, Mary Ellen Galardi and infant brother, Gary. A funeral service will be conducted at 10 a.m. on Thursday, December 30, 2004, at The Community Church, 1901 23rd Street, Vero Beach, Florida. Interment will follow at Crestlawn Cemetery. A celebration of Pa's life will be conducted at the family home at 521 Bay Drive, Vero Beach, Florida, after the services. Donations in Ken's memory may be made to VNA Hospice Foundation, 1111 36th Street, Vero Beach, Florida 32960. Arrangements are under the direction of Strunk Funeral Home, Vero Beach, Florida.