



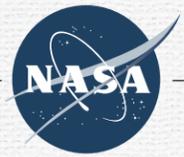
— IN MEMORIAM —



KENNETH H. CRANE



*I have known Mr. Ken Crane for years as a fellow Quality Engineer. One day at an Agency-wide meeting while we were both on travel, Ken noticed a pin I was wearing on the lapel of my suit coat. The pin was the symbol of the Gideon's International. Being a religious man, Ken immediately recognized the symbol and asked me if I was a Gideon or member of the Gideon's International. I told him that I was. He informed me that a Gideon would speak at his church once or twice a year and that he had always respected and supported the Gideon's International. From that day forward, every time I saw Ken, he would ask me about the Gideon's International and if I was still a member. I of course told him that I was still a member and would occasionally share with him stories of our work and ministry. I will always remember Ken and how supportive he was of the Gideon's International. He was a great friend.*  
- Rob Ellison



On Nov. 25, 2016 NASA Safety Center (NSC) Quality Engineering Technical Discipline Team Lead (TDTL) Kenneth H. Crane, 74, passed away following a battle with cancer.

Born in Longview, Mississippi, Ken spent many years in his home state before moving with his wife to Alabama. He actively was involved in his church for more than 50 years, serving as a youth minister, deacon and Sunday school teacher. He also served on numerous civic committees.

After earning his degree in electrical engineering from Mississippi State University, Ken worked in Quality, Reliability and plant management for more than four decades. Ken worked as a corporate Quality manager where he developed tools and techniques to predict and prevent quality degradation at all levels.

"Ken was a gifted Quality engineer who had a real passion for his work," NSC Director Alan Phillips said. "He was a great friend, coworker and a true southern gentleman. He will be missed and remembered for his outstanding support of the agency."

At NASA Ken first served as the Quality Engineering champion for the Safety and Mission Assurance (SMA) Directorate at Marshall. During this time, he was certified by the center SMA director as an expert in Quality Engineering.



Being a remote employee never stopped Ken from showing his appreciation for his colleagues.

Ken regretted not being able to attend this year's NSC fall retreat as he wanted to participate in NSC goal-setting and interact with his peers face-to-face, but what he was really hoping to do at the event was express his gratitude.

Specifically, Ken wanted to acknowledge Alphaport Inc.'s Instructional Systems Designers Ellen Menzies and Nancy Stamas as he stated in his email to them:

"I wanted to look the two of you in the face and give you a bouquet of flowers, and if the contract and the law allows it, a hug. And that wouldn't come close to expressing my total feelings of appreciation for the support you have given me this year."

Refusing to allow the physical distance to hinder him, Ken closed his email with a beautiful picture of roses.

Gestures such as this are one of the many reasons Ken will be missed greatly.



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*As Ken was dealing with his illness, I would send him weekly "Thinking of You" emails, and he would respond "Thank you. It is very humbling to know someone is thinking of me. Thank you, especially for the prayers. Still fighting; never give up." Ken's lively spirit has taught me that despite what you're going through, life is still good as long as you have supporting family, friends, co-workers and loved ones. To the family, Ken may not be with us physically, but he will forever live in our hearts! Ken, you are truly missed, but we will meet again!*  
- Dr. Ruth Jones

Ken joined the NSC as the TDTL for Quality Engineering and also as an aerospace engineer for NASA. In this role he managed the development of Quality Engineering discipline expertise.

Quality Engineering Technical Fellow Brian Hughitt worked very closely with Ken during his time at NASA:

"Ken was a wonderful person in every way, and it was such a privilege to have known and worked with him," said Hughitt. "His integrity and passion were truly inspiring, and his ceaseless advocacy for Quality has left a tremendous, lasting imprint upon the safe and successful accomplishment of NASA missions."

Ken served as chairperson for the Marshall Material Review Board for more than five years and received numerous awards, including Space Flight Honoree, NASA Peer Award, Quality Leadership Forum Appreciation acknowledgement and several group achievement awards. He was a member of the American Society for Quality and an SMA Technical Excellence Program Level 3 graduate.

"You always learn things from your employees, but it is not often that you find an employee whom you consider a mentor," said Technical Excellence Office Director John Marinaro. "Ken was a very loyal employee, friend, mentor and a seasoned expert in his discipline."

Ken is survived by his wife of 51 years, Eleanor, his two daughters, grandchildren, and many loving nieces and nephews.



*Ken was truly an extraordinary man. He was kind and gentle, yet he could be very persuasive. He was extremely knowledgeable and professional at all times. He was a mentor and a friend.*

*Ken was an incredible asset to NASA, the Safety and Mission Assurance community, the NASA Safety Center and the Technical Excellence Office. I was truly fortunate and blessed to have known Ken, and I will surely miss him!*  
- Diane Chapman

*I have such fond memories of Ken – from his style in our planning sessions, including the very last one we had, to how he continued to be fully engaged in advancing his discipline and NSC overall.*

*For sure, when we did the Voice of the Customer and I took Linda with me to Marshall, he was the best host – and we all went out to a BBQ – he loved BBQ – his favorite. He was a gentlemen and always reserved in his manner and a person clinging to habits he formed years ago.*

*One thing I like about my career is the huge number of people I meet and work with – sometimes for a very short time others for a long time. I am blessed to run into professionals like Ken who help me grow as a person and make me better as a professional. He will be missed.*  
- Carl Hadsell

*Ken was always so supportive of our efforts. Even sick, he did more than most and was sharp as a tack. He will be greatly missed.*  
- Kristie French

