

KENNETH GEORGE POWELL

Ken was born in Jamestown, NY, youngest of 3 sons to Leo and Lucile Powell, public school teachers and administrators in western NY State. He showed early interest in music playing the piano, French horn and organ. When a senior in High School he toured Europe as accompanist to a regional Children's Choir.

He entered Oberlin College in 1961 intending to earn both music and academic degrees but later settled on music performance playing the organ. At Oberlin he met his wife, music voice major Roz. Also at Oberlin he enjoyed playing bridge which he had learned from his parents.



After Oberlin Ken went on to earn Masters and Doctors degrees in music performance at the U. of Illinois. While there he won the National Organ Playing competition held annually in Fort Wayne IN. He taught Roz bridge and they played duplicate at the University and city clubs.

His first son, Whit, was born as he finished grad school and Alan came along 18 months later during Ken's first year as a professor at Centenary College in Hackettstown NJ. After teaching music and directing the choirs at Centenary for a number of years he was elected Dean of Faculty by his peers. Enjoying administrative work and promoted by the college administration he went on to be Vice President for Academic Affairs and was also asked to help in the Financial Department. While living in Hackettstown for 20 years he started and ran a once a week ACBL duplicate game.



At age 43 he decided to change directions and went back to school earning an MBA in accounting at Rutgers-Newark. Following completion of his degree he worked for Touche Ross Accounting Firm auditing non-profits for several years earning his CPA. He desired to go back to the academic world and served as Vice President for Finance at Manhattan School of Music and Monmouth University.

In 1995 while at Monmouth U. the opportunity to buy Essex Bridge Center came up and he took it bringing Roz and Alan into the business too. Besides the duplicate games, all the Powells, joined later by Alan's wife, Meagan, actively developed an extensive multi-leveled bridge teaching program. Part of the Essex Bridge Center purchase included rights to Robert Wakeman's Modern Bidding Techniques. Through the years Ken and Alan issued multiple revisions and comprehensive extensions of this work making it their own.



A dedicated bridge player, Ken earned his Life Master and additional ranks and 4800+ masterpoints.

Family, bridge, music, travel were the joys of his life. He was proud of the many people he brought into the wonderful, challenging, socially supportive world of duplicate bridge.

Surviving are Roz, Whit & Lisa, Alan & Meagan and granddaughters Catherine and Elizabeth, and brothers Warren & Bob. Ken requested no service and no flowers. In lieu of flowers, donations could be made in memory of Kenneth George Powell Class of 1965 to Oberlin College Conservatory of Music, Oberlin Ohio.

We will be holding a Charity Upgraded Club Championship Game in Ken's memory to benefit Cycle for Survival which funds research for rare cancers including brain cancer, date to be arranged.

