



## Brian Mather Kent

May 19, 2020

Brian M. Kent passed away on May 19, 2020 after unexpectedly being diagnosed with cancer less than a week earlier. Brian was born in 1941 to Edward and Dorothy Kent. He was the middle child and had two sisters, Jean and Beth.

Brian grew up in Wexford, Pennsylvania where he spent his time outdoors, tormenting his mother with snakes and other critters that he caught. He attended Shadyside Academy. Brian earned his B.S. (1967) from Purdue University. He went on to earn a Master's (1970) and PhD (1977) in Forestry Biometrics from Pennsylvania State University.

After meeting his future wife on a blind date in January of 1966, Brian and Theresa (Terri) married in 1967. They celebrated their 52nd wedding anniversary last June.

Brian and Terri raised four daughters together. Brian encouraged them to do whatever they wanted in life and to get a good education. He often added fun and jokes to the daunting task of raising four girls by doing things like giving them nicknames such as "SR" for the youngest two meaning "spoiled rotten".

After earning his PhD, Brian accepted a job as a professor of forestry at Colorado State University. In 1981, he left CSU and transferred to the US Forest Service where he worked until he retired in 2010. While at the Forest Service, Brian worked on many projects including wildfire risk mitigation and climate change.

Before having daughters, Brian collected sports cars. His love of collectibles never stopped and throughout his life he collected antique guns, books, cameras, and most recently antique tools. He took great pleasure in learning the history, mechanics and stories behind his collections. Brian was a lifelong learner and avid reader of fiction and non-fiction alike.

Brian referred to the mountains as his church. He loved taking long hikes where he could fully appreciate nature's beauty, study trees and practice his photography skills. He called

time spent in the mountains “woods loafing”. Brian insisted that family vacations be spent camping or relaxing at the family’s cabin. He also loved to garden and especially enjoyed growing tomatoes and peppers. Brian instilled in all four daughters a love and appreciation for nature.

Brian enjoyed making friends wherever he went and was like a brother to many. Some of his favorite times included traveling to different collectors’ events with his buddies. Even long after retirement, he enjoyed regular lunches and happy hours with his former colleagues. He often spent hours on the phone catching up with friends both old and new.

He is remembered for his boisterous laugh, no-nonsense attitude, love of Mexican food, intellect, bear hugs and most of all his big heart.

Brian is survived by his daughters Mary Kent, Suzanne Kent, Roberta Kent and Megan Van Kent; his sons-in-law Brad Hanson, Brian Loner, and Jeffrey Van Kent; his grandchild Roland Van Kent; and niece Dorothy Keener. He was preceded in death by his wife Theresa, who passed away in February 2020 just three months before Brian; and sisters Jean and Beth.

In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to an organization whose mission is to protect forests.

The Kent daughters would love to hear stories and see photos please send them to [brianterri20@gmail.com](mailto:brianterri20@gmail.com)

Due to Covid the service will be taking place at a later date. Please check this page or call Goes Funeral Care at 970-482-2221 for service updates.

# Comments

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“ An external video has been added.



**Goes Funeral Care & Crematory** - May 24 at 12:08 PM



“ Beautiful tributes! Great folks who have inspired us all to live better lives.  
-Paul LeBrun, grad student of Brian's and long time friend

**Paul LeBrun** - June 24 at 11:46 PM

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“ It still doesn't seem right to not have your parents across the street to wave at and have a little chat together. They will always be missed.

**Gary & Sharon Nordic** - June 01 at 10:08 PM

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“ To the Kent daughters and family,  
I was so sorry to hear of the shocking and quick passing of your Dad. After losing your mother so recently I can only imagine the empty space you are feeling at this very difficult time.  
I surely hope that you will be able to help and comfort each other as you move forward.  
I am a member of the Ladies of Light group who have met for years with Terri. We are very much missing her. My husband Randy worked on your cabin near Estes and had more of a relationship with Brian than I did. He always enjoyed yukking it up with him.  
Our love and prayers go out to you as a group of sisters who share the same loss, family, and history.  
Sincerely,  
Jan and Randy Wick

**Jan Wick** - June 02, 2020 at 01:41 PM



“ Thank you so much, Jan.

**Megan** - June 08, 2020 at 04:10 PM

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“ I knew Brian for a long time. As academics, we were forestry undergraduates at Purdue in the 1060's and in the mid-1070's we were both new asst. professors at Colorado State. Over the years we shared many hunting adventures and our families would get together for BBQ's, etc. when the kids were young. As anyone who knew him would say he was a fun guy to be around and certainly would always let you know what he thought about something. He was unique in so many ways and we all have plenty of "Brian stories." Readers Digest had a column "the most unforgettable character I ever met" & I can honestly say Brian would be that for me. He certainly will be missed. Dave Betterers

**Dave Betterers** - June 01, 2020 at 04:10 PM

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“ Thank you Dave! I have thought of our many fun times together, kumquats vs dunmbquats and many other childhood memories that included the Betterers family. I wish this wasn't so, I had plans for many more moments w my Dad.

**Mary Kent** - June 03, 2020 at 02:40 PM

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“ Nothing happens until Brian gets his coffee mug filled for his journey. Until we meet again old friend.  
The Gang

**Martin Yunker Jr** - May 31, 2020 at 06:05 PM

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“ Brian was quite the old horse trader. He would fold his arms and nod as if he was sizing up his opponent. He was such a wealth of knowledge, it was just fun to listen to him talk to customers and fellow collectors about the history of certain items. I recall one of the times a seller at a table approached Brian about buying a shoe box full of old cartridges. Brian left and came back with the box of approximately 300 cartridges. I asked what he paid for them as he was rooting threw them and his response was \$75.00. My thought was even in the dollar box he will make out, when he suddenly stopped, held up a single cartridge and said this one is worth \$250.00. This was the kind of knowledge I am talking about. The man was simply amazing.

**Martin Yunker Jr** - May 31, 2020 at 05:59 PM

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“ He will be missed, I have been thinking about him quite a bit. It's hard to lose a good friend. When we were going to the Kansas Collector shows He always insisted on exploring parts of Kansas on the way home. Fortunately I was a Western History buff. and knew about its heritage and interesting places. He was astonished by the old hand cut stone churches of the first settlers, and walked the grounds of Fort Hays, where Custore once walked. Also enjoyed the local Volga German food and drink. Loved telling stories and pointing out places where incidents happened.in the old West. Brian loved every minute of it. He met part of my family and a master woodworker that is my nephew. The two of them soon fell into their own conversation, and I think this could have lasted for hours. Brian was very impressed with this young man and talked at some length about him. We had wonderful times going to and from Tulsa, and while at the show. I still have many interesting stories to tell about our adventures but suffice to say he was a wonderful companion and will be truly missed.

**Martin Yunker Jr** - May 31, 2020 at 05:42 PM



“ Thank you Martin. I love reading all the memories people had with my Dad. It helps me to know him even .more. I wish I had asked him for details about his trips. I grew up with him going to many different shows and travels such as hunting. I never once asked him for details. I wish I would have...

**Mary Kent** - June 04, 2020 at 02:13 AM

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“ Hello Roberta:

While a collector friend of your Father's, I only met your Mother briefly twice in their garage and unfortunately, never met any of you daughters. You all have my sincerest condolences and I have written a remembrance below. Also, I have made a donation to the Arbor Day Foundation in remembrance of Brian.

Both Brian and I collected: sports cars, books, antique tools, guns, knives and watches. Eventually, when you have to deal with Brian's collections, please lean on myself, Gail Parks, and Bob Fenkel for suggestions or help in appraising and disposing of them. In the meantime, please know of our fondness for Brian and that our thoughts are with all of you.

#### Brian Kent Remembrance

Brian Kent was a few years younger than I, and was a dear fellow “collector” and curmudgeon. While we both had spent considerable time in Pennsylvania years ago, I only met Brian about 10 years ago at a local tool collectors meeting. While I was nationally active in that hobby in the 1980's and had now started to divest of my collection, Brian was just beginning to be interested in antique tools and bought some of my best English woodworking planes. His strong interest in planes and energy in collecting and learning about them soon surpassed my collection and knowledge of them.

When he discovered that I was a fellow gun collector he insisted on my attending the giant Tulsa Arms show with he and his friends from the Colorado Springs and Pueblo areas, caravanning with a couple of vehicles twice a year, and several other prominent gun shows each year. And he started educating me on antique firearms as he was nationally known in that hobby. More recently he had become interested in collecting pocket watches and watchmaking tools; so as a long time collector of watches and related tools I was helping him learn about them. And we had planned to review each other's knife collection this year.

Notwithstanding our common collecting interests, Brian's family and close friends would understand that our strongest friendship and bonding interests were in critiquing government activity and the deterioration of personal values that we had observed during our many years of career and retirement; and that will be missed by me most of all.

Rex Poggenpohl, Estes Valley, Colorado  
Vice Chair, Larimer County Board of Appeals



“ To Mary, Brad and the entire Kent family,  
I did know your Dad, but I want to say he sounds like a wonderful Man!  
My deepest sympathy goes out to all of you!  
May peace be with you

**kristi wade** - May 30, 2020 at 06:49 PM



“ Thank you

**Mary Kent** - June 04, 2020 at 02:15 AM