



Kent Newman

January 7, 1955 - November 17, 2020

William Kent Newman left this world for a better place on November 17, 2020, at St. Dominic Hospital with Pharis Lunceford Newman, his wife of 28 years, by his side. Kent was born January 7, 1955, to parents Sells Jones Newman, Sr. and Sue McGuffee Newman.

Anyone who knew Kent knew he loved sports--playing sports, watching sports, and talking about sports, especially football. He began his football career at Crystal Springs and Copiah Academy. He attended the University of Southern Mississippi on an athletic scholarship where he was a defensive back for the Golden Eagles. He was inducted into the MClub, and served the club as a board member.

Longtime friend, teammate, and former USM head football coach Jeff Bower said, "It was a privilege to know Kent. As a player, although not very big, Kent was extremely tough. He possessed a competitive desire, character and a big heart. A great family man, an exceptional husband and father, a WINNER in all he did. All who knew him will greatly miss him."

After college, Kent's first job was coaching football and track at Pearl High School. He was a no-nonsense coach who tried to instill in his players the importance of a strong work ethic.

Kent began his his 40-year career with State Farm in 1980 at age 24. At that time, the company had a strict policy against hiring young, unmarried agents. Chip Sanders, agent manager at the time, said, "Kent's first big sale was convincing me to go against that policy and hire him, and I'm so glad I did!" Kent was never known for sitting behind the desk in his office. His insurance business was often transacted from his truck. He believed in hands-on service. Through his involvement in business and sports, Kent developed many close relationships that were never broken.

Kent Newman was a believer in Jesus Christ. He knew there was everlasting life beyond his earthly life. He grew up as a member of First Baptist Church Crystal Springs and later joined Crystal Springs United Methodist Church after his marriage. He was very involved in the work of his church and was a member of the Seekers Sunday School class and later the Business Men's class.

Kent was very proud of Crystal Springs, and promoted his hometown whenever and wherever he could. He was a member of the Crystal Springs Chamber of Commerce, past president of the Rolling Hills Country Club, and served on the Copiah County Medical Center Board of Directors. Kent enjoyed being outdoors, working and hunting on the farm with his brother, Sells, and all things Southern Miss and New Orleans Saints.

Above all, Kent will be remembered for his strong faith, his love for his family, his huge heart, and his beautiful smile. Genuinely kind and caring, Kent valued his friends and always had time for a visit. Kent loved people and people loved Kent.

He is survived by his wife Pharis, daughter Parker Pharis Newman, brother Sells Jones Newman, Jr., (Nancy), father- in-law Ferrell Lunceford, mother-in-law Janice Lunceford, sister-in-law Stephanie Cockrill (Al), niece Pharis

Cockrill, and nephew Allen Cockrill, . He is preceded in death by his parents and his nephew Jason Newman.

Because of Covid 19 restrictions, a small family service was held over the Thanksgiving holiday. Kent's life will be celebrated at a public service at Crystal Springs United Methodist Church on Saturday, April 17, 2021, at 11:00am.

Memorials may be made to
Crystal Springs United Methodist Church
306 W. Georgetown Street
Crystal Springs, MS, 39059

Friends of Chautauqua
P. O. Box 473
Crystal Springs, MS 39059

Tribute Wall



“ *Kent Newman*

January 28, 2023 at 04:45 PM



“ *Pharis, I'm so sorry to hear about Kent. He made us feel more like family when we first met him after hurricane Katrina. Kent was so helpful to me when my husband Brian passed away in 2011. Love and prayers for you and your family.* 💕🦋



Rosa Harris - March 14, 2021 at 07:46 PM



Pharis, I'm so sorry to hear about Kent. I just found out. He made us feel like family when we first met him after hurricane Katrina. Kent, was so helpful to me when my husband Brian passed away in 2011 he will be missed by me and my daughter. Love and prayers for you and your family. 💕🦋

Rosa Harris - March 14, 2021 at 07:50 PM



“ *There are few people who always make you happier when you leave their company than you were when you joined it and Kent was one of those. He was a lovely man who always had a smile and a way of making you glad you'd talked to him. I'm sure when he arrived in Heaven he looked down toward Hattiesburg and whispered, "Southern Miss to the Top!"*

We'll see you soon, Kent.

Susan McNeill - November 30, 2020 at 02:27 PM

GH

“ So sadden to hear. I grew up playing ball with Kent. Got to see him about two years ago for first time in many years. We gave each other a big hug. I'm so glad for that now.

Gary Hydrick - November 23, 2020 at 06:03 PM



“ Sandra Cliburn lit a candle in memory of Kent Newman



Sandra Cliburn - November 20, 2020 at 07:50 PM



John 14 Prayers with your family

Sandra Cliburn - November 20, 2020 at 07:50 PM

LL

“ So sorry for your loss Think of you often and my prayers and thoughts will be with you and Parker during this time. Miss you and family since I am no longer working at dental office. Linda Lail

Linda W Lail - November 19, 2020 at 07:08 AM

JK

I'm very thankful to have known Kent throughout his life. Without a doubt, he was one of the nicest and most pleasant people I've ever known. Kent always had a positive attitude, even when coping with a very serious illness. He was deeply devoted to God, his family, and his friends. What a privilege it has been to have Kent Newman as a friend!

Jim Kitchens - November 19, 2020 at 10:38 AM

MF

So sorry for your loss. Our thoughts and prayers are with you and Parker. Kent was a great friend. Mitch and Linda Ferrell

Mitch Ferrell - November 28, 2020 at 03:14 PM

SW

So sorry for your loss. Such a great person with a humble spirit. Heaven has gained a new angel. With heartfelt condolences.

Shantel E Wright - December 01, 2020 at 10:51 AM

JC

Just want to say to the family that we love you and we are grateful for the life of Kent Newman. An extraordinary man, just a great guy and a friend to all, he will be missed. May he rest in peace.

Joe Buck Coates - December 14, 2020 at 10:36 AM