



Kenneth J. Schmidt

December 18, 1950 - February 10, 2026

Kenneth J Schmidt a long-time resident of Hamden passed away suddenly in the early hours of February 10th 2026 at his Stratford residence. Kenny was born on December 18th, 1950, to the late Russell and Bernice Schmidt of Hamden Ct. Kenny leaves behind his loving wife, Lynn (Macaboy) Schmidt, his beloved daughter Kendra Blake and her husband Chris. He also leaves behind sisters Nanci Dower (Bobby), Gail Schmidt, Barbara Thomas (Joseph), Joannie Woods (Robert), Carol Hultgren (Glenn), he is predeceased by his two brothers William Schmidt (Joanne), Thomas Schmidt (Tricia). Kenny leaves behind many nieces and nephews, including his God-daughter Kimberly Dower.

Kenny was a proud graduate of Cheshire Academy who went on to voluntarily enlist in the United States Army, serving honorably and in country during the Vietnam War. After returning home, he joined the family business, Formatron, before eventually branching out to create his own custom cabinetry company, KCI. His love for woodworking—custom cabinetry, fine furniture, and kitchen remodeling—became the foundation of his professional life, and his skill in the craft was truly exceptional.

From an early age, Kenny was a natural athlete, competing in multiple sports, but it was boxing that became his defining passion. As a professional heavyweight, he earned the nickname “The Hamden Hammer,” a name recognized across Connecticut. When his boxing career came to a close, he transitioned into sports journalism, becoming a respected reporter for the New

Haven Register and covering professional title fights across the nation. During this same period, Kenny co founded Ring One Boxing in New Haven, a nonprofit dedicated to mentoring and providing disciplined boxing training to disadvantaged youth. Ring One became one of his proudest accomplishments — a place where he poured his heart into giving young people structure, confidence, and opportunity. He also played a role in the family's restaurant business, the Pumpnickel Pub, adding yet another chapter to a life rooted in community and connection.

The family especially wants to honor Kenny's drive to make people laugh, smile, and feel loved. His generosity was unmatched, as was his joy in sharing—stories, meals, adventures, and time. He was known across the state by many names: Hamden Hammer, Kenneth, the Odd Boy, and a few others best left off the page. Whatever you called him, you knew the spirit behind it.

Many of us listened to his stories, kissed the boo boo, danced and sang with him, cried and laughed with him, yelled and forgave, loved and enjoyed life alongside him. Kenny had a passion for traveling, for discovering new restaurants, and for spending time with family, friends, and loved ones. He worked hard, and he played hard, and he lived with a fullness that touched everyone around him.

For all of this—and for all he gave—we are forever grateful.

Calling hours for Ken will be Sunday March 1, 2026 from 1 - 4 p.m. in Sisk Brothers Funeral Home 3105 Whitney Ave. Hamden. In lieu of flowers the family asks that donations are made to St Jude's (stjude.org) or Tunnel 2 Towers Foundation (t2t.org) in honor of Kenny Schmidt. To leave an online condolence please visit www.siskbrothers.com

Previous Events

Calling hours

MAR 1. 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM (ET)

Sisk Brothers Funeral Home
3105 Whitney Ave
PO Box 185066
Hamden, CT 06518

Tribute Wall

EW

“ Kenny, we will miss you forever. I'll never forget how you saved the horrible mess. A bad contractor made in our kitchen to give us a beautiful working kitchen. Such kindness was an is still appreciated. I'll miss talking tennis with you and sharing the results of major and tennis 1000 events. You will always be in our hearts. We adore you always love, Ellen And Mark Warner.

Ellen Warner - March 17 at 09:44 AM

SS

“ Revisiting via the way, way, way back machine I remember Billy holding great admiration for Kenny. He would often speak of Kenny in the highest regard. Kenny was like a local folk legend of a sort.

Stephen Shaprio - March 08 at 07:01 PM

RA

“ 2 files added to the tribute wall



Rachel - March 01 at 01:15 PM

GL

“ My first introduction to Kenny was an invite to a heavy bag workout...I should've declined! The room without heat was 100 degrees but Kenny kept the heater on for added incentive because he was a sadist. But I couldn't let him break me and trust me he tried. On a serious note I am eternally grateful to have had the honor of working with Kenny and learning so much from his craftsmanship. Even though I quit pretty much daily, I kept showing up for over a decade. Ours was a special relationship to say the least. I loved the man underneath all his constant torment. I will miss you Kenny, sorry I couldn't be there for your final send off but your in my thoughts and prayers
Peace to you Lynn and Kendra—
Greg Lohman

greg lohman - February 28 at 05:12 PM



“ 1 file added to the album Life Tributes



Sisk Brothers Funeral Home - February 26 at 01:44 PM

DC

“ So grateful for the memory of spending New Year's Eve '26 with Ken and Lynn. As always, an evening with Kenny included "dinner and a show"! He, of course, was the emcee and interviewed in his playful style which gave each server his right of passage, and always got plenty of laughs. I have been friends with Kenny for 60 years, and our friendship has been one of the highlights of my life. Lynn, we are right down the street and always only a phone call away. We love you.

David and Donna Cosenza

Donna Cosenza - February 23 at 09:27 AM

LD

In my earlier years in high school Kenny and I hung out, we got a little crazy at times, he loved life, lot of fun to be with, I remember when we went to times square New Year's Eve, we had an incredible time, Just much to tell about that journey on New Year's night, LOL, may you rest in peace my brother, you will be greatly missed by all, love you brother

Lou DellaValle - February 28 at 09:58 AM

SS

“ As I was growing up the Schmidt family lived down the street from my house. It was always vibrant with never a dull moment. Kenny's room had models of all the classic monsters which was cool. When I was a mere tween Kenny bopped me in the nose enough (gloves on) to push me down on my can and doing so taught me the life long lesson of getting up after anything. That had served me well. Respects and honors to the Hamden Hammer and all his crew.

Stephen Shapiro - February 20 at 04:50 PM

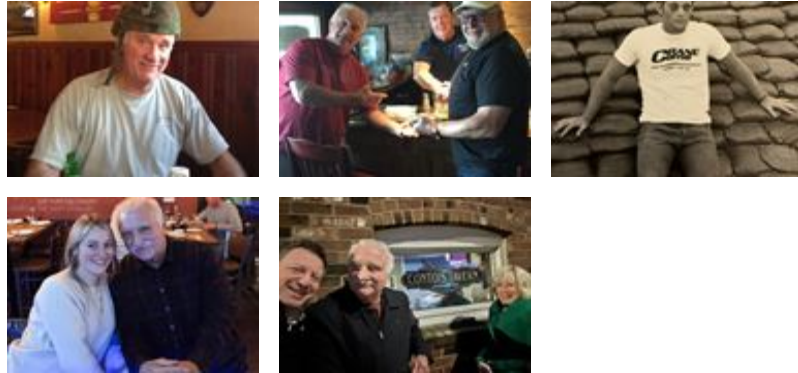
JV

“ From Hamden High 1969 to Contois you will be greatly missed. rest in peace.

Jim Del Vecchio - February 19 at 07:12 PM



“ 136 files added to the album *LifeTributes*



Sisk Brothers Funeral Home - February 18 at 11:47 AM

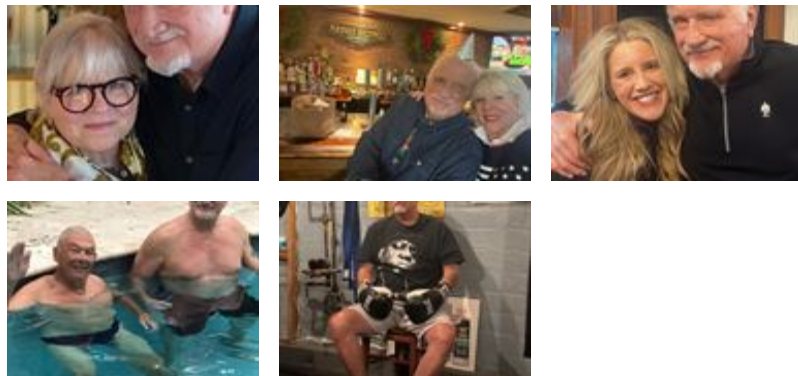


“ Lynn...I wanted to reach out to let you know I'm thinking of you as you cope with Kenny's passing. Wishing you comfort and peace.

Tricia Blanks - February 17 at 09:23 PM



“ 107 files added to the album *LifeTributes*



Sisk Brothers Funeral Home - February 17 at 11:10 AM

TB

Lynn...I wanted to reach out to let you know I'm thinking of you as you cope with Kenny's passing. Wishing you comfort and peace.

Tricia Blanks - February 17 at 06:39 PM

CP

*Our thoughts and prayers go out to Kenny and his family!
Kenny was a good friend from high school till our last meeting two years ago .*

*He was always entertaining and fun to be around !
Kenny was Kenny! Sincerely,
Chip & Patty Prece*

Chip Prece - February 19 at 10:41 AM

JD

“ *To Lynn & the family,
So sorry to hear of Kenny's passing.
My thoughts and prayers are with you. My friendship with Kenny goes back to 1969 and continued over the years. His many acts of kindness to me especially during a horribly sad time in my life is something I will never, ever forget. God Bless You, rest in peace my friend.* 🕊️

Janet DeMarsilis - February 15 at 09:08 AM

BF

“ *So sorry for your loss Lynn. I have so many wonderful memories of of Keneth. Especially when he visited Rick and I in California to go skiing in Tahoe. He was definitely one of a kind. He will be missed by many!*

Brian D Fay - February 14 at 02:21 PM

RD

Hi, Brian. I remember those trips and you and Rick's visits and calls. You were cherished friends. Rachel

Rachel Dube - March 01 at 06:11 PM

DS

“ Lynn,
A beautiful loving couple.
A plethora of fun times we shared.
A lasting memory is how he helped me. We
were all Blessed to know him.
Heartbroken for you GF. 💙🙏❤️

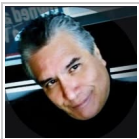


Darlene Surato Sanzo - February 13 at 09:31 PM

MD

“ My condolences to the family and many friends of Kenny. Saw him
last at a HHS class of “69” reunion. Bless you soul sir. 🙏🙏🙏

Michael Devine - February 13 at 04:57 PM



“ My name is John Kaauamo. Me and Tommy his brother who passed
away last year are the same age. I'm 68.
We went to Michael Whalen and Hamden High...I lived on Church
Street...and Hamden Plains Park was our spot. Tommy lived on
King Street in Hamden, and had an all black German Shepard
named "King"
Tommy often talked highly of his older brother Kenny a
Ti Quan Do expert....He was in Nam at the time and sent pictures
home of him and his platoon buddies Ummm,
They were true "head hunters" that's all I will say because of family
here. From that time on we new that this was the baddest dude in
Hamden, period! He had a sister Barbra also...but this man here
was a legend..I kid you not....took no prisoners in Nam... Thank you
sir for your service...My condolences to the Schmidt family..

John Kaauamo - February 13 at 02:39 PM

DP

“ Lynn, I'm still in disbelief that the Hamden Hammer has passed on. The memory I would like to share is of his generosity. Every kid that went to him for support in a fund raising event, Ken was always there with the donation for the largest ad. He had a big heart and didn't hesitate support not only my kid's events but many others and local organizations too.

He was also such a talented craftsman. Top notch work. He had that great sense of humor too. I remember going out to dinner with him and a few others and you'd be in the car singing to the radio and suddenly he would turn the volume down and embarrass the heck out of you.

Ken may you rest in peace with others that have passed before you. Thank you for all of your kindnesses you had shown to me. 🙏😭💕

Deb Proto - February 13 at 01:14 PM

GD

“ WE WERE FRAT BROTHERS & KENNY TRIED TO TEACH ME HOW TO BOX IN HIS BASEMENT IN 1966 HE ALSO DID WONDERFUL CARPENTRY WORK @ MY SISTERS OPTITION STORE ON WHALLEY AVE RIP ZETA BROTHER KENNY 🇺🇸🚴♀

Guy DAniello - February 13 at 01:08 PM

JB

“ We are so sorry to hear about Kenny From many memories of childhood to adulthood we send our condolences to Lynn and the entire Schmidt family for your loss May you find peace in knowing his life was well lived

Sincerely Jayne Cusano Barese and Vinnie Cusano

jayne cusano barese - February 13 at 12:26 PM

SR

*Lynn and Family Sue and I are so sorry and Heartbroken for your loss. As you know Kenny and I shared a lifetime of crazy adventures together. Too numerous to write about and some I could never write about! He will truly be missed by everyone he touched
Sue and Stu Rosenholtz*

Stuart Rosenholtz - February 13 at 03:27 PM

LS

Thank you so much Jayne

Lynn Schmidt - February 13 at 06:05 PM

JM

“ RIP old friend....My heart goes out to Lynn, Kendra, Paul and their extended family as well as the Schmidt family...Very sorry for your loss...

Jim McNamara

Jim McNamara - February 13 at 10:56 AM

CS

A Legend!!

You will be sorely missed by me and my husband, your dear friend John. Loved, respected, or perhaps feared by many, you were a truly wise and gifted man with so many talents and hysterical as well. I will never forget all the fun times, the dinners, and the trips we shared.

My heart goes out to Lynn, Kendra, and the entire Schmidt family.

Rest in peace, Hammer.

*Deepest Sympathy
John & Carol Sequino*

Carol Sequino - February 13 at 11:59 AM

MW

I am so sorry for the loss of Ken, and my condolences are sent to the Schmidt family. I loved working for Russell and Bernice at their Branford restaurant and really appreciated all the help everyone in the family gave me when we 1st opened. My deepest sympathy, Marilyn Wilson (Piscitelli)

Marilyn E Wilson - February 13 at 03:04 PM

CH

My sincere sympathy on the passing of Ken, he was one of a kind man with a heart of gold. RIP. Sending hugs to all, my prayers and thoughts are with you all. (especially my good High School Friend Gail)

cheryl (Knous) Hurst - February 13 at 05:56 PM

DB

Rip hammer!

Danny B. - February 13 at 06:51 PM

JL

God Speed to Ken, sending Love and Strength to Family and Friends, Thanks for looking out from the day one say 1966, Among all your talents you became a great source for saw dust when we had to restore and launch wood boats. Send us Light, Ill be looking for it.

Jerry Lehr - February 14 at 05:59 AM



The Wild Child of Whitneyville has crossed over. I have so, so, many childhood memories of growing up alongside this character. Many of them were adventures, and what's an adventure without an element of danger? Ken was a loyal and generous friend. He was a supreme optimist and philosopher. "What's the worst that could happen?" We traveled separate roads after high school.

Bruce Barton - February 15 at 08:11 AM