



## Kenneth Lee Matherne

December 20, 1957 - October 15, 2021

Kenneth Lee Matherne passed away on October 15, 2021 at his home in Folsom, LA, where he lived, loved, and built his legacy for the last 30 years of his life.

Kenneth was born on December 20, 1957, in Houma, LA to the late Lee Joseph Matherne and the late Joyce Dupré Matherne, the second of their five children. From an early age, Ken exhibited a strong work ethic and an exceptional aptitude for business and marketing. He studied business at Nichols University before entering the oil field service sector. In 1991, the year after his daughter, Maci was born and with her in mind – fueled by passion, conviction, and extraordinary vision – Ken founded Global Wildlife, one of the nation’s largest free-roaming wildlife preserves. Ken’s tenacity was realized, and Global Wildlife became a sanctuary for joy and learning. For the past 30 years, it has attracted visitors from all over the globe and brought smiles to the faces of millions of children and adults alike. Though Global will forever be a cornerstone of Ken’s legacy, so too will his generosity, welcoming spirit, and larger-than-life disposition. Ken enjoyed travel, fly fishing, aviation, and collecting specialty automobiles—but perhaps more than anything else, Ken never met a stranger and enjoyed bringing people together for a good time. He was a man who lived big and loved deeply.

A beloved father, brother, and uncle, Ken is survived by his daughter, Maci, brothers Lee and Michael, sister Penny (Quentin), ten nieces and nephews, and more friends than one could count. Ken is remembered fondly by Maci’s mother, Nancy Hawkins Matherne.

Per Ken’s wishes, a private memorial will be held by his family. In lieu of sending flowers or gifts to the family, donations can be made on Ken’s behalf to the Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson’s Research, an organization very dear to Ken. <http://www.michaeljfox.org/donate>. Should you feel moved to do so, we invite you to share a memory of Ken on the Tribute Wall at <http://www.ejfieldingfh.com>.

# Comments

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“ My favorite memory of Kenny was that time he sexually assaulted me. He was such a gross man who spent his life objectifying women and using his status and money to get away with so much illegal activity! Wow! My heart goes out to all of his victims who never got the justice they deserved.

**Maria** - December 06, 2021 at 08:46 PM

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“ What can I say about Kenny? Such a great man, where else can you find someone so dedicated to hiring 18 year old girls solely to sexually harass them. Or to use a non profit organization as a front to make all of the profits that he can.

**Billy** - December 06, 2021 at 08:42 PM

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“ Dear Maci — I just learned today of the passing of your Dad, Kenny. I am so very sorry for your loss. After knowing your dad for over 25 years, I know how much he loved and adored you. Please know that I am lifting you up in my thoughts and prayers as you grieve his loss. May he rest in peace. — All my best, Cherie Hebert

**Cherie Hebert** - November 03, 2021 at 03:13 PM



“ I only knew Ken for the last 3-years but he had become one of my best friends. He always made me laugh & picked me up during the most difficult times of my life. He always amused me and bewildered me with his intelligence. I will have the greatest of memories that will last my life time. Palafox/Tesla/Warf/The Board Room/Landry's and the list goes on.

RIP

Hank Ton

**Hank Ton** - November 03, 2021 at 05:41 PM

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“ I sadly learned on Tuesday 10/19/2021 that a friend with a huge heart, generous spirit and a zest for life had passed away on 10/15/2021 ,in the wee hours of the morning. Rest In Peace , Ken Matherne, creator of Global wildlife 🐾🐾 center. You were such a larger than life character who did BIG things that it's hard to picture the world without you in it. We had some amazing adventures and you'll always live on in our memories, minds and hearts . Shown events :9/3/2018 by The Boardroom yacht on the Northshore , 10/17/2018 and 10/16/2018 in Pensacola FL and 10/26/2021 at his Folsom home for a Gatsby party.



Dr. Lisa D. Ross - October 28, 2021 at 01:20 PM

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“ My heart is so broken to hear of your passing. Adam and I will cherish all the beautiful memories we had with you! Fly high and rest easy my dear friend!! Love you much!

Page Smith - October 20, 2021 at 05:17 PM