



## **Ken Kroes**

Ken has left...and has left us with the beauty of that sparkling smile, a family of creative and fun-filled individuals, memories and stories that will always bring us great joy, and an intense respect for his fierce freedom of thought, formidable opinions and sly sense of humor.

In his life were journeys to Italy, sailing trips through the Virgin Islands, jazz shows in Chicago, dancing to swing music at the Fruitport Pavilion with his beautiful fiancé, and sunny days and starry nights upon the shores of White Lake – not to mention, legendary feats at pool and card tables throughout the land, awards and recognition for his artistic and business talents, and the appreciation of distilleries worldwide. Through it all, his friends and family were honored to know his generosity, laughter and love

Ken was born in 1927 in Muskegon, Michigan. He served in the Second World War and upon returning married his sweetheart, Gloria, with whom he spent the next 57 years. He attended art school in Chicago and settled in Grand Rapids, Michigan. There he and Gloria had three children, Nick (married to Susan), Tony (married to Shellie) and Kelley. They also have two wonderful grandsons, Burton and Jason.

The Kroes family would like to offer thanks for all the help given them by Faith Hospice, and the love and support of their cherished friends and neighbors, Elsie and Dusty Baxter.

In lieu of flowers and to invest in the hope found in this world, please consider contributing to a scholarship fund in Ken and Gloria's name that supports the creative endeavors of underprivileged high school students in Muskegon County. In doing so you can help to assure that Ken's legacy continues and comes full circle to his beginnings. Please contact the Community Foundation for Muskegon County at (231) 722-4538, or you may contribute on-line at [www.cffmc.org/donations](http://www.cffmc.org/donations).

Adamant in his belief that life should be lived here and now, Ken insisted that there be no memorial service. Instead, he suggested that his old friends make a drink, play some music, relax and enjoy this day – and every day – as much as he always tried to. And, if in your listening, you happen upon that old tune by Lady Day, Ken would be so pleased if you think of him when she sings "...and I'll say goodbye with no regrets..."