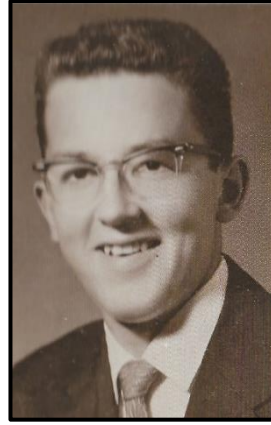


Kent Hamilton Class of 1960
Ephrata Alumni Association Hall of Fame



While Kent Hamilton was a sophomore at Ephrata High School, he was a member of Ephrata High School debate team. On a trip to Spokane for a competition the automobile he was riding in was broadsided by a pickup truck and he was near-fatally injured in the accident; resulting in a six-week coma and the beginning of traumatic brain injury recovery.

When Kent was able to return to school, he spent his lunch hour diligently working on his physical rehabilitation, forcing his injured body to continuously circle the gymnasium floor. His fine-motor skills were severely compromised.

The respect for Kent's efforts did not come to full force amongst his classmates until several years later when they learned of his 33-year journey learning to cope with his life-shattering losses he experienced on February 01, 1958.

After graduation from Ephrata High School, Kent:

- **Received a BA degree from Central Washington College in 1965, majoring in Business and Economics.**
 - **Began career (quote) “working at working”. “Consisting of looking for work interspersed with minimum wage jobs”.**
 - **Attempted to find a place in the working world from 1974 to 1991, working in state law and justice programs, as a Thurston County Planner, for DSHS and VISTA. Formed Hamilton Enterprises working as a realtor and appraiser, and creating REAL-A-Scope, a precursor to Multiple Listing for Realtors.**
 - **Gratefully accepted a second miracle in 1991 when brought into contact with the Washington State Head Injury Foundation and the Center for Cognitive Rehabilitation. These organizations led to re-examining and reformulating the thinking that had led to a critically low self-concept; opening the door to a better life.**
 - **Helped people cope and live with brain injuries and sought to protect them by leading a brain injury support group for 15 years and raising money for purchase and distribution of bicycle helmets.**
 - **Did not receive a third miracle while caught up in a drowning accident.**
- Kent Newell Hamilton 1942 - 2019**

From Don Ennis, Class of 1960 upon learning of Kent's death.

I was on the Ephrata debate team along with Kent. My debate partner was Susan Deck. We went to Gonzaga for a competition and our group returned in two cars. Kent was in the first car and it was broadsided by a pickup just past Ritzville. The cars did not have seat belts and many of the passengers were expelled from the car. Kent was in the front middle seat and was the only one with serious injury. His head hit the windshield. I remember that night and seeing him in a coma in the hospital in Moses Lake. He had a bad head/brain injury and was not expected to survive. That he did and that he went on to live a full life is a testament to his strength. He was a tough guy and we will miss him.

Kent Newell Hamilton Obituary

Kent died in a drowning accident at his home in Milton, Washington on March 19, 2019. He was born in Wenatchee, Washington, to Paul and Jean Hamilton on April 25, 1942. At the age of 15, Kent was near-fatally injured in a car accident, resulting in a six-week coma, and the beginning of brain injury recovery. He graduated from Central Washington University in Business and Economics, and briefly worked at Boeing. In Olympia, he formed Hamilton Enterprises and created REAL-A-Scope, a precursor to Multiple Listing for Realtors. He worked in state law and justice programs, was a Thurston County Planner, and was briefly Thurston County Parks Director. Following his marriage to Harriet "Heather" Weeda Dale, he moved to Milton.

Kent was a realtor and an appraiser, and served as Milton City Councilman. In 1990, 42 years after his brain injury, Kent received treatment at Good Samaritan Hospital's Brain Injury Rehabilitation Center. He highly valued it and it was life changing for him.

He led a brain injury support group for 15 years with his wife's support, and in connection with Good Samaritan Hospital. With his wife's support, he raised money for bicycle helmets for children and adults; arranged events to fit and distribute them at community events, schools, and the Puyallup Fair with the cooperation of the Brain Injury Association of Washington (now called Brain Injury Alliance) and many businesses. He helped people cope and live with brain injuries, and hoped to protect people from getting brain injuries, which we know he did.

His other two greatest joys were sailing, and his yard, which had a fish pond and the park he built. He and his wife spent happy times sailing in the Puget Sound, both the Canadian and Washington San Juan Islands, the Hood Canal, the Strait of Juan de Fuca, and some of the Strait of Georgia, Victoria, and parts of Vancouver Island.