



## Kent Sheldon Peckham

May 22, 1962 - February 14, 2020

On Friday, February 14 of 2020, Kent Sheldon Peckham of Statesville went to be with the Lord. Kent was born in Breesport, NY, on May 22, 1962 to his loving parents Lauren and Joyce. He grew up in a household where tinkering and building things wasn't just a hobby, but a living. From a young age, he became infatuated with race cars and ended up pursuing a career as a mechanical engineer with the Eastman Kodak Company after graduating from SUNY Alfred State College in 1982. While an engineer at Kodak, he started to pursue his passion – racing. He met his loving wife Christine during this time and they happily married on December 7, 1985. Kent was a factory driver for Coyote Racing Products during his karting days until moving up to racing dirt modifieds in New York in his spare time. On October 4, 1996, Kent and Christine had a son, and later that following year, he took a job in NASCAR and moved his family to Mooresville. Over the years he worked with such racing legends as Jimmy Means, Bill Elliott, Richard Petty, Ray Evernham, and others until retiring from NASCAR in 2015 to focus on his classic car work. He worked with longtime friend Uwe Wittkamp and helped to build many motorcycles and classic cars over the years until the cancer overtook him.

He stood up to his cancer with that same fire in his eyes that we saw whenever he stepped into a race car, be it a modified, late model, or go kart. He would drive anything and he would always find the fun in it. He was the greatest husband and father one could have asked for; his infectious smile

always finding a way to make you happy, the little jokes to keep family and friends going, the questions he'd ask instead of saying "Are you insane?" He didn't mind helping out his fellow racers, he wasn't flashy, and he had the biggest heart.

Kent was preceded in death by his parents Lauren and Joyce Peckham.

He is survived by his wife of 34 years Christine, his son Kyle (Danielle), and his brother David (Cathy).

The family also wishes to thank everyone in the racing community from both New York and North Carolina, as well as the gracious staff at Wake Forest Baptist Medical Center and Iredell Memorial Hospital for their help and support through this trying time.

The family will receive friends on Friday, February 21 from 2:00-3:00 PM with a service following at 3:00 PM at St. Therese Catholic Church in Mooresville.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to the American Cancer Society.

Cavin-Cook Funeral Home & Crematory, Mooresville, is serving the Peckham family. Condolences may be made to the family at [www.cavin-cook.com](http://www.cavin-cook.com).

# Cemetery Details

## Cavin-Cook FH & Crematory

494 E. Plaza Drive  
Mooresville, NC 28115

# Previous Events

## Receiving Friends

FEB 21. 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM (ET)

St. Therese Catholic Church  
217 Brawley School Road  
Mooresville, NC 28117

## Mass

FEB 21. 3:00 PM - 4:00 PM (ET)

St. Therese Catholic Church  
217 Brawley School Road  
Mooresville, NC 28117

# Tribute Wall



“ *Kent Sheldon Peckham*

February 14, 2021 at 11:24 AM



“ *Kent Sheldon Peckham*

February 14, 2021 at 11:04 AM



“ *Kent Sheldon Peckham*

February 14, 2021 at 11:03 AM



“ *The other day I was watching something about racing and thought, "I wonder how Kent is." I am so very sorry to hear of his passing. I knew him when we both lived at Westbrook Commons while at RIT. He was the kid with the go-kart parts in his living room. My deepest sympathies to his family.*

**Debbie DiBacco** - April 16, 2020 at 06:02 PM

MW

“ Chris, Kyle & Family. My deepest Condolences to all of you. Kent will be dearly missed. He was always smiling and happy. When at the track he would help any one that asked. I remember one of the first times I met him was when i worked at Heintz Bros.and would brought in the reindeer snacks that you had made for us.. ( always loved that ). He was such a great guy, friend and im sure most of all Husband and father to his family. I always liked watching him race at Carolina Speedway and down at Charlotte when i was able to see him. God bless your family. Mark Wilburn



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Mark Wilburn - February 21, 2020 at 07:04 PM

DW

“ My condolences to Chris, Kyle, and family. Kent was a champion's champion. He always had a positive outlook and worked hard at all he attempted. I fondly remember the nights in the Churchville race shop and the time spent with all of you on the road. He taught me much about racing, may he rest in peace.

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Doug Wells - February 20, 2020 at 06:54 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Kent Sheldon Peckham.



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February 20, 2020 at 11:47 AM

LR

“ Kent lived life the way it should be lived - with a loving family, doing something he loved, and touching people's lives along the way. His spirit will go on.



Lisa (Guile) Raber - February 20, 2020 at 09:14 AM



“ Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Kent Sheldon Peckham.



February 19, 2020 at 08:41 PM

JR

“ Chris & Kyle,  
We're sure going to miss him.. he was one of the good ones.. We are keeping you both in our thoughts & prayers.



Jimmy Means Racing - February 19, 2020 at 07:42 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Kent Sheldon Peckham.



February 19, 2020 at 07:36 PM



“ *Medium Dish Garden was purchased for the family of Kent Sheldon Peckham.*



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February 18, 2020 at 11:08 AM



“ *Chris- I will never forget the conversation I had with your father when you and Kent were getting serious. Stan came into my office at Xerox with much concern in his voice. He knew I was into racing and he thought I was ok, but he wanted reassurance that these racing people were not bums. I knew Kent well enough that I could reassure Stan that racers (and Kent in particular) were good people. He left my office feeling a little better and I was able to reassure him many times after that. Kent was a good guy and you made a great couple and I am sure great parents. God bless.*

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**dick and mary montgomery** - February 17, 2020 at 08:30 PM



“ *My partner Bruce and I met Kent at the GVKC kart club in the early 80's. Right away it was clear that he could DRIVE. That drive and enthusiasm stayed with him his entire life. He never failed to add his effort and time to the things he did with an infectious positive attitude. It was a great honor to have known him. Love Ron Reding*

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**ron reding** - February 17, 2020 at 06:12 PM

DP

“ Kent was one of the best human beings I ever had the pleasure of knowing. From our years together at Kodak through his move to North Carolina I never encountered anyone who did not respect and like him. Always true to his heart, family came first with racing always making a move to the front. It will never make sense to me in this life why exceptional Men like Kent are taken this early and in this way. I love you Kent. Rest Easy my friend. Love you Chris and Kyle. Your friend, Dale Parks



Dale Parks - February 17, 2020 at 05:15 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Kent Sheldon Peckham.



February 17, 2020 at 05:00 PM

LC

“ Lynnette M Cook lit a candle in memory of Kent Sheldon Peckham



Lynnette M Cook - February 17, 2020 at 04:43 PM

LC

*There are no words to express out heartfelt sorrow. There was a reason we all reconnected .. To Chris and Kyle , you know what a wonderful person he was. Hold on to those loving memories. Love Lynn & Mike Cook*

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**Lynnette M Cook** - February 17, 2020 at 04:56 PM

MK

“ *Chris and Kyle,  
Kent had the infectious smile I will never forgot. May your memories of him last a lifetime. You and your family will continue to be in our thoughts an prayers during this time.  
Bill and Melissa Kluttz*

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**Melissa Kluttz** - February 17, 2020 at 03:11 PM

LR

“ *Lisa (Guile) Raber lit a candle in memory of  
Kent Sheldon Peckham*



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**Lisa (Guile) Raber** - February 17, 2020 at 02:56 PM

JD

“ Chris and Kyle,

*I am so very sorry for your loss! Kent was such a very nice man and worked very hard at everything he did. If he ever mentioned the knuckleheaded high school kid he put up with during his time working for Jimmy Means in Forest City that was me. I'll always remember his commitment to his work there and his humorous answers/questions in response to my stupid questions. At the time I was beginning to race karts and he was always willing to give me advice and guidance and listen to my racing stories. He treated everyone with respect and set a great example for everyone who crossed his path. I'm thankful I crossed his path from '98 through '00. I can't imagine the toll this illness took on him and his loved ones and I pray for the peace and comfort to carry you through this time of deep loss.*

*May God bless you and keep you,*

*Jeff Davis*

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**Jeff Davis** - February 17, 2020 at 01:30 PM

GA

“ So sorry to hear about Kent. We had some good times with you guys. You are in my thoughts and prayers.

*Gidget Arnold, Austin and Isaac Harris*

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**Gidget Arnold** - February 17, 2020 at 12:59 PM