



William Kennie Bass Jr.

September 1, 1963 - October 21, 2025

To say Kennie Bass was a wordsmith would be an understatement.

And throughout his lifetime, he put words to use as well as anyone on a daily basis through his occupation as a television anchor/reporter.

Born William Kennie Bass, Jr. on September 1, 1963, he was forever known as "Kennie" or, "KB."

He had a presence on local television screens dating back to the 1980s.

Kennie had a passion for sports and launched his career by doing high school football reports for various radio stations. He kept his hands in radio for many years even after venturing into television.

A kid from Tyler Mountain, Kennie worked hard throughout his life at various restaurants to reach the dream of one day doing sports on television. He was a proud graduate of Nitro High School. From there he was thrilled to gain a journalism degree from Marshall University, another school he truly loved.

Kennie started his TV career serving as "Beeper" on "Mr. Cartoon" at WSAZ.

From there, he moved into the sports department.

After years in sports, Kennie transitioned into news at WCHS-TV and also FOX 11. It is at those two stations where Kennie's talents truly shined.

Kennie became an award-winning reporter for the station. He earned several prestigious Murrow Awards for his work. He was also recognized many times by The Associated Press and West Virginia Broadcasters Association. Kennie picked up the AP "Lifetime Achievement Award" and was also an Emmy winner.

His highest honor for his years of work on the air was being inducted into the West Virginia Broadcasting Hall of Fame.

Kennie was also inducted into Nitro High School's Hall of Achievement.

Hard-edge investigative pieces along with heartwarming pieces tell just a small part of Kennie's on-air talents. He was an outstanding anchor, bringing a professional, relaxed flow to the viewer when the red light would go on.

Kennie spearheaded election coverage for the station. He knew the races and issues inside and out.

He would also lend his talents to "Town Hall" coverage and when it came time to broadcasting Christmas parades, Kennie was at the front and center to help describe the units filling the streets of Charleston and Huntington.

In addition, Kennie provided several stories about movies with his "Screen Gems" segment and local theatre with his "On Stage" features.

Kennie was truly a movie buff as well as a terrific actor.

He appeared in countless plays for area theatre down through the years. One of his best-ever performances was playing Oscar Madison in "The Odd Couple."

Kennie travelled not only in West Virginia but into other states to perform in murder mysteries.

Besides acting, Kennie had a beautiful musical voice. He was always happy to sing for any event and especially loved doing the national anthem at sporting events.

Add it all up and it is safe to say had Kennie chosen to move to California and be an actor he would have flourished at the highest level.

Kennie was an avid reader. He was always reading. He had an affection for comic books from a young age and had quite the collection.

While he did many things on television, perhaps what he loved the most traced him back to his humble beginnings of talking high school football. Kennie was a co-host of the popular "Friday Night Football Extra" for 25 seasons. Kennie's colorful description of highlights made him the hit of the show each and every week.

Kennie was happy to MC banquets. He involved himself many years judging an array of great foods and deserts at various fairs and festivals in the region.

He enjoyed food, from the small hometown diners to the elegant, world-class restaurants.

Kennie Bass was truly a man of many talents.

Most of all, he had a gift for making others laugh and feeling good about themselves.

He loved animals to the highest degree. He was never without his share of dogs and cats to enjoy the day.

Most importantly, he loved his family and God.

Kennie's late parents were the late William Kennie, Sr. Bass and Carol Harper Bass.

He is survived by his loving wife, Claire Bass.

Kennie was one of three children and is survived by sister, Cathy Bass Hurley and her husband, Joel, brother, Phillip, and his wife, Heather.

Other survivors include uncles John David Harper and Bobby Harper (and wife Kathy); aunts Betty Francisco and Nancy Maclean; nephews Ryne Hurley, Jason Bass , Adam Bass, Christopher Bass and Joshua Bass; niece Heather Bass Hartwell; daughter Casey Obryan and husband, Jacob; and grandchildren Jessa and Carter.

A visitation will be at the Clay Center Friday evening, October 24, 2025 from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to either the Kanawha County Animal Shelter, Children's Theatre of Charleston or the Charleston Light Opera Guild.

Previous Events

Visitation

OCT **24**. 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Clay Center

1 Clay Square

Charleston, WV 25301

Tribute Wall

AF

“ Anne Flynn Wear and family purchased the Always by Your Side - Glassware for the family of William Kennie Bass Jr..



Anne Flynn Wear and family - December 02, 2025 at 05:55 PM

AF

“ Anne Flynn Wear and family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of William Kennie Bass Jr..

Anne Flynn Wear and family - December 02, 2025 at 05:55 PM

CH

“ 1 file added to the album In Loving Memory of Kennie Bass



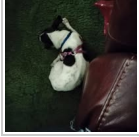
Cathy Bass Hurley - October 27, 2025 at 06:29 AM

MB

“ My deepest condolences. Maureen Balding



Maureen Balding - October 26, 2025 at 03:27 PM



“ Praying 🙏 for the family and friends

Darlene Foster - October 26, 2025 at 10:32 AM



“ 9 files added to the album *In Loving Memory of Kennie Bass*



Cathy Bass Hurley - October 26, 2025 at 09:46 AM



“ Linda lit a candle in memory of William Kennie Bass Jr.



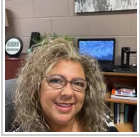
Linda - October 25, 2025 at 03:18 AM



“ My condolences to the family and friends of Kennie. I am also from Kennies hometown. I'll miss seeing him on the news. He was such a nice guy. We need more Kennies.



jenny roberts - October 24, 2025 at 09:20 PM



“ *Jamie Meddings lit a candle in memory of William Kennie Bass Jr.*



Jamie Meddings - October 24, 2025 at 08:17 PM



“ *Connie Hatfield lit a candle in memory of William Kennie Bass Jr.*



Connie Hatfield - October 24, 2025 at 05:18 PM



“ *Praying for peace for the family, Kennie thank you for the memories.*

Robin Smoot - October 24, 2025 at 03:56 PM



“ We still can't quite wrap our mind around the fact that a son of our heart is gone. Kennie "KB" played many characters over the years. He was a gifted student--performer--newsman--wordsmith, but most of all he was a model of a person who never gave up. He overcame many issues that would have broken others. He was a survivor--a man who loved laughter and a good story. In the process of reporting the news for so many decades, he has now become the news. I have seen so many different posts / comments about his passing. Over the years, he left his imprint on the lives of so many who were blessed to be loved by him. Our family was among that group. Godspeed, Captain Avenger. Batman had nothing on you. Ken and Cathy Sepko

Catherine Sepko - October 24, 2025 at 03:46 PM

RR

“ Rose Esposito Rupe lit a candle in memory of William Kennie Bass Jr.



Rose Esposito Rupe - October 24, 2025 at 02:32 PM

ES

“ Kennie was the crown jewel of our state. He was a wonderful person. Always enjoyed talking Tennis with him. I moved away from WV back in 1991, but always looked forward watching him on the news when I came home to visit my parents.

Eric V. Snyder - October 24, 2025 at 01:20 PM

GD

Kennie was always Kennie. I had the privilege of knowing him when, as he put it, he was "just a poor boy from Tyler Mountain". But, who he was then, the kid with a big smile and genuine concern for others was the same person millions got to know on tv and radio for multiple decades. From where he started to where he ended up in life, is a great example of where true faith, hard work, dedicated talent, and a big heart can take you. The world is a little darker today, but Heaven is a lot brighter. Well done, Kennie Bass. Well done.

Gene Duffield - October 24, 2025 at 09:23 PM



“*Kennie was a wonderful man. May the Lord give your family, peace and comfort at this time and always*

Jodi Cope - October 24, 2025 at 12:51 PM

LP

“*Kennie was one great guy. We actually dated a while in college. We drifted apart yet remained friends since the 80's. I didn't see him too often, but when I did he never failed to ask how my family was doing. I am so glad he found such happiness with his wife. They look like they were perfect together. I'm sending up prayers for Claire and all of Kennie's family and many friends. The world is a little sadder today just knowing that Kennie is no longer here. However, what a great welcome he's having in heaven. I'll bet his mom was the first to greet him. R.I.P. my friend.*



Lynda Pelfrey - October 24, 2025 at 12:37 PM

LR

“*Kennie was an amazing person inside and out. He always showed so much compassion to so many & especially in his work. His love for his community and for his state shown brightly around the world. Heaven became more beautiful. We will miss you Kennie & the love you so freely gave.*

LeAnn Randolph - October 24, 2025 at 12:34 PM

SA

“*I had the honor of taking care of Kennie for quite some time. He was always a light in all the dark, an uplifting comfort on the hard days. Such an inspiration, to be faced with hard times and still see the good in life. Claire and Kennie were always such delights when Kennie was admitted. The best family, I pray for comfort for Claire in this time. Such a loving, attentive wife!! We sure will miss Kennie.*



Samantha - October 24, 2025 at 12:30 PM

TL

“*He was our local Batman. RIP Sweet soul. Watch over Claire. We loved our Batman. My brother Adam Lucas sketched this pic*



Teresa Lucas - October 24, 2025 at 12:13 PM

TM

“ Tom and April McLane planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of William "Kennie" Bass Jr..

Tom and April McLane - October 24, 2025 at 10:42 AM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of William Kennie Bass Jr..



October 24, 2025 at 10:42 AM

SH

“ Our hearts are broken in our home town. Deepest sympathy to all.



Susie and Mike Haynes - October 24, 2025 at 06:46 AM

EA

“ Ed, Kathy, Jessica & Justin Asbury purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of William Kennie Bass Jr..



Ed, Kathy, Jessica & Justin Asbury - October 23, 2025 at 06:01 PM

AK

“ *Kennie liveed right below us Tyler mt so sorry for your loss 🙏🙏
Alan kellar friend*

Alan kellar - October 23, 2025 at 04:57 PM

TO

Kenny bash will b sadly missed prayers n Thoughts PRAYERS

ToniJett - October 23, 2025 at 06:51 PM

TO

Thoughts n 🙏

ToniJett - October 23, 2025 at 06:52 PM



“ *Strength & Solace Spray was purchased for the
family of William Kennie Bass Jr..*



October 23, 2025 at 03:39 PM

L&

“ *Lauren, Fran, Laura, Austin, Jenny & Jed planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in
honor of William "Kennie" Bass Jr..*

Lauren, Fran, Laura, Austin, Jenny & Jed - October 23, 2025 at 03:39 PM

AD

“ *What a terrible loss to Charleston and to this world. He always felt
like family whether you knew him or not. I didn't know Kennie but I
wish I had. I loved him, he always felt like family. May he rest in
peace.*

Alice Dorsey - October 23, 2025 at 02:52 PM

RM

“ So sorry to hear of the passing of Kennie. He was a great journalist and more importantly a great person....My sincere condolences to his family and friends.

*Rick Modesitt
Parkersburg, WV*

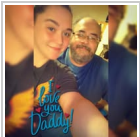
Rick Modesitt - October 23, 2025 at 01:42 PM

MI

“ *Monica Ingram lit a candle in memory of William Kennie Bass Jr.*



Monica Ingram - October 23, 2025 at 12:17 PM



“ *Montana Parsons lit a candle in memory of William Kennie Bass Jr.*



Montana Parsons - October 23, 2025 at 12:14 PM

TC

“ *Kennie knew every nook and cranny for all those small towns that make Appalachia so special! He and I would engage in quizzes of small school nicknames and stadium names. He relished when I challenged him in a one one and he always whipped me! We have lost a true friend but the memories will always be treasured.*

tony cavalier - October 23, 2025 at 12:12 PM

BL

“ *Bobbie Levy lit a candle in memory of William Kennie Bass Jr.*



Bobbie Levy - October 23, 2025 at 11:43 AM

JH

“ *Kennie was one of my best friends. I started when we were young, playing baseball a.d hanging out. He was my roommate our second semester of our freshman year. He transferred to Marshall and was looking for a roommate, that would be me. Our first day in the dorm at holderby hall, we had a floor meeting and kennie wanted to make a good first impression on all that were there he wanted to start wrestling me in front of everyone. He was a hit right away. Kennie was very intelligent, he rarely opened up a book the entire semester, he could retain information without studying, he pretty much went to school to have fun and socialize. You are going to be missed. There is a star in heaven named after you, love from Joe hart*

Joe hart - October 23, 2025 at 10:11 AM



Praying 🙏 for the family and friends

Darlene Foster - October 26, 2025 at 10:31 AM