

An Open Letter to ArPTA Members Regarding Kerry Williams, PTA:

If you have not already heard, there was a great loss in our physical therapy community early this past week. Kerry Williams, PTA, quietly passed from this Earth after a struggle with lung cancer on Sunday, November 30th, 2008. I have not been a resident of Arkansas for very long, but I did know Kerry. He was a fixture at APTA meetings and was THE representative from Arkansas to the HOD and the Assembly when the APTA made the switch in governance bodies. I am only sorry I had minimal opportunity to interact with him over the past two to three years as he was struggling with the treatment for his cancer. I was honored to be able to attend his funeral this past week, and it was obvious, through the testimony of his friends, family, and co-workers that he was just as loved, honored, and respected by all he came in contact with. Kerry worked with the special population at the Timber Ridge Ranch and strongly devoted himself to the healing of all of the patients he had the opportunity to work with. He was an outstanding employee and was awarded the "Outstanding Employee of the Year" on too many occasions to be listed in this brief letter. Through the ArPTA, he had been honored on two occasions as Arkansas's Outstanding PTA and was a mentor for many of the active physical therapist assistant's in our State Association and in our parent body, the APTA, through his mentoring and participation in the National Assembly.

I was moved to tears on many occasions during the memorial service for Kerry as his life in the military and service in Vietnam, his gymnastics coaching passion, his later choice to attend PTA school at UCA, his service to our profession and through the Timber Ridge Ranch, his spiritual devotion, and his strong commitment to family and friends were all reviewed and honored. We will suffer a great loss to physical therapy and a hole in our community with the passing of Kerry Williams. As Cheryl Jordan, our present Affiliate Delegate to the National Assembly, so succinctly stated to me this week..."he was a great man". Please keep the family and friends of this great man in your prayers as they suffer through this loss.

Respectfully submitted,


Steven W. Forbush, PT, MS

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President, ArPTA

Ashby Funeral Home

Kerry Williams

(Died November 30, 2008)

 Kerry Gene Williams, age 62, of Benton, went to be with the Lord, November 30, 2008 at the home of his sister and brother-in-law, Marsha and Tim Smith. He is preceded in death by his parents, Harold O. and Velma Bell Williams; a sister, Ray Louise Bailey and a niece, Letetia Rummel.



He is survived by his son, Brinson L. Williams and wife Kellye Williams of Benton; sister, Marsha Smith and husband Tim Smith of Benton. He is also survived by three grandchildren, Sydni Williams, Alex Williams and Brinson Williams of Benton. Kerry Williams also had a host of Special Friends throughout his life, including his special friend Kathy "Kat" Aldrich and the "The Honkaks."

Mr. Williams was employed by Timber Ridge Ranch Neuro Restorative Services as a Physical Therapy Assistant for 21 years, in which he dedicated the better part of his life helping and improving the lives of others.

Awards-Commendations achieved by Kerry Williams: He was twice awarded Army Commendation Medal, United States Combat Infantry Badge, Republic of South Vietnam Badge of Valor, Timber Ridge Ranch Employee of the Year 1989, 90, 91, 93, and 94, Arkansas Gymnastics Coaches Hall of Fame 1994, ArAPTA Legislative Committee Member 1993, Student Liaison ArAPTA 1994-95, Affiliate Delegate to the APTA and National Assembly 1992-1994, ArAPTA Outstanding PTA of 2002 and 2003, Nominated for Clinical Instructor of the Year 2002 and Life Time Achievement-Arkansas Gymnastics 2007.

The family wishes to give special thanks to Dr. Larry Mendelsohn and the staff at Little Rock Hematology Oncology Clinic, CARTI and Dr. Darby at the Little Rock VA. Funeral services will be at 10:00 a.m. Thursday, December 4, 2008 at Ten Mile Missionary Baptist Church in Lonsdale, Arkansas with burial at Pine Crest Memorial Park in Saline County. The minister will be Bro. Vance Nutt.

Visitation will be from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. Tuesday, December 2, 2008 and 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. Wednesday December 3, 2008 at Ashby Funeral Home.

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