



## Kenneth Hansen Morphis

November 24, 1958 - October 22, 2022

Kenny Morphis, 63, died peacefully on October 22, 2022 with his wife by his side. He was born November 24, 1958 in Burgaw, NC to the late Rev. Luther Morphis and Mary Frances Page Morphis. The son of Baptist missionaries, Kenny grew up in West Berlin, Germany.

He loved playing in the band, participating in all sports and he remained lifelong friends through the Berlin Brats Alumni Association. Upon returning to the states he was on the tennis team at Gardner-Webb and found his passion in coaching competitive gymnastics. As co-owner of Salem Gymnastics & Swim Kenny impacted the sport of gymnastics far and wide. He coached tens of thousands of athletes including National Champions and college scholarship recipients, and he was inducted into the Region 8 USA Gymnastics Hall of Fame.

However, for Kenny, winning was never the main goal but a byproduct of working hard, never giving up, and not taking yourself too seriously. A beloved mentor, he had a flair for calling out the crap, telling corny jokes, and getting you to be the best you could be.

After being diagnosed with end stage COPD, Kenny received a double lung transplant, demonstrating once more the rewards of courage and hard work and gifting us all with extra time to be with him. His lungs, however, finally gave out.

Kenny is survived by his wife of 34 years, Beth Minter Morphis, their children Jon and Alex, his mother Mary Frances Morphis and sister Ellen Morphis Citarella (Steve). A Requiem Mass will be held at 11:00 am on Friday, October 28 at St Timothy's Episcopal Church in Winston-Salem. Burial and a garden party will follow on church grounds.

Memorials may be made to the Salem Gymnastics Minter-Morphis Scholarship Fund by sending a check to SGBC, 4870 Country Club Rd, Winston-Salem NC 27104 (with "scholarship" in the memo line) or to St. Timothy's Episcopal Church, 2575 Parkway Dr, Winston-Salem NC 27103. Condolences may be made online at [www.salemfh.com](http://www.salemfh.com).

Kenny will be greatly missed. May his legacy live on.