

## OBITUARY



**WES LINK 87**, of Downingtown, PA, passed on February 17, 2021. He was born in Philadelphia on October 11, 1933, to the late Harry and Marian Link. Wes was predeceased by his loving wife, Barbara, in 2013. He is survived by his daughters Tracy Rogusky (Vince) and Sharon Peterson (Scott); his grandchildren Austin, Avery, Tanner, Brandon, and Kristen; his brothers Ken and Don and his many loved nephews and nieces.

Wes graduated from Lower Merion High School in 1951 and Penn State University in 1955, where he excelled at baseball. His college experience at PSU & Kappa Sigma Fraternity made him a life-long PSU football fan. He rarely missed a game or tailgate. Wes honorably served in the U.S. Army in Korea. He then worked in his father's business, Link Engineering Company, taking the helm in 1972, until he retired in 2017.

Wes loved baseball, playing well into his 40s for Narberth in the Delco League and later serving on the board for the West Chester Adult Baseball League. Wes was a member of Wayne Presbyterian Church's congregation. He especially enjoyed WPC's choir. Wes will be dearly missed by all who knew him and loved him. A private family graveside service will be held at Sunset Memorial Park in Huntingdon Valley, PA. A memorial celebration of his life will be announced at a later date. Donations may be made in Wes's memory to Wayne Presbyterian Church [waynepres.org](http://waynepres.org).



# Alpha-Delta News

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[www.kappasigpsu.com](http://www.kappasigpsu.com)

## WES LINK MEMORIAL ISSUE

### Remembering Brother Wes Link: October 11, 1933 – February 17, 2021



For those of you that may have not heard, **Brother Wes Link '55** joined the Chapter Celestial on February 17, 2021. It's an understatement to say that Wes was a loyal and active member of our chapter. He will be missed, but never forgotten. We are rightfully dedicating this entire issue to his memory. If you have any stories about Wes you would like to share for our archives, please email them to Ed Gorkes at [egorkes@gmail.com](mailto:egorkes@gmail.com).

## ALUMNI PROFILE: WES LINK '55

*The following profile was published in a previous issue and includes true sentiments about his Kappa Sigma experience in his own words.*

**Wes Link '55** was approached by Kappa Sig in 1953, who encouraged him to join the fraternity. He had been living in downtown State College and was taken to the house and introduced to the brothers. "I became a brother in spring of '54," Wes said. "There are so many things that happened when I was an active brother. We had Hell Week back then, which was a whole different experience than it is today. But I learned a lot of things – to get along with a wide range of guys and to be a neater person. It helped get me ready for going into the Army



*"But beyond games and tailgating we can play important roles in one another's lives."*

and going to Korea after I graduated."

Wes describes his time with the fraternity as "something he really enjoyed" that affected every other part of his life. During his time with Kappa Sig in his senior year spring session, he met his wife-to-be Barbara Van Matre, who was a Tri Sigma sister.

"I enlisted in the Army in 1956," he said. "I was discharged from the Army and scheduled to arrive in the U.S. on August 20, 1958. Our plan was to be

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## Brothers (and a few Little Sisters) Share their Memories of Wes

“Great to have known Wes as an undergraduate brother and after. A True Kappa Sigma role model. May he Rest in Peace.” -**Frank Mongiovi '86**

“What a good man Wes was. Wes is an Alpha Delta Treasure, and so many of us Kappa Sigs no matter what age, know of him so fondly. Kappa Sigs for many decades enjoyed his company and contributions to Alpha Delta Chapter. Many of us have such good stories of spending time with Wes. In the house, at parties, and at tailgates. A true Kappa Sig Alpha Delta Legend. One thing I was recently reminded of, he remembered everybody's name he met throughout his years of returning to Penn State. RIP Wes Link. AEKDB.” -**Bruce Brackbill '78**

“He was such a great guy who so loved PSU and Kappa Sig. The original creator of Concoction. The many hours, days, and weekends spent with Wes can never be forgotten. He was the greatest. He kept an index card of names and important details because he knew so many brothers that it was hard to retain it all, so he built his own database. A truly warm-hearted and loving guy who just wanted to be sure that everyone was having a good time. They just don't get any better than Wes. He will be missed by thousands of Kappa Sigs and their mates. One of a kind.” -**Richard Mascaro '67**

“Decades of PSU Kappa Sigs knew and enjoyed Wes's company due to his numerous visits to the house and the party room. He was the first alum many of us ever met. A great guy and a true Kappa Sig. Very sad to see his passing, and our prayers and thoughts go out to his family.” -**Lee Thaete '79**

“What a tremendous loss. I'm so happy that I knew him as a friend and brother. When my time comes, I look forward to imbibing in some concoction with him and reminiscing about the good times that we had. As Wes might have said, ‘Zendingular Dendangular.’” -**Jim France '82**

“Wes was a one-of-a-kind person and I couldn't imagine life at PSU or otherwise without him being a part of it. So many good times and memories. His impact reaches far beyond what he probably realized.

Rest in Peace, my friend and brother. AEKDB.” -**Michael Reinert '97**

“The brotherhood is less today than it was yesterday. But more, too, because we knew and loved our dear Brother Wes. Rest easy, dear brother. We will always remember!” -**Charlie Fey '71**

“One of my first memories of Alpha Delta was of an older gentleman in the corner of the living room dancing his heart out, handing out refreshments to those who needed them, and doing much better with the ladies than anyone else in the room (though he was utterly faithful and devoted to his wife). Little did I know at the time this would be a preview of weekends for decades to come. Weekends filled with some of the best memories of our collective lives. Wes was always there to greet you with



unbridled energy and the reminder of how to live life to the fullest. Rest easy, brother. The lives you've touched will miss and remember you always. AEKDB.” -**Tom Rice '98**

“Haven't seen you in decades, but still remember you, your friendliness and never-ending good humor well. You are (not were) the quintessential Kappa Sig we all strive to be. RIP and AEKDB Wes.” -**Tim Madden '89**

“If each of us can get to the end of our time on earth and know that everyone we interacted with had the great memories and warm feelings of our dear Brother Wes, we have lived life to its fullest. That is what will sustain our memory of a wonderful, kind, and genuine man. Wishing his family peace at this time.” -**Eric Anderson '84**

“Knowing we're all better men and our fraternity bond is as strong as it is because of the kindness, generosity, and unselfishness of one man is absolutely amazing. I'd like to propose a tailgate this fall to be held in celebration of Wes's life and welcome all to attend to give a final and appropriate farewell to the person who defined what it means to be a Kappa Sig.” -**Tom Tatem '98**

“Goodbye Brother Wes, what a great soul, great person and great friend. I spent so many hours with him over the years, I wish it had been more...he will be sorely missed. My heart goes out to the Kappa Sigma family, but especially to the Link Family. Rest my friend - AEKDB.” -**Dave Albrecht '91**

“I only had the honor of meeting Wes a handful of times, a few years back, but he was truly a representation of what a Kappa Sigma should be. May his legacy live on with those who follow in his footsteps, as he rests in peace.” -**Matt Svrbely**

“Wes embodied the Star and Crescent: ‘The Star and Crescent shall not be worn by every man, but only by him who is worthy to wear it. He must be a gentleman, a man of honor and courage, a man of zeal, yet humble, an intelligent man, a man of truth, one who tempers action with wisdom and, above all else, one who walks in the light of God.’ Truly a great man and a great loss. Rest in Peace, Brother Wes.” -**Phil Booz '85**

“Celestial Brotherhood for the icon of Alpha Delta Kappa Sigma! Like everyone else I loved Wes and he loved us!” -**Michael De Napoli**

“Here's to Brother Wes Link for being the true embodiment of the Penn State and Kappa Sigma experience for so many of us for so long. The tremendous example of brotherhood he set shall not be forgotten. AEKDB.” -**Steve Mitchell**

“How lucky we all were to have known him.” -**Linda McCann Jeffers '84**

“Brother Link will be missed. Over the years I've had many long chats with Wes... interesting facts: he once had a very unique

## THE QUINTESSENTIAL KAPPA SIG

and personal encounter with princess Grace Kelly; he had an offer to play for the Philadelphia Phillies but I believe he played for Penn State instead; he is widely credited with propagating the popularity of the term 'concoction'; he invented the highly efficient 'underarm' or as we call it, 'Wes link' style of pizza delivery; he is credited with inventing the 'wash the hands' dance move; and he is 'One of Jackson's Men.' You will be missed Brother Link. RIP & AEKDB." -**James Pries**

"Wes was the greatest of all the Alpha Deltas. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family." -**John Wray '73**

"Wes embodied the meaning of AEKDB. I somehow remembered these words from long ago: 'He rambled up to heaven to see who all was there, and there was all the heavenly gang around the golden chair. Some were smoking cigarettes and some were dancing jigs, and they were all good friends of his cause they were Kappa Sigs.'" -**Stephen Onufrak**

"As a lot of the brothers have said Wes was a true icon and a model Kappa Sigma. I think I can speak for a lot of the brothers post re-colonization/new charter (>2009) that Wes had a huge impact on the chapter in its early days. He served not only as an advisor to brothers, a party-starter, and a historian, but also as a role model and inspiration for all brothers but especially for brothers who had to work hard to get a chapter off the ground in the late 2000s/early 2010s. He always had time to pass on some wisdom, ensure that the new brothers knew their history, and just generally be there for us as a support system which meant so much to all of us who were getting the chapter back off the ground. Getting that support from Wes was extremely important to all of us because he didn't have to do it, but he felt the brotherly responsibility to do so. For new brothers and pledges to see Wes at a tailgate or chapter function showed that our brotherhood wasn't for a moment or a college term, but for life. I have some amazing memories that I'll cherish of Wes from the tailgates at Research Building B, to parties at Gale's house and Gill Street, initiation, the presentation of our charter again, and this text every home game for about 6 years: 'Are you at Indigo yet?' A true legend & someone who will be missed dearly. RIP WES

AEKDB." -**Michael Vough**

"Wes is Kappa Sigma personified." -**Brendan Stenson '05**

"Wes is a true Alpha Delta Kappa Sig icon. He never lost his love of the brotherhood and is fondly known by decades of brothers. There is probably not another Kappa Sig that has put a smile on as many brother's faces as him. Godspeed to Wes Link." -**Scott Foulke '88**

"I was at a kids' soccer game about 20 years ago and I heard a familiar voice cheering the team my kid was on. Turned around to see Wes. His grandchildren went to school (through high school) with my kids. I had the opportunity to know a different side of Wes when I'd run into him at games, concerts, and at my gym. He was an amazing dad and granddad as well as a legend to all of us." -**Tom Beckett '85**



"Sorry to hear this news. For those brief times, I was fortunate to spend time with him. He left an indelible mark on my heart and life as a Kappa Sig. AEKDB." -**Carl Crouse '73**

"Wes is and always will be a Kappa Sigma Icon. My first memory of him is of him dancing with the poles in the party room in the basement of the 1980s house. We (meaning the new little sisters) were like 'who is this guy!?' He always lived life to the fullest (at least when he visited Penn State) and supported the house in the same way." -**Carol Bonello McFadden '86**

"Wes was a great friend to all. I considered Wes one of my closest friends and enjoyed his company and the time spent together. You should know that you all meant so much to Wes. He loved Kappa Sigma, and all of the brothers meant the world to him. It was

an honor and a privilege to have known Wes. My condolences go out to the entire Link family and the entire Kappa Sigma family. May Wes Rest in Peace. AEKDB." -**Marc Beard '99**

"As I look through pictures and think about Wes, his friendly smile is what I think was best. He was always happy, never a frown someone to lift you up when you were feeling down. He talked to you like he was your best friend, like he had your back to the very end. When you hung out with Wes there was no place you'd rather be, rest in peace Brother, AEKDB." -**Steven Ruth '96**

"I remember I first met Wes as a pledge one Friday night. He introduced himself and asked me to come with him to the kitchen to help him make a bucket of 'concoction.' He said to me as we are mixing it, 'girls love this stuff.' Yes, they did Wes. And we all loved you." -**Matthew Dippold '98**

"Wes was as much an icon for Penn State Kappa Sigmas as Joe Paterno. He will be missed but will always be remembered. One of my favorite memories with Wes: The night before the 1995 Rose Bowl, a few of us (**Darby Neidig, Don Bradford, Chris Piontko**, and others I believe) went into a random bar in Pasadena. We walk down these steps and literally run into Wes and Ken Link. Next thing we know we all have these full beer steins in our hands (the big ones that hold a liter), courtesy of the Link Brothers. About 1/2 way through the first stein, another round shows up. Yep, looks like it's going to be one of those nights. Then, we somehow manage to run into a group of Kappa Sigs from UCLA (I believe) in this not-so-big bar. Within about 3 minutes flat, EVERYONE has a fresh stein delivered to them! The other Kappa Sigs return in kind and another stein shows up. I remember looking at the 3 1/2 steins sitting in front of each of us, then looking at the rest of our group, each of us having the thought... 'OK, this has gotten out of hand.' We had to literally stop Wes from ordering yet another round... at least until we had the chance to catch up. And for the record, he treated those UCLA kids like they were Alpha Deltas, as if he had known them for years. But of course, without even being there, you all probably knew that was the case." -**Michael Hooks '93**

## ALUMNI PROFILE: WES LINK '55

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married on August 22. Unfortunately, there was a flare-up in Lebanon on the trip back and they kept us an extra 36 hours. I made it back just in time and we did get married.”

Wes and Barbara have now been married for 52 years. He also met friends that would stay with him throughout his life. Wes spent the next 14 years focused on having children and raising his family. Finally, in 1972 he obtained season tickets for Penn State football. He found a retired professor's house to rent on McCormick Street. Since then he has missed just three games in over 30 years.

“I continually think how fortunate I am,” Wes said. “There are so many little details, I could write a book if I had kept good notes. The things of main importance are the people and relationships that you develop during those years and as I've maintained them, through my entire life.”

Wes commented on how lucky he feels to be able to visit with the Kappa Sig brothers whenever he's in town. “I have lots of friends mostly from the years 1972 to the present,” Wes said. “At one time I kept a 3x5 file of index cards with peoples' names in it and it had over 375 names. I used to try to bone up on the names before I went to visit. Now, I probably know as many brothers active and inactive as anyone in the fraternity, though not necessarily by name anymore. However, I still have several Kappas of my era who I'm in contact with on a weekly and monthly basis.”

When asked what's changed with Kappa Sigma since his time there, Wes cited the current status of the fraternity being in between houses. “Even though we don't have a house, the relationships hold strong,” Wes

said. “Kappa Sig isn't about a house – I've been with the fraternity through two houses. It's about the relationships and you can hold



onto those through your whole life.”

Wes recalled on a recent Saturday night after a football game about 20 brothers that lived in one location got together with seven alumni and had a party following the game. “We always tailgate in the same location so that regular gathering forms a bond between alumni and the current brothers who are doing a wonderful job keeping the fraternity on track, as is **Ed Gorkes**, the current

Alumni Chairman,” Wes said. “But beyond games and tailgating we can play important roles in one another's lives.”

Wes cited one fraternity brother who is having significant health issues and is being taken care of by his daughter. Wes helped to keep his spirits high by sending him weekly care packages of Penn State memorabilia, such as blue and white objects and magazine articles pertaining to the sports teams.

When asked what advice he would give active brothers, Wes stressed the need to keep connections with the friends they've made through Kappa Sig. “Do not just take off. Keep the relationships,” Wes said. “Even if you are living at a distance, you can keep some kind of connection through reading a newsletter or calling your friends from the pledge class.”

He had the same message for alumni. “Stay in contact. If you can't get back into the area, then at least call up and try to find out what's going on,” Wes said. “And if you can, try to help out financially – you have to have funds to maintain current costs of operating it would be nice to have more fellas pitching in.”

Wes has supported the fraternity financially and with service through his many years as an alumnus. He served as

a member of the alumni board for several years and became chairman for the 100-year centennial in 1992. “I feel I owe a lot to Kappa Sigma – my experiences which started at Penn State and with Kappa Sigma lead to my marriage, my two daughters, and my five grandkids. The fraternity, the experiences, and the friendship have played a major role in my life and I'll never forget it.”