



William Constantine Kontes
July 20, 1977 -April 14, 2019



Greetings!

I've been contemplating how unfair the world is when it takes a young man who has so much to give to family, friends, associates, and yes, even society. And we are just all left asking, "Why?" For his family these have been incredibly difficult times; just a few brief months ago I wrote of his mother's passing. Both were very supportive of CU Maurice River. I would like to share some thoughts.

William C. Kontes was always wise beyond his years. His obituary (below) described him as having *strength of character*. Reflecting on that observation is the basis of my comments.

I've known William since he was a little boy, as he and his sisters were raised across the street from my parents when my folks became empty nesters. The young Kontes family filled a void for them. Although William's acts of kindness began at a young age he also had a playful side, which carried through to his adult life.

My mother was a sort of neighborhood grandmother to young William. The care for others that he revealed in this relationship earned him my mother's admiration and yes, cookies. Each afternoon my mother had a date with a sweet and a cup of coffee. By around five years of age William had figured out this schedule and for a number of years they had a routine where he would join her for this snack. She would rave about how cute and dear he was; she relished these visits. Later, even in college when home for break, he would often stop in to see her. By then she was a widow, so having a handsome young man visit her was therapeutic and he was aware of that. He simply knew how to make others feel good.

Empathy is another trait for those with *strength of character*. I served on a non-profit board with him and found him to have strong principles. It wasn't uncommon to receive a compassionate call from William if he thought you had in some way been mistreated or betrayed. He had a great sense of right and wrong. He also knew that there were gray areas to be negotiated, as people have many different points of view. He commonly asked a lot of questions to help you reach a logical conclusion, allowing you to understand and share his rationale. This is not to say he did not respect others' point of view; he did. But his devotion to principles gave him a higher level of engagement on the boards in which he served. He was a problem solver and a collaborator.

In my adult life he served as a financial advisor, where he continually used his reasoning skills to make wise decisions. As I look back at our relationship I realize now that he was wise beyond his years. So many people likely benefited from his wisdom. I'm sure his young children have been significant beneficiaries of his love and his mentoring. I see his mother's qualities in all her children - common sense, determination, wisdom, kindness, practicality, and great people skills are some key traits they share. And above all else, love of family.

William had a busy schedule with work, non-profits, and sportsmen interests. But he would always have time to talk about Kim and his children; they were clearly proud parents of Constantine and Sophia. In our presence his love of family was always a governing theme.

With his friends he was private about his illness and did not share his diagnosis. He would tell people he was fine. I suspect that he may have wanted to have joyful interactions in his limited time and live each day to its fullest, negatives be damned.

This is just a snippet; my story with William was a long one but it was still cut far too short. My condolences to his family; their sorrow is deep and their memories dear. Godspeed William, Godspeed.

Jane Morton Galetto

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CU Maurice River Board President

William Constantine Kontes



Devon, PA - William Constantine Kontes, beloved husband, father, son, brother, and uncle, died unexpectedly at age 41 on April 14, 2019. Well-known for his skilled leadership, generosity, humor, strength of character, dynamic personality, and kindness to all, Will excelled at everything he did. He was a great advocate for the people and causes he believed in, and he will be sorely missed by all who knew and loved him.

Born in Vineland, NJ to C. William and Laura Kontes, Will grew up in Millville, NJ. He attended The Ellison School, The Hill School, and American University. After graduating from college, Will began his career at Ameriprise Financial.

He most recently held the position of Managing Director with the Private Client Group of Boening and Scattergood. In both his business and personal life, Will was a mentor to many. He had wisdom beyond his years and an ability to instill absolute confidence in his decisions. He could always be trusted to give thoughtful advice.

Will had already made a great difference in the world, even at his young age. He was very involved in his community and served on the boards of Boys' Latin of Philadelphia Charter School, Wheaton Arts and Cultural Center, and the Bayshore Center at Bivalve. He was also a member of The Society of Colonial Wars, Gulf Mills Golf Club, The Fellowship Gun Club and Old York Road Sports Car Club.

Will embraced life to the fullest. He adored his wife and children above all, and he had a passion for traveling, reading, skiing, golfing, and automobiles. Whether coaching his son's soccer team or attending a daddy-daughter dance, driving in a vintage road rally in Texas or sleeping in a bunk bed at the Fellowship cabin, eating lobsters in Maine in the summer, or dancing in the kitchen on Christmas Eve, he loved to be active and spend time with his family and friends. He enjoyed planning great adventures, and was the consummate host and a great connector of people. Will had perfect comedic timing, impeccable style, and a warm, loving nature. He will be remembered always.

Will is survived by his wife Kim Boyer Kontes, son Constantine William Kontes, and daughter Sophia Alexandra Kontes; his father C. William Kontes (Iris), sisters Alexa Kontes, Zoë Kontes, Laura Kontes Ames (Kevin), nephews Kevin and William Ames, and niece Kalliope Kontes. He was predeceased by his mother Laura Staehle Johnson.

He is also survived by his in-laws Daniel B. Boyer III and Ute Boyer, his brother-in-law Alexander Boyer (Megan), and nieces Keely Boyer and Piper Boyer and his beloved aunts, uncles, cousins, and friends.

A Memorial Service will be held on Saturday, May 4 at 10:30 am at St. David's Episcopal Church, 763 South Valley Forge Rd, Wayne, PA 19087. In lieu of flowers, donations in

Will's memory may be sent to Boys' Latin Foundation, 5501 Cedar Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19143.

Send condolences at www.catagnusfuneralhomes.com

CU ON THE RIVER

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