



## Professor Kenneth Casellas Williams

January 26, 1957 - April 25, 2016

WILLIAMS, Professor Kenneth Casellas - Age 59, passed away Monday, April 25, 2016 at his residence in Lansing, MI. Family hour 1:30 p.m. Monday, May 2, 2016 from the Chapel of Lawrence E. Moon Funeral Home, 906 W. Flint Park Blvd., with funeral service commencing at 2 p.m. Family and friends will assemble at the funeral home 1:30 p.m. Monday for the Memorial Service. There will be no public viewing.

Professor Kenneth “Ken” Casellas Williams was born January 26, 1957 in Flint, Michigan, the son of Elijah and Julia Williams. He attended Bowling Green University for his Undergraduate Degree, University of Texas – El Paso for his Master’s Degree, and University of Texas – Austin for his PhD. ‘Ken’ began teaching at Michigan State University in 1988. He met his wife, Marcie while in London, England in 1995 and the couple engaged October 13, that same year in Tucson, Arizona. ‘Ken’ and Marcie were married on February 14, 2003 in East Lansing, MI. He was a mentor and professor to thousands of students during his career. ‘Ken’ was also a creative and outstanding scholar who published many scholarly books and articles. He was a long standing ALPHA PHI ALPHA member, Jack & Jill member from Elementary through High School, and a Professor of Political Science at Michigan State University and is beloved by many. Above all, he valued his family. His daughter, Katie was the light of his life and he was very proud of her.

Professor Kenneth “Ken” Casellas Williams leaves to cherish his memory: his loving wife, Marcie; 12 year old daughter, Katherine “Katie” both of East Lansing, MI; parents, Elijah and Julia both of Flint; brothers, Gregory of Atlanta, GA and Reginald of Punta Gorda, FL; niece, Mariah; nephews, Julien (Andrea), Jarren and Kellen; great-niece, Jai; a host of other relatives and friends.

If you wish to make a contribution for the benefit of his minor daughter, Katherine Cowley Williams (Date of Birth 9/12/2003), you may do so through Michigan State University Federal Credit Union.

# Previous Events

## Family hour

MAY 2. 1:30 PM (ET)

Lawrence E. Moon Funeral Home Chapel, Flint  
906 W. Flint Park Blvd.  
Flint, MI 48505  
(810) 789-MOON (6666)  
lemoonfhflint@gmail.com  
<http://www.lawrenceemoonfuneralhome.com>

## Service

MAY 2. 2:00 PM (ET)

Lawrence E. Moon Funeral Home Chapel, Flint  
906 W. Flint Park Blvd.  
Flint, MI 48505  
(810) 789-MOON (6666)  
lemoonfhflint@gmail.com  
<http://www.lawrenceemoonfuneralhome.com>

# Tribute Wall



“ I was deeply shocked and saddened to learn of Professor Williams’ passing, which happened as I was revisiting some materials and textbooks from the introductory political science course he taught when I was an undergraduate at Michigan State University. I still remember the moments I spent sitting in his class. He was a fun, patient, and supportive teacher. He gave students a chance to have their voices heard, and he made the class so engaging and enjoyable. I will always remember him as a mentor and a guiding light during my time at MSU in the 2014–2015 school year. I send my deepest condolences to Professor Williams’ family.

*Professor Williams former students from MSU*

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**Jesse Lu** - April 28 at 04:45 PM



“ *Professor Kenneth Casellas Williams*

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October 09, 2023 at 07:02 AM



“ *Kimberly Hall-Miller sent a virtual gift in memory of Professor Kenneth Casellas Williams*



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**Kimberly Hall-Miller** - May 09, 2016 at 10:48 AM

DF

“ *Diane Broden & Family lit a candle in memory of Professor Kenneth Casellas Williams*



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**Diane Broden & Family** - May 05, 2016 at 10:05 PM

LT

“ *Lu Terry-Lane lit a candle in memory of Professor Kenneth Casellas Williams*



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**Lu Terry-Lane** - May 05, 2016 at 10:05 PM

DF

“ *Diane White-Broden & Family lit a candle in memory of Professor Kenneth Casellas Williams*



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**Diane White-Broden & Family** - May 05, 2016 at 10:03 PM

LR

“ *My Deepest Sympathy to Family*  
  
*Erma Bell*



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**Lorene Randall** - May 04, 2016 at 10:02 AM

LR

“ *Sincere Sympathy to Family*

*Lorene Randall*



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**Lorene Randall** - May 04, 2016 at 09:57 AM

LR

“ *My Deepest Sympathy to you and Family*

*Erma Bell & Family*



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**Lorene Randall** - May 04, 2016 at 09:46 AM

ES

“ *Edwina Sanders lit a candle in memory of Professor Kenneth Casellas Williams*



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**Edwina Sanders** - May 03, 2016 at 04:47 PM

JE

“ I am saddened and shocked by the loss of colleague and friend, Ken Williams. I have known Kenny since graduate school in the Department of Government at the University of Texas. When we last met in March, Kenny spoke of many things that he cared about deeply—political science, game theory, graduate school at Texas, students and colleagues at Michigan State, mutual friends, family, and most of all, pride in his daughter Katie. Truly a scholar and a gentleman, Ken Williams touched many lives.

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**James Endersby** - May 02, 2016 at 11:06 AM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Professor Kenneth Casellas Williams.



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May 01, 2016 at 11:48 PM

MM

“ Sue and I have known "Kenny" Williams since 1982. We are shocked and deeply saddened by his death. Ken not only took numerous courses from me at UT, but we played IM basketball together at UT, and he he lived in our house in Austin for a time, and was a frequent and welcomed holiday guest for dinner and football when we were together at UT. The last time we saw Ken was when he visited USC a couple of years ago and Sue and I got to catch up with him, seeing and hearing about the important things in his life, Marcie and Katie. Ken was an excellent student and scholar, a leader in the profession, a tremendous athlete, and our friend. We would like to express our heartfelt sympathy to his friends and family. We will miss him.

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**Mat McCubbins** - May 01, 2016 at 08:59 PM

JD

“ Ken was a true gentleman and a profound thinker. There are few people (in political science) with whom I enjoyed interacting more -- we would talk about political science, experiments, Michigan State, sports, and much more. His legacy is without limits.

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**Jamie Druckman** - May 01, 2016 at 10:47 AM

DF

“ Our condolence to the William's family. May God comfort you all.



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**Driskell Family** - April 30, 2016 at 08:50 PM



“ Juantez Williams lit a candle in memory of Professor Kenneth Casellas Williams



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**Juantez Williams** - April 30, 2016 at 05:47 PM



“ In 1994 my brother Ken was living in Lansing with his new daughter and wife. I came to visit from Hawaii. I had found out our cuz Kenny Williams was teaching at State. We called him up and met at a famous MSU pizza hangout. He told us about his basketball career at State. (We watched many a State game on tv without knowing he was on the team) We laughed about it, as well as talked of our careers and family life. Later that night we shot baskets on a nearby court. From the three point line he ways "money".....  
God Bless you Kenny. Thanks for the memory!

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**Juantez Williams** - April 30, 2016 at 05:38 PM

AL

“ Ali lit a candle in memory of Professor  
Kenneth Casellas Williams



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**Ali** - April 30, 2016 at 03:22 PM

JS

“ Jenny, Wayne And Andrew Simmons lit a  
candle in memory of Professor Kenneth  
Casellas Williams



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**jenny, wayne and andrew simmons** - April 30, 2016 at 12:23 PM

AB

“ Anthony Battle lit a candle in memory of Professor Kenneth Casellas Williams



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**Anthony Battle** - April 30, 2016 at 11:53 AM

BF

“ Bob,Ina,Harriet,Marjolein, Pieter and family purchased the Enchanted Cottage for the family of Professor Kenneth Casellas Williams.



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**Bob,Ina,Harriet,Marjolein, Pieter and family** - April 30, 2016 at 04:55 AM

BP

“ TO JULIA AND ELI, MY CONDOLENCE GO OUT TO YOU AND YOUR FAMILY, KNOWING THAT GOD IS TOO GOOD TO DO WRONG AND TOO WISE TO MAKE A MISTAKE! KENNETH IS ABSENT FROM THE BODY TO BE PRESENT WITH THE LORD! BE ENCOURAGED AND TREASURE THE MEMORIES OF KENNETH!  
LOVE, BARBARA JEAN PARKER



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**BARBARA JEAN PARKER** - April 29, 2016 at 10:57 PM

SH

“ *Sharron Denice Hall sent a virtual gift in memory of Professor Kenneth Casellas Williams*



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**Sharron Denice Hall** - April 29, 2016 at 06:58 PM

MH

“ *Ken and I worked together in the Department of Political Science at Michigan State for the past twenty years. He was a truly outstanding scholar, exceptional teacher, and wonderful colleague. But most importantly, he was a decent, kind, caring person, especially beloved by his students, and with an admirable desire to promote justice and equality at MSU. The last time I saw Ken, we were laughing and talking about how much fun it is to mentor students. This is the Ken I will remember - smiling and always concerned about his students. I send my warmest thoughts and sincere condolences to the members of Ken's family and everyone else who knew him. The loss to the Department, MSU, everyone who knew Ken is profound.*

*Melinda Gann Hall*

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**Melinda Gann Hall** - April 29, 2016 at 03:51 PM



“ *Kitrin Buford lit a candle in memory of Professor Kenneth Casellas Williams*



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**Kitrin Buford** - April 29, 2016 at 12:03 PM

DT

“ We were in such shock when we learned that Ken was no longer with us. Our heart is with you on Monday as you celebrate a life of a great scholar, loving husband and best daddy in the world. The memories will stay with you a life time and in time bring joy to your life. Our prayers are with you during this time of grief.

*Don & Elsie Tanis*

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**Don & Elsie Tanis** - April 29, 2016 at 11:29 AM



“ Our thoughts and prayers are with you, Katie and Ken's family. Wally and Betty Seip.

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**Betty Seip** - April 29, 2016 at 10:19 AM

DC

“ Ken was a great son in law. He took good care of our daughter, Marcie and granddaughter, Katie. He took Katie to all her swim meets, dance lessons, etc. He would video her important events and share them with us when we visited. We had many good conversations. Most recently, he shared how much he was enjoying one of his courses this year and how great the students were. He was an integral part of our family and will be missed. Jim and Diane

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**Diane Cowley** - April 29, 2016 at 08:01 AM

KD

“ Kathy Davis lit a candle in memory of Professor Kenneth Casellas Williams



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**Kathy Davis** - April 29, 2016 at 07:11 AM



“ *Ocean Breeze Spray was purchased for the family of Professor Kenneth Casellas Williams.*



April 29, 2016 at 12:23 AM



“ *Beth and Inna purchased the Garden Accent - "Those we love don't go away..." for the family of Professor Kenneth Casellas Williams.*



**Beth and Inna** - April 28, 2016 at 09:45 PM



“ *Pam Williams lit a candle in memory of Professor Kenneth Casellas Williams*



**Pam Williams** - April 28, 2016 at 07:22 PM



“ *Julia lit a candle in memory of Professor Kenneth Casellas Williams*



**Julia** - April 28, 2016 at 06:05 PM

KR

“ Kendall Reaves lit a candle in memory of Professor Kenneth Casellas Williams



Kendall Reaves - April 28, 2016 at 03:57 PM

Marcie Cowley

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Marcie Cowley - April 28, 2016 at 03:25 PM

Marcie Cowley

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Marcie Cowley - April 28, 2016 at 03:23 PM

Marcie Cowley

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Marcie Cowley - April 28, 2016 at 03:22 PM



“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Marcie Cowley - April 28, 2016 at 03:20 PM



“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Marcie Cowley - April 28, 2016 at 03:16 PM



“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Marcie Cowley - April 28, 2016 at 03:14 PM



“ Alison Rautman lit a candle in memory of Professor Kenneth Casellas Williams



Alison Rautman - April 28, 2016 at 02:27 PM

IG

“ To the family sorry for your lost but praying for all of you as you prepare to celebrate his life and he will never be forgotten because he touched some many lives and his legacy has been cemented in the hearts of all those who knew him



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**Ira Gilbert** - April 28, 2016 at 11:58 AM

BS

“ Ken Williams was the first faculty member whom I hired as Chair of the Department of Political Science at Michigan State in 1988. Ken was a talented and articulate scholar, a patient and excellent teacher, and an excellent colleague.

*I recall that on the recruiting visit, Ken spent one evening at dinner with me, as well as my wife, daughter, and son at a restaurant in Lansing. When Ken described his family, my son Nate, who at age 10 was quite a sports fanatic, was amazed and awed when he learned that Ken's brother was Reggie Williams, who had just been named Sportsman of the Year. That had nothing to do with our hiring Ken, of course, but it made for a memorable event for Nate!*

*We did hire Ken, of course. And he did everything that we hired him for. He won three highly competitive grants from the National Science Foundation. He published three books at major academic publishers on the topics of game theory, voting, and the experimental study of politics, as well as numerous articles in leading professional journals.*

*Ken was a big man, a serious scholar, and a credit to Michigan State University.*

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**Brian D. Silver** - April 28, 2016 at 10:07 AM

MT

“ *To the Williams Family,  
Condolence to you and your family on the loss of Kenneth. Our thoughts are with you during this time of sorrow. No words can console your loss. We share in your overwhelming pain and grief. May you get strength and understanding as Kenneth's light continue to shine through you and your family. We are here for you.*

*Mitch and Ella Teamer*

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**Mitchell and Ella Teamer** - April 28, 2016 at 08:42 AM

CB

“ *I met Ken when I was in graduate school at MSU. While I never had the opportunity to take a class from him, he was always nothing but kind and generous with his time. Recently, I had a pleasure of serving on a professional committee with him and enjoyed reconnecting. Last month, I saw him briefly at a conference in Las Vegas. My thoughts and condolences to his family on the loss of a good, decent, caring person.*

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**Chris Bonneau** - April 28, 2016 at 08:37 AM

WI

“ *William H. Crawford II purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Professor Kenneth Casellas Williams.*



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**William H. Crawford II** - April 27, 2016 at 01:56 PM

WC

“ *A great father, friend and an intellectual giant. Kenny was a true Best Friend Forever. Another brother gone.*  
*-Billy.*

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**William Crawford** - April 27, 2016 at 01:03 PM