



## Mr. Benjamin Ray Senkbeil

September 8, 1987 - January 11, 2020

Benjamin Ray Senkbeil, 32, passed away January 11, 2020, surrounded by his family. Visitation will be at Banks Funeral Home in Sylvester, GA on January 14, 2020 from 5:00-7:00pm. Funeral services will be at First Baptist Church of Sylvester on January 15, at 11:00am with interment to follow in the Hillcrest Cemetery. Pastor Donnie Duncan will officiate.

Ben was born September 8, 1987 to Brad and Jeannine Senkbeil, of Sumner, Ga. Though he weighed over 11 pounds at birth, his personality was even larger. Ben grew up on his family's farm, developing a passion for the outdoors early in life. He spent much of his youth walking the fields, exploring forests, hunting, fishing and building forts. At an early age, he possessed an uncanny ability to focus. He excelled in all areas of academics, especially math. He knew that  $1 \text{ Cross} + 3 \text{ Nails} = 4 \text{ Given}$ . He was a lifelong member of First Baptist Church in Sylvester. Ben was a natural leader who found purpose in everything he did and enriched the lives of every single person who knew him. He accomplished every single goal he set his mind to. He was in impeccable shape, tall and lean. Ben treated his body as a temple. He didn't smoke, drink alcohol or even soft drinks. He ran track, cross country, lifted weights and was tremendously strong. Ben was physically prepared and stayed mentally courageous during his 6 month battle against cancer. With his niece and nephews he shared his love of creativity, ingenuity and imagination through the many LEGO sets he gifted them. He had a great booming laugh, a wonderful sense of humor and a smile that lit up any room. Ben was a 2006

graduate of Tiftarea Academy. After graduation he vowed never to accept a paycheck from anyone but himself! From age 19 to the year 2019 he was the owner/operator of The Pawn Shoppe in Sylvester. He began with an empty storefront but a passion to help others in need. For over 12 years, The Pawn Shoppe became a favorite meeting place for gun enthusiasts, deal hunters, and the local community. He ran his store with the same guiding principles he lived his life by; treat others the way you would want to be treated and always smile while doing it. After retiring from the store, Ben began exploring his interest in real estate ventures. Ben loved to travel. He had been around the world, as far as Germany, France and Italy. He rode elephants, swam with dolphins, viewed mountains from a hot air balloon, hiked parts of the Appalachian Trail, parasailed over oceans and para-glided over lands, yet Ben loved walking the family farm more than anything. He was a gifted gardener. The rooms at home were filled with glass vases containing his bountiful blooms. He is survived by his parents Brad and Jeannine Senkbeil of Sumner, Ga, his 3 siblings Matt (Holly) Senkbeil of Sylvester, Seth (Amy) Senkbeil of Tifton, Kelly (Justin) Cooper of Sumner and his fiancée Stephanie Whiddon (children, Austin & Calvin Johnson) of Baconton, GA; and his 5 nephews Colby and Castin Cooper, Bryton Puckett, Bradford and Stratton Senkbeil and 1 niece Addison Senkbeil, all of whom adored their "Uncle Ben".

# Cemetery Details

## Hillcrest Cemetery

701 S. Isabella Street  
Sylvester, GA 31791

# Previous Events

## Visitation

JAN **14**. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Banks Funeral Home  
PO Box 550  
210 N. Main Street  
Sylvester, GA 31791  
(229) 776-2055  
banksfh@yahoo.com  
<http://banks.funeralplan2.com/>

## Funeral Service

JAN **15**. 11:00 AM (ET)

First Baptist Church  
207 N. Isabella St.  
Sylvester, GA 31791

## Burial

JAN 15 (ET)

Hillcrest Cemetery  
701 S. Isabella Street  
Sylvester, GA 31791

# Tribute Wall



“ *Mr. Benjamin Ray Senkbeil*

January 28, 2023 at 12:53 PM



“ *Ben was a great friend and businessman. He treated everyone with kindness. He will be greatly missed.*

**Robert Weaver** - January 20, 2020 at 06:20 PM



“ *His obituary said it all. I could feel E-V-E-R-Y thing that was said about him. I will miss him sorely. Always saying, "Hi there Ms. Polite you look nice today.... what have you been up to, & how's your family"???!!!.....He earnestly listened.*

*I have several stories to forever cherish. May GOD Comfort, Guide, & Sustain the Family & Loved Ones during this transition. Keep your faith intact. I'm Praying we'll meet again one day to listen to each other's stories 🙏🙏😞😞💔💔💖💖*



**Ms Leola Polite** - January 15, 2020 at 01:20 PM



“ *Stephanie and Family,  
Please know that you are in our family's prayers during this most difficult time.*

**staci ball** - January 15, 2020 at 11:44 AM

CM

“ Cary And Fran McCluster lit a candle in memory of Mr. Benjamin Ray Senkbeil



---

**Cary and Fran McCluster** - January 15, 2020 at 10:05 AM

CM

*Ben was such a pleasure to know and he had a heart of gold! You will be missed my friend!*

---

**Cary and Fran McCluster** - January 15, 2020 at 10:07 AM

AC

*I always enjoyed being around Ben I've known him for a lot of years such a good friend Rip brother you will be missed*

---

**Allan Casey** - January 15, 2020 at 07:02 PM

SM

“ Matt, Holly, & the boys:

*You and your family are in our thoughts and prayers. May God be with you all during this time.*

*Love in Christ,  
Sherri, Darrell, & Maggie Moore*

---

**Sherri Moore** - January 14, 2020 at 04:13 PM

JJ

“ Keeping your family in our prayers. Our hearts hurt for you!

---

**Jim and Brenda Jennings** - January 14, 2020 at 02:30 PM

LC

“ *Larry And Janie Crowe lit a candle in memory of Mr. Benjamin Ray Senkbeil*



---

**Larry and Janie Crowe** - January 14, 2020 at 01:17 PM

GM

“ *When you became the hunted, medical, prayer ammo and your faith were directed at your hunter. As you became exposed the python, death, quietly became the victor. A marvelous trophy you became, not for death, but for Jesus Christ. Christ is the victor and your are blessed..."Behold I make all things new"...a fact that you are once again whole and new. You left behind an enormous chasm for us, WHY? We observed your faith, personality, kindness, and friendship and will place these attributes in our memories for our comfort and development. You were our best "TROPHY".* grady morey

---

**Grady Morey** - January 14, 2020 at 08:15 AM

CL

“ *My heart breaks for your family. I know God will comfort you and ease your pain. Praying for you all.*

---

**Carolyn Littleton** - January 13, 2020 at 11:20 PM

JK

“ *Jeannine, Brad, and family- Alan and I are thinking of and praying for all of you with love. Ben was special, touched many lives, and will be remembered always* ❤️

---

**Jan and Alan Kimbro** - January 13, 2020 at 08:22 PM



“ *My only memories are from sports together in High School. He was a good kid then, and I’m sure a good man later in life.* ”

Jonathan House - January 13, 2020 at 07:49 PM



“ *Dawn Grant lit a candle in memory of Mr. Benjamin Ray Senkbeil* ”



Dawn Grant - January 13, 2020 at 06:37 PM



“ *Adriane Cross lit a candle in memory of Mr. Benjamin Ray Senkbeil* ”



Adriane Cross - January 13, 2020 at 02:28 PM



“ *My dad (Bennie Davis) met Ben at the pawn shop and quickly came to care a great deal for him and enjoyed the time spent with Ben and friends there. He will be greatly missed. My family is so sorry for your loss and praying for you at this time.* ”



Mike & Lillie Taylor and Bennie Davis - January 13, 2020 at 08:31 AM

SA

“ I met Ben shortly after returning from Iraq. I was considering moving to the area and as a former soldier and police officer I had experience in firearms and went to see what he had in stock. He had a wonderful personality and was a natural to get along with. From that day on I would visit him regularly over the years and even brought him lunch from time to time and eat with him. He was a focused and dedicated business man and a person I am happy to have called my friend. I will miss him.

---

**Shaun Amy** - January 13, 2020 at 04:32 AM



“ Dear Mr. Brad, Mrs. Jeannine, Matt, Seth, Kelly, and all other family members, I'm am truly heartbroken to hear of Ben's passing and my thoughts and prayers go out to you all. Ben was such a wonderful person. Even if I was having a bad day he could always make me smile and laugh. He was truly one of a kind and he helped and touched the lives of so many people. I pray that God blesses and comforts you all during this sad time.

---

**Valerie Bridges** - January 12, 2020 at 11:24 PM

AC

“ Ben was such an amazing person that had such a beautiful & kind soul. He will truly be missed. Our thoughts and prayers are with you Brad & Jeannine at this difficult time. We are so sorry for your loss.



---

**Amber & Aaron Charlton** - January 12, 2020 at 11:04 PM

LU

“ Ben was such an amazing guy, I would go into the shop and find myself talking for about hour. He knew everybody by their names and always kept a smile on his face. He was well Loved and he will truly be missed. To his Family and Friends know that he will always be with you and I'm praying for you all.  
*Rest In Paradise Ben*

---

**lucetta** - January 12, 2020 at 10:59 PM

AB

“ To Mr. and Mrs. Senkbeil and family, I have been watching and hoping and praying from across the road and this evening I learned the devastating news that your Ben had passed. I can't express how very sorry I am for your loss. There's nothing I can say that will ease the pain but I wanted to let you know that I have been thinking about you. I'm heartbroken for your family. I know y'all done everything possible to keep him here and the hardest part is letting him go. Keeping y'all in my prayers. *Angela Brown*



---

**Angela Brown** - January 12, 2020 at 10:35 PM

DD

“ Mance and I were so sorry to hear about Ben! Know that you are in our prayers.  
*Donna Daughtry*

---

**Donna Daughtry** - January 12, 2020 at 10:30 PM

EC

“ Brad and Jeannine, I am shocked and very saddened to hear this news. I cannot imagine your pain. You and all your family are in our prayers. We pray that God will restore your peace.  
*Elizabeth and Charlie Cowles*

---

**Elizabeth Cowles** - January 12, 2020 at 09:22 PM

CJ

“ Dear Brad, Jeannine, Matt, Seth, Kelly and all members of your extended families, I am so sorry for your loss. It is only through our faith in God and the knowledge that someday we will see our loved ones again that gets us through such losses. May God wrap his loving arms around you all and bring comfort as only he can. We will be praying for you all. Sending love and prayers, *Carole Jones*

---

**Carole Jones** - January 12, 2020 at 08:54 PM

CB

“ Brad and Jeannine, and family I am so sorry to hear of your loss. Wish I could be home and be with you. Prayers for comfort.



---

**Charlie Diane Cone Brown** - January 12, 2020 at 08:29 PM

BJ

“ *Brittaney Johnson lit a candle in memory of Mr. Benjamin Ray Senkbeil*



---

**Brittaney Johnson** - January 12, 2020 at 07:58 PM

AG

“ *Sending prayers and love to all of you!*  
*Ashley Giddens*



---

**Ashley Giddens** - January 12, 2020 at 07:47 PM

BP

“ *Bethany Phelps lit a candle in memory of Mr. Benjamin Ray Senkbeil*



---

**Bethany Phelps** - January 12, 2020 at 06:46 PM

SC

“ *Brad & Jeannine I am so sorry to hear of Ben's passing. You all are in my thoughts and prayers.*

---

**Sharon Blalock Canup** - January 12, 2020 at 06:31 PM

JM

“ *Prayers for the family*



---

**jerri merritt** - January 12, 2020 at 06:05 PM

PR

“ *Pam Raby lit a candle in memory of Mr. Benjamin Ray Senkbeil*



---

**Pam raby** - January 12, 2020 at 05:59 PM

JT

“ *Always had a smile on his face and had such a positive attitude. My deepest condolences to the family.*



---

**Jennifer Thomas** - January 12, 2020 at 05:00 PM

DR

“ *Diane Rogers lit a candle in memory of Mr. Benjamin Ray Senkbeil*



---

**Diane Rogers** - January 12, 2020 at 04:37 PM

SH

“ Ben you were most kind to my husband and I when he was sick and when he passed you helped me through the darkest moments. I can't believe you are gone truly one of the best people I ever had the chance to be friends with and call brother. You will be missed old friend please rest easy. See you on the other side dear friend. You were and always will be a kind and gentle soul. Prayers for your family. too young just too damn young.



Shannon - January 12, 2020 at 03:56 PM

MJ

“ Ben was one of the most nicest guys you could meet, always willing to help and understand. May God be with your family.



Matthew Johnson - January 12, 2020 at 03:49 PM

JP

“ Karen and I enjoyed our times at the pawn shoppe. You will be missed!

Jared Paul - January 12, 2020 at 03:38 PM

LJ

“ Such a sweet guy...always smiling. I hope you get to see all those places you told me about from Heaven!



Lisa Jacksom - January 12, 2020 at 12:55 PM

NP

“ *My deepest and most sincere condolences to you Mr. Brad, Ms. Jeannine, Matt, Seth, and Kelly. I am so sorry for your loss. I know Ben fought until the very end, and I hope his memories stay with you as you grieve. Sending you love, hugs, and prayers for peace.*

---

**Neelam Patel** - January 12, 2020 at 12:40 PM

TR

*So true Neelam! Love you all! Deepest prayers!!*

---

**Teresa Robison** - January 12, 2020 at 03:20 PM

MH

“ *My heart breaks for your family. I always remember Ben as the kid I taught in elementary school music class. He and that group of guys always kept me laughing. I cannot begin to imagine your feelings now, but I do know that God will heal your hurts. Ben is with his Father and is no longer in pain. May God comfort you and wrap His loving arms around each of you.*

---

**Miki Hutchinson** - January 12, 2020 at 11:52 AM

BG

*Brad, Jeannine, Matt, Seth, and Kelly:  
I am so very sorry to hear about sweet Ben. You all are in my prayers.*

---

**Bobbie Gay** - January 12, 2020 at 01:48 PM

SD

*Paul and I were so sorry to hear about Ben. We are sending prayers to all of you. Mama also said to tell you that all of you were in her prayers too..*

---

**susan Davidson** - January 12, 2020 at 04:16 PM

JS

“ Jeannine, Brad and family, we are truly sorry about Ben passing. Ben is in the presence of God no more pain. He was truly a kind and respectful young man. It was an honor to have known him. May God comfort you during this time. We will keep you in our prayers. God bless you! Judy and Mack Sutton.

-----  
**Judy and Mack Sutton** - January 12, 2020 at 11:50 AM

SJ

“ HE was a very nice person. He will always have a special place in my heart. RIP

-----  
**Suejette Johnson** - January 12, 2020 at 11:41 AM

DJ

“ Debra Jones lit a candle in memory of Mr. Benjamin Ray Senkbeil



-----  
**Debra Jones** - January 12, 2020 at 11:37 AM

DJ

May God put his Loving arms of Peace, Comfort, & Strength around each of You.

-----  
**Debra Jones** - January 12, 2020 at 11:38 AM

TW

“ Enjoyed Ben at the pawn shop ! May he Rest In Peace.



-----  
**Taylor Wagner** - January 12, 2020 at 11:31 AM



“ *I enjoyed hanging out at the pawn shop with him and trading something for something else. We are praying for his family's peace and comfort*

Kevin Page - January 12, 2020 at 10:44 AM

JC

“ *Our deepest condolences to you and your family. May God cover you with comfort and strength, as only he can.*



JoAnn & Kenny Chambless - January 12, 2020 at 10:08 AM

TH

“ *Ben was a true southern gentleman Always kind and respectful. He will certainly be missed by all who knew him. Rest in peace kind sir.*

Tom Hunt - January 12, 2020 at 07:30 AM

E1

“ *Ben was a awesome young man.. he will be missed... See you later my friend..*



Earl William rice 111 - January 12, 2020 at 01:49 AM

LF

“ Jeannine and Brad, we are so sorry to learn of your loss. Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family. Lynn and Garvin Fowler

Lynn Fowler - January 11, 2020 at 11:52 PM

LP

“ Didn't know Ben

Lamar Potts - January 11, 2020 at 11:51 PM

LP

“ Did now Ben. Brad remembering you & family.



Lamar Potts - January 11, 2020 at 11:49 PM

SJ

“ Sandra Jones lit a candle in memory of Mr. Benjamin Ray Senkbeil



Sandra Jones - January 11, 2020 at 11:47 PM

SJ

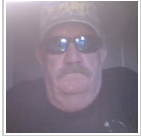
*Ben was a joy to know. He could make your day bright with just his smile. I pray for God's Peace and Comfort for the family and friends who are saddened and hurting from the passing of Ben. RIP my friend.*

Sandra Jones - January 11, 2020 at 11:52 PM

LY

*“ You will truly be missed. I always enjoyed coming into the pawn shop and he always so nice. Just an awesome honest good guy. His prices were always fair and he would always look out for his loyal customers. You will greatly be missed.*

**Lynn** - January 11, 2020 at 10:41 PM



*“ Jeff Oliver lit a candle in memory of Mr. Benjamin Ray Senkbeil*



**Jeff Oliver** - January 11, 2020 at 10:23 PM

RL

*“ We are so sorry for your loss Ben has always been a very polite and very kind person to my family we thought a lot of him we will be keeping you and the rest of your family in our thoughts and prayers may Hod be peace and comfort to you all in the days to come.. the lee family*



**Rodger snd Sheila Lee** - January 11, 2020 at 10:23 PM

AW

*“ We are heartbroken over the loss of Ben. He was always so kind and so funny and fit in just perfectly with the Whiddon family. You are family to us. We love you, Ben. Prayers to all of your family and friends. Alexis, Scott, and Jack Whiddon*

**alexis whiddon** - January 11, 2020 at 08:20 PM

EC

“ So very sorry for the loss of Ben...  
I enjoyed hanging out at the pawn shop with him and letting him talk me into spending some more money with him...  
He had a good way with people. He is already missed...

---

**Eric Clemens** - January 11, 2020 at 06:49 PM

SH

So sorry to hear the loss of Ben. My family sure did love going to his pawn shop. They always wanted to buy guns from him. Your family is in our prayers.

---

**Susan Hembree** - January 11, 2020 at 11:24 PM

CD

“ Jeannine and Brad and family. Ben has been in our prayers for a while now. Prayers for you all during this time of sorrow. May God provide the peace and comfort that is needed for you all. Claire and Tal.

---

**Claire DeWitt** - January 11, 2020 at 06:17 PM

RS

“ So sorry for the loss of Ben prayers from rhonda and terry saylor



---

**rhonda saylor** - January 11, 2020 at 05:34 PM

BR

“ Ben always could put a smile on my face..I sure hate this. He will be missed.

---

**Brittany** - January 11, 2020 at 05:30 PM

EC

“ Jeannine and Brad, I am so sorry to hear this. My heart breaks for you. Also, Matt, Seth and Kelly. I can't even imagine what you all are going through. I remember when this precious soul was born. Know that God has you in his heart and is taking care of Ben and he is in no more pain. Love you guys like family. RIP Ben!

---

**Evelyn Fletcher Castleberry** - January 11, 2020 at 04:49 PM