

# NATIONAL ROCKHOUND & LAPIDARY HALL OF FAME

## Kenneth (Ken) Boulier

1916 2007

Inducted 2014

Lapidary (Tribute)

Kenneth (Ken) Boulier was a soft-spoken, humble man who rarely wanted to talk about his accomplishments. His interest in lapidary began in 1953 while he was stationed in Alaska. After his discharge and upon his return to Maryland, he turned his casual interest into a life-long passion, helping to found three gem and mineral clubs, teaching numerous cabbing and carving classes for the clubs and demonstrating both at numerous shows and craft fairs in the area.



Most of his work was done using corundum wheels, expanding sanders and felt or leather polishing discs. Like so many lapidaries of his day, he built his own equipment. His basement workshop used equipment built from recycled parts – a washing machine motor, an old washtub, etc. Drip tanks were made from IV jars and buffers were arbors connected to old motors. Creativity ran in Ken's blood.

In 1967 Ken entered his lapidary work in competition at an Eastern Federation Convention – and won top honors in the General Lapidary category. He then entered at the AFMS level and won the trophies for lapidary in three different categories over a period of three years. You could read a newspaper off of the shine on those cabs!

Later Ken turned to scrimshaw and carving – with ivory being his favorite medium – and to creating knives from lapidary material. He won Federation trophies for these endeavors as well.

He was always willing to answer "how to" questions posed to him at meetings or shows where he was a constant fixture demonstrating cabbing or carving. His donations to his clubs were legendary – always donating items for silent auctions or raffles at local club shows or for door prizes at club social events. Ken's passing in 2007 at age 91 left a huge void in the lapidary world.