

# HE CAUGHT HIS DAUGHTER'S KILLER

"Roger is one of my heroes, someone who has turned tragedy into good," John Walsh, host of *America's Most Wanted*, says of Kemp (below, in Kansas City).



Ali (in 2000) earned honors at Kansas State.

## ROGER KEMP, 67

Leawood, Kans.

*On an evening in June 2002, after a brief search for his missing daughter Ali, Roger Kemp found her battered, lifeless body and wept; the 19-year-old college freshman had been strangled and left under a tarp at the local pool where she worked.*

**ROGER KEMP:** For me and [wife] Kathy, Ali was our precious first born. She loved soccer and poetry. She was voted nicest girl in the eighth grade. In high school she was so involved, they made an exception to the number of times your picture could show up in the yearbook.

*Police had only a composite sketch of a white male suspect, but Kemp vowed to put the killer's face where everyone could see it. With the help of Lamar Advertising, he put up four "wanted" billboards in town. Tips poured in, which led to the 2004 arrest of serial offender Benjamin Appleby, then 29, now serving 50 years.*

**KEMP:** The trauma of the day I found her will haunt me the rest of my life. The moment Ali was taken from us, it was like the light went out in the world. For weeks I had to fight just to get out of bed. But I had to keep going, not just for Ali but for our family.

*Since '04 Kemp's billboard tactic has been adopted by police across the country; in Kansas the ads have led to the capture of more than 30 fugitives. His Ali Kemp Educational Foundation (take defense.org) has trained more than 46,000 students in self-defense.*

**KEMP:** When she was with us, Ali made a difference in people's lives. Through this work, she still is.

By Ken Lee

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